

guilfordian

Volume LXII, No. 4

Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C.

September 27, 1977

Grants for Natural Sciences



Frank Keegan, SAC chairman, explains dilemma.

SAC Deadlines Extended

Applications for representatives on the Student Affairs Committee are still being accepted by the Senate. As of Sunday, September 25, only three people have applied. Dr. Frank Keegan, chairman, says, "We are looking for at least ten applications."

The deadline for applications has been extended until Wednesday, September 28, in hopes that more people will apply for the five positions open to students on the Student Affairs Committee. According to Frank Keegan, student committee members will be appointed if there are not enough applicants. He adds, "I would really hate to do this."

Prospective student members are carefully screened by a board consisting of the executive committee, the dean of students, Ken Schwab, and Frank Keegan. "Because of the highly confidential nature of their work," Keegan explains, "they must be trustworthy."

One of the most influential committees on campus, the Student Affairs Committee consists of the Advisory Board,

which serves to advise the Dean of Students, and the Trial Board, which acts as an Appeals Board for the Campus Judicial Board. SAC is made up of six faculty members and six student members, one of which is the secretary of the Senate, Nicky McLemore.

Frank Keegan feels that the stipulation that applicants make thirty copies of a statement listing their qualifications may have discouraged some students. This requirement has been changed to one copy. Other reasons for the poor show of interest may have been "our failure to get the word out, or just the normal fluctuation in interest," Keegan adds.

Students interested in applying for SAC must have a 2.0 Q.P.A., be a full time student, and have at least one year at Guilford. Applicants should draw up a statement of their qualifications, indicating their activities and interest in SAC, to be handed in to the Senate by noon, Wednesday, September 28. They should also attend the Senate meeting that evening at 7:30 p.m. in Founders 203.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation will underwrite another year of a small grants program which thus far has enabled more than 300 Southern collegiate scientists over the past two and a half years to use uncommon scientific installations not available on their own campus.

Administered by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the nation's first interstate compact for advancing higher education, the small grants program has encouraged regional colleges and universities with uncommon equipment and facilities to make them available readily to Southern faculty and Ph.D. candidates in the natural sciences. Additionally, the program has provided these scientists with modest stipends to visit these installations in an era of restricted travel budgets in higher education.

Since April, 1974, 203 small grants have been awarded to assist, for example —

- a biologist from the University of Louisville to conduct research at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in South Carolina;
- a professor of veterinary medicine at Tuskegee Institute to study at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Diseases;
- an archaeologist at Arkansas Tech University to utilize the Paleomagnetism Laboratory in the marine Science Institute of the University of Texas-Galveston;
- a geographer at the University of New Orleans to use the electron microscope at the department of geography at Rice University in Texas;
- a physicist from the University of South Alabama to perform experiments at the Duke University Microwave Laboratory in North Carolina;
- a nutritionist from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to study at the Protein Nutrition Laboratory at Beltsville, Maryland;
- an astronomer from North Georgia College to use a reflecting telescope at the University of Florida.

SREB has published a

Catalog of Uncommon Facilities in Southern Universities listing academic apparatus which public and private institutions in the South have made available for

made available for interstate sharing. Small grant support is not limited to the scientific installations described in the catalog or located in the 14-state SREB region.

The small grants — usually from \$150 to \$500 — cover modest expenses for living and travel and for fees incurred in the use of the equipment and facilities. Southern faculty members in the natural sciences are eligible to apply. Proposals for individual projects or team research will be entertained.

The application process is simple and brief. The applicant must first arrange an appointment to visit the desired facility and send evidence of this in a short letter to SREB, along with the name and location of the facility, the educational purpose of the proposed trip to it, and the estimated cost of the journey. The letter of application should be accompanied by an endorsement from a collegiate official: such as the faculty member's departmental chairman. Decisions will be rendered on all grant requests within three weeks of receipt.

Applications should be directed to Edwin C. Godbold, Southern Regional Education Board, 130 Sixth Street N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30313.

Colloquia Kickoff

On Wednesday, September 21, Sheridan Simon, a Guilford College Physics Professor introduced the Hero Series, this year's faculty colloquium theme. Professor Simon's topic was "The Scientist as Hero."

Simon explained that the hero of today must possess many different qualities from past heroes. He is comparable to the Superman syndrome, in that he must be a Superman of Knowledge. He must have the insight to recognize the world's major problems, and the ability to utilize his super-human knowledge as effectively as possible in solving them.

Simon detailed three personal examples of his ideal modern-day heroes; the first of which was Albert Einstein. Einstein's impact on science, as we all know, was one of immense significance. He paved a road for future scientists to travel on their way towards alleviating the major problems of the world. His expectations of progress for good purposes was never achieved. He was extremely dissatisfied at the destructive outcome of what he had considered an important contribution to the betterment of mankind.

Simon's next hero was a physicist at Princeton

University. This man, Gerard O'Neil achieved "heroism" by simply having the courage to attempt to tackle these problems by using the knowledge and advancements already secured by yesterday's geniuses, and applying it constructively. The responsibility he has accepted as his duty is heroic indeed, and even attempting to answer the many questions being asked of scientists today takes a great deal of "guts."

Simon did not fail to include our heroes of tomorrow, presently acquiring the knowledge that will be necessary for them to travel the road that Einstein paved. These heroes are our very own Guilford physics majors. Hopefully our future heroes will succeed in saving us from ourselves, which is obviously a much more difficult task than saving us from outside agitators.

Simon conveyed very effectively his concept of how heroes have changed. His optimism certainly rubbed off, inspiring some hope for the future. Everyone is urged to attend these faculty colloquia. The second of the series will feature Jim Gutsell who will speak on "Is there a Hero?", Wednesday, September 28, in the Gallery.