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New plus and minus grading policy now in effect

Suzanne Moore
Copy Editor

Guilford Students will be evaluated by a new grading policy this fall semester. The new policy, which went into effect during Guilford's summer session, will replace the traditional grading format, and allow professors to define grading "beyond five letters."

The former policy assigned only whole numbers to the letter grades (for example a C+, C, and C- were all considered a 2.0).

The new policy will assign a different number for each grade, taking into account professors' plus and minus suffixes. According to the Guilford College Handbook, one quality point will be assigned for each credit of D work, two for C, three for B, four

for A. No quality points will be assigned to work receiving the grades of F, XF, or WF. Plus and minus suffixes will either add or subtract .3 to the numerical value of the grade.

Floyd Reynolds, the official registrar of Guilford College, said the old grading policy "was not ideal." He added that the new system will allow Guilford to be more uniform with other academic institutions in their grading policies.

Many students are expressing concern over the new system, feeling that it could be detrimental to their cumulative grade point averages. The cumulative grade point average is calculated by dividing the number of quality points by the number of credits the student has attempted. Students who normally earn more minuses than pluses will

find that their G.P.A. could drop significantly. Under the old policy a student could get four B-s and still have a 3.0. Their average with the new policy would be a 2.7.

Mary Rinaldi, a junior French major from Atlanta, remarked, "I didn't even know the change had occurred until I noticed Senate Minutes posted at the end of [final] exam week. And I thought how will anyone else know since half of the students had already left. I also didn't feel as though I had any voice in the matter."

Academic probation still occurs with a cumulative grade point average below 2.0. Students who in the past have managed to keep a 2.0 by earning C-s will now need to earn Cs so that they will not fall below the cut-off. When questioned as to whether or not it would be more difficult to earn an A or

less difficult to get a C- from professors, Reynolds doubted that professors "will play that game."

The new grading system is not retroactive. Grades from previous semesters will not be affected. Also the college still does not count former G.P.A.s from transfer credits, so those credits will not be affected either.

New Grading Scale:

A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	C-	1.7
B+	3.3	D+	1.3
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	D-	0.7
C+	2.3	F	0.0

Historic registry may save Guilford woods from Painter Blvd.

Linda Kreem
Staff Writer

The good news is that Guilford has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The better news is that the listing could help save our woods from the threat of Painter Blvd.

For those new to the Guilford community, Painter Blvd. is a proposed four-lane road which will loop around Greensboro. Three routes for the road are currently being con-

sidered by the state; one of which cuts through the Guilford woods, a large tract of undeveloped land situated on the edge of Guilford's campus.

The plan, which had first been discussed several years ago, was revived by city officials and voted on by Greensboro residents about two years ago. Students, faculty and administrators have been fighting to save the woods ever since.

While the college's efforts to be recognized in the National Registry are not a direct

result of the Painter Blvd. threat, the application process began at around the same time the road plans were being reactivated.

A National Registry listing does not provide absolute protection against development, but it does force the state to give serious consideration to other possible routes. While the woods are not yet completely free of threat, "It sure looks better," said Guilford President Bill Rogers.

Almost all of Guilford's 300-acre campus qualified for the registry. This is unusual, since normally only single buildings or landscapes achieve registry status. The woods are one of the first tracts of undeveloped North Carolina land to be approved for the registry.

The campus qualifies on the basis of its landscaping, which reflects the Quaker preservationist land ethic, and for its interpretation of the American pastoral style of Frederick Law Olmstead. The buildings, 19 of which are listed in the registry, exemplify the Georgian Neo-Classical and the Colonial Renewal styles of architecture.

In the college's registration application, a Raleigh architectural historian wrote that "the campus at Guilford College combines the Quaker vision of an earthly Garden of Eden with the characteristics of modesty, thriftiness and industriousness that defined early Quakers."

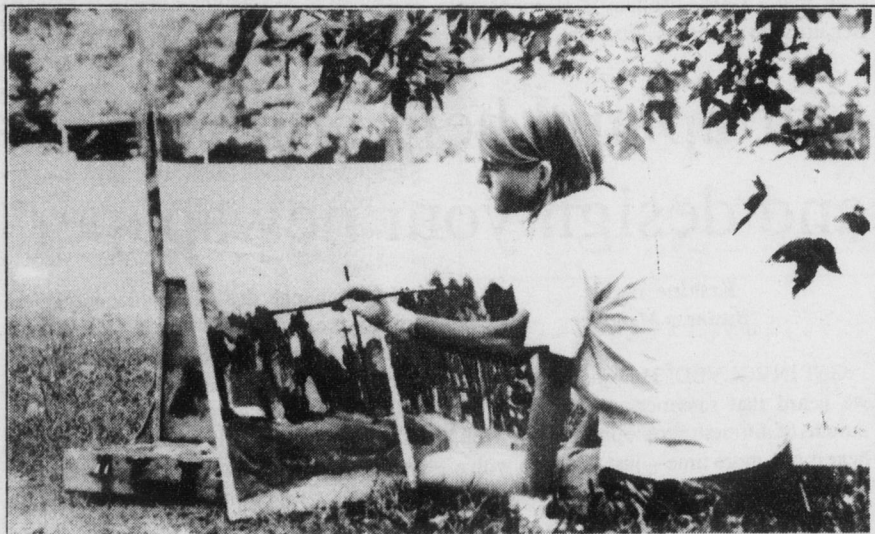
The campus was originally the site of the New Garden Community, the largest community of Quakers in North Carolina. Levi

Coffin, a resident of that community, has been called the founder of the Underground Railroad, and may have operated a "depot" hidden in the Guilford woods.

"Levi Coffin wrote in his autobiography about going into the woods and taking provisions to runaway slaves," said Damon Hickey, curator of the college's Friends Historical Collection.

In addition, the area in and around the woods was the site of several Revolutionary War skirmishes, as American troops confronted the British on their way to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781.

Guilford was officially placed on the registry June 21.



Senior art major Alice Van Buren takes advantage of a sunny afternoon to work on a project for one of her classes/photo by Charles Almy

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