

# News from the Blue Ridge Mts.

Claire & Lorin Cranford

Volume 1

Date: March 1998

Issue 3

## Family Pets:



Ever find exercise boring and uninteresting? That's frequently a problem for Claire and me. We've found a solution. Go walking along the Broad River (at points 1/2 mile across) on the hiking trails three miles to the south of our house. The Greenway Trails extend several miles either direction along the bank of the river. There's the gentle rumble of the river water passing by with occasional rocks in mid-river creating whitecaps and pleasant sounds. Added to that is the periodic mountain streams coming down the high bluffs trickling into the river. Of course, you're surrounded by tall forest trees and absolutely incredible scenery! There are frequent park benches to rest and take in the view, along with a fishing pier reaching out into the river and picnic tables galore. If biking or horseback riding is your thing, there are special trails just for that. All of it free for the enjoying!



☎ For those who may need to contact us, here's our spring semester schedule. Needless to say, we live for the weekends when things are more relaxed.

### Claire's Schedule:

MW: 12:00-12:50 PHED 204E - Recreational Dance

MWF: 1:00-1:50 MATH 105F - Statistics

Mon: 6:00-7:15 pm EDUC 301A - Computers in Education

Tues: 5:00-7:50 pm EDUC 325P - Curriculum Foundations

Thur: 6:00-8:50 pm EDUC 610A - Curriculum Development

Tuesdays and Thursdays daytime for substitute teaching, which is becoming very regular.

### Lorin's Schedule:

MWF: 8:00-8:50 REL 102A - Introduction to the NT

MWF: 10:00-10:50 REL 102C - Introduction to the NT

MWF: 12:00-12:50 GREEK 102E - Elementary Greek

Mon: 8:10-10:25 pm REL 305A - Introduction to the NT

TTh: 1:15-2:30 GREEK 202M - Intermediate Greek

Fridays: 2:00-4:00 university meetings

## GWU Bulldog Spotlight:

My teaching responsibility is in the **Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy**, which is in the undergraduate program of the university. The chairperson of the dept. is *Dr. Alice Cullinan*. She is a Southwestern DEd graduate in counseling in the School of Religious Education, and has spent her career teaching at GWU. I have found her to be a particularly insightful administrator as well as a very capable and caring professor. She also vigorously supports her faculty to the rest of the university community, which helps to build the close-knit fellowship enjoyed within the department.

The senior member of our dept. is *Dr. Jack Partain*, professor of Old Testament, Southwestern graduate and a fellow Texan. Jack is retiring within the next couple of years after many years of significant contribution to the students and the university community. After returning from the mission field in Africa, Jack has invested his life in teaching students here.

The youngest member in the dept. is *Dr. Sophia Steibel* who teaches religious education after graduating from Southwestern and several years of teaching and leadership in her native land of Brazil. She and her husband, Eduardo, help cultivate the growing international flavor of the university.

The other New Testament professor who came also aboard this semester is *Dr. Ron Williams*. Ron and Elaine come to NC from 28 years of pastoral experience and several years of teaching and administrative leadership at Boyce School, the undergraduate segment of Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY. Ron and I have found an amazing compatibility to work together in the NT area of the department; our individual areas of interest complement each other quite well. The two couples have become close friends very quickly.

The department is in the process of adding an additional professor this summer in the field of philosophy and theology. Gratefully I have not had to serve on the Search Committee that has spent many hours pouring over a large number of applications. The conference phone interviewing is now taking place with on-campus interviews to begin in a few weeks.

The university is in the early phases of a curriculum restudy which will change the complexion of our department somewhat with added teaching responsibility in the core curriculum. Additionally, a learning enrichment program on top of the degree programs is being contemplated. The Academic Vice-President has asked me to serve as director of one of the six segments of this: applying faith to life.



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"Life is too short to eat brown bananas."

Erma Bombeck

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## ☺ **Claire's Musings:**

February 27, 1998

I have really enjoyed our search for a church home. It's been fun checking out the various churches, to see how different they can be. We have met so many nice people, I know it will be a hard decision to make. There are so many Baptist churches here, most out in the country in beautiful settings.

The weather here during our first winter has been awesome. We had the one beautiful snow and a mild winter. I wear my coat here less than I did in Texas. Most of the time I just wear a sweater. Of course, we have had a lot of rain, the same as the rest of the country. But, I am even enjoying that.

One of our most enjoyable discoveries has been a hiking trail less than five minutes from our house. It is just beautiful and I can hardly believe it is so close. Our favorite part is about one and one-half miles each way. Even though it is winter time, there is still so much beauty to see. Because the trees are bare we have a better view of the river that runs along side the trail. The river is on one side and on the other side are hills. Along the beginning of the path are several park benches and picnic tables. The sound of the river rushing over the rocks is fantastic. We try to walk there at least twice during the weekend, on Saturday and Sunday. The rest of the week we are too busy to go there. This makes our weekends just that much more special.

Well, just one more week of classes at Gardner-Webb and then I will be on spring break. I will still substitute two days that week, but at least there will be no classes to study for. This has been very hard for me to keep up with the subbing and the studying, but I'm still hanging in there. My grades will not be as good this time around, but I'm not giving up now. I am still called at least every Tuesday and Thursday, mostly by Shelby Middle School. These kids in middle school are a tough bunch, but a challenge that I am sort of enjoying.

The best part of spring break is getting ready for Carrie, Angie, and Clay. I will finally have some time to clean house and do some special baking before they get here. We are so



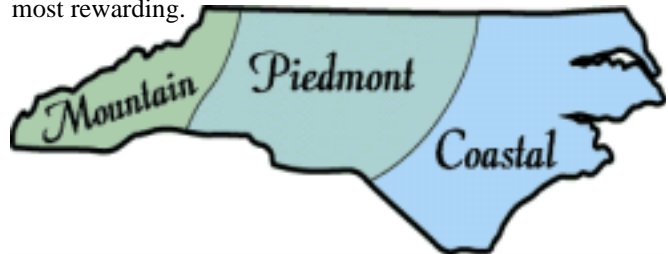
excited about them coming that I can hardly wait. They will fly up on Saturday, March 14 and Carrie will go back on Tuesday and Angie and Clay will leave on Thursday. We have lots of neat things and places to show them. I'm sure that I will have some good stories about the visit for our next news letter.

## ✌ **Lorin's Musings:**

One of the interesting, but involved opportunities that has developed for me at GWU already this semester is the chance to impact the quality of the teaching of biblical languages in the undergraduate program. This not just by what I do as the professor of first and second year Greek students, but by leading an effort to redefine the course descriptions for the Modern Language Department where the Greek and Hebrew courses are listed. Ron Williams, the other NT prof, and I have worked through the revisions of the three levels of courses and share an amazingly similar philosophy of how biblical Greek should be taught in spite of having come from significantly different backgrounds of training at Louisville and Fort Worth. Also our philosophy is very compatible with Wayne Stacy, the dean of the graduate Divinity School and NT prof. Our projections are to establish a uniform curriculum from the undergraduate program into the MDiv degree program of the divinity school so that our religion majors can move directly into their master's degree at GWU with one of the best possible foundations in Greek and Hebrew including advanced level exegetical methodology in their senior level undergraduate studies. This will free them up to do genuine master's level studies in Greek and Hebrew in the Divinity School. A lot of work setting all this up, but one of the more satisfying aspects of the work!

Summer school is just around the corner with the teaching schedule already in place. The first five week term (May 21-June 23/24) I will be teaching NT Intro (10:00-11:50) MTWRF in the day program and OT Intro (17:50-21:50) Tue and Thur evenings. During the second five week term (June 25-July 28) the load will be cut back to NT Intro (8:00-9:50) MTWRF. This should provide some time to put the finishing touches on a new beginning Greek grammar to be published for the fall semester.

The planning and writing parts of the job are some of the most rewarding.



Watching TV in the evenings becomes an adjustment from Texas. Because of being in the eastern time zone, almost everything here is an hour later. The 6:00 evening local news is the same but is followed by the network news at 6:30 instead of 5:30 as in Texas. Seven to eight o'clock is an hour of Inside Edition, Access Hollywood etc. The prime time broadcasting doesn't begin until 8:00 p.m. and most local news broadcasts then come on at 11:00. We have found a couple of local channels that give 10:00 local news. Ever so subtly this changes bedtime patterns to an hour later. Sometimes it's scary to realize how much our lives are shaped by forces outside us and beyond our control!