

Alumni honor philanthropist



Parents/Alumni weekend set for this weekend.

What does the name Herb Ragan mean to the average Guilford College student?

To the 13 who have received full scholarships through the Herbert T. and Elizabeth H. Ragan Scholarship Fund, it means a lot.

To all students eagerly awaiting "the hole" to be filled with the new Physical Education Center, it should mean a lot, too.

The same Herb Ragan is one of the major contributors to the Center's building fund.

Ragan has maintained close ties with Guilford since he graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1937. During his three years at Guilford (he took his freshman year at High Point College) he earned letters in nine sports and was president of his senior

class.

Since his graduation he has served the college as a member of its Board of Visitors, chairman of the Loyalty Fund Drive and president of the Alumni Association. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees, working on the Budget and Audit Committee, the Athletic Committee and the Finance Committee.

Ragan has been honored as a life member of the Quaker Club and is an inductee into the Guilford College Hall of Fame.

Establishment of the Ragan Scholarship Fund was an expression of his interest in the college and as a token of his appreciation for the values and direction which his Guilford years gave to his life.

Those are some of the reasons Herbert Tomlinson Ragan, founder of Ragan Hardware Co. in High Point, will be a very special visitor to the campus this weekend.

The Alumni Association has named him Distinguished Alumnus for 1979 and will honor him at a luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Saturday as part of Alumni/Parents Weekend.

Saturday will be filled with activities, all of which the Alumni Association wishes to share with the students. (There is one catch, however. The Saturday luncheon is \$5 per person. . .)

Otherwise, the doors are open to all -- for free.

"Old grads" will be arriving on campus around 10:30 a.m. There will be a reception in Dana Lounge at the same hour (lasting until noon) at which the history department will honor retired and retiring faculty -- Algie Newlin, Josephine Moore, Ed Burrows and E. Kidd Lockard.

At the luncheon, just before Herb Ragan is honored, members of the Class of 1929 (it should happen to YOU. . .) will be inducted into Guilford's Golden Circle.

Two events will go on from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Alumni and students are invited to hear Cyril Harvey give his favorite lecture, while parents and students may hear a "state of the college" report by President Grimsley Hobbs and remarks by Sheridan Simon, typifying the interesting young generation of professors their sons and daughters have at Guilford.

Please check at the reception desk which the Alumni Association will have in Founders lobby for locations of the two sessions.

Beginning at 3:30 p.m. a reunion tea will be held in Ragsdale House to honor the faculty members who will retire in June -- Ed Burrows, E. Kidd Lockard, Mildred Marlette, John Pipkin and Eugene Thompson.

All during the day, the sixth annual Arts and Crafts Fair will be in progress on the lawn outside Founders.

Foreign students enlighten

By Caroline Coles

"We figure the benefit to Guilford's entire community in obtaining international cultural experience through our International Students is akin to what the foreign students themselves gain," says Director of Admissions Herb Poole.

Indeed Guilford has much to learn from and about the fifty-one international students from thirty-three nations attending the college. Dr. Floyd Moore, head of the International Student Committee, adds that Guilford as a Quaker institution has worldwide contacts and is attempting to make our experience here as international as possible.

There are three programs designed to broaden Guilford's sphere. The first is the bringing in of international students, in many cases to give them another cultural dimension and improve their use of the English language.

The second is Guilford's seminars abroad program and the third, Non-Western studies, or courses that are not dominated by European and American ideas. Yet, the very name Non-Western betrays a Western bias. Why, one wonders, are other courses not labeled non-eastern instead? Moore says he dislikes the term Non-Western studies.

Naturally, the problems of international students differ greatly from those of American students. On the face of it most of them blend in so well at Guilford that we do not recog-

nize some of their needs that perhaps the college should deal with more fully.

Paula Swonguer, counselor for foreign students says, "The adjustment for most foreign students is much, much more difficult than it would appear." She adds, "There is a lot more that should be done for them."

For instance: they have extension of stays that need to be dealt with, there are three different levels of English proficiency contained in their work, and moreover, foreign students generally have to work harder than Americans at adapting to three realms of college life -- academic, social and cultural. "American Students," says Paula, "May be working on only one of those areas."

Another real problem in quite a few cases is the re-entry of international students into their own culture. After a year or more of life in America, the student is the one who has changed. He/she is now interested in America as well as his own culture.

The gap between the two for African and Asian students may be immense. Perhaps he/she will not want to return to live in his/her country at all, realizing that life in America may be financially easier.

So, looking towards the future, what is being done for international students at Guilford?

First of all, Dr. Moore says that he believes the faculty is finally beginning to realize the importance of international stu-

dents. Dr. Moore's graph depicting the number of foreign students here shows a rise from 4 or 5 students in 1948 to 18 in 1970 and then a straight uphill climb from 22 students in 1977 to the present 51. But the scholastic and athletic accomplishments of these students as well as their lasting personal contact with individuals is a more meaningful measure of their contributions to Guilford.

Secondly the International Student Committee hopes to obtain a full or part-time advisor/counselor for these students. Presently Paula Swonguer can devote two or three hours a week to them but she says more time would be needed to know them all.

Herb Poole, speaking for the Admissions Office, says they are working on devising a plan in which comparisons can be made between what the office knew about foreign students before they came, in relations to T.O.E.F.L. (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores and academic classwork and how the student succeeds after arrival at Guilford.

Another prospect that he feels needs attention is having a special kind of initial semester for international students with courses in American Culture and English as a foreign language to make their lives somewhat less complicated.

Along these lines, the International Student Committee is also applying for two days of orientation for all incoming



Foreign students broaden Guilford horizons.

Continued on page eight