

up:

A personal reflection

SUSAN ALLEN
features editor

The lights glowed brightly up the long drive. Whether they were torches or lamp lights, I couldn't say; it's been a few years.

That night at the age of seven I attended the first Guilford function that I remember and for the first time met Bill and Bev Rogers.

I had never seen a college president before and was not sure what to expect. Bill was warm and friendly, taking the time to meet me as he swirled through the crowd of potential donor alumni.

Even more impressive to me at that time was Bev. I had never met a college president's wife either, but she certainly was not what I expected. Her whole-hearted enthusiasm and energy amazed me. Did grown-ups normally act like that?

That night had a profound effect on me and was one of the major reasons I almost did not come to Guilford. It is tough to be seven and have alumni parents already helping you make connections for college. In the end, they let it be my decision, and good sense would not allow me to do anything other than follow their lead.

Since then I have had the chance to interact with the Rogers on numerous occasions. I am always impressed by the sincerity they exude.

In this age of plastic smiles and ingratiating behavior, the genuineness of Bill and Bev stands separate. Their honest love of knowledge, God, Guilford and all of the people who make up this community is genuinely unique.

a good deal of his life structure, which leads naturally to uncertainty, but he faces the future boldly.

Looking ahead, there is still a lot yet to be done and experienced. Bev and he will be building a house in Maine, walking on the beach, visiting their grandchildren and getting their sailboat on the water. Bill is also hoping to do some sculpting and learn to play the lute in his extended free time.

To the Guilford community, Bill offers a heartfelt thanks for all of the involvement, devotion, cooperation and enthusiastic caring he has been afforded.

The legacy of inclusiveness is what Bill hopes to leave with Guilford when he departs at the end of May. That inclusiveness spans all dimensions of life: thinking, having fun, exercising, appreciating nature, exploring the creative, and embracing the religious.

The average tenure for college presidents is about four years. Guilford has been four times blessed in having Bill and Beverly Rogers for the sixteen years they have shared with us.

1996 Bill R. Rogers



Courtesy of College Relations

- Endowment increased from \$6 million to \$47 million.
- New academic programs in education, justice and policy, music, and international studies introduced.
- Number of study-abroad opportunities extended from 3 to 8.
- Bauman Telecommunications Center and student apartments built.
- Numerous renovations including the dramatic expansion of Hege Library occurred.
- Fiber-optic telecommunications network established throughout the campus.
- Student internships, community service projects and career development initiatives significantly increased.
- Athletic facilities and playing fields upgraded.

presidential achievements