

# A SIMILAR DESTINY

Every year, new students pass under the archway and do not resemble one another, one thing remains the same.

This year is special, however, because so many students will graduate with us. For only the sixth time in his

## Guilford's new "Don"

**BEN THORNE**  
features editor

Nestled in the library, there lies a room unknown to most Guilford students. Its space is decorated simply, the walls adorned by paintings, and in the back sits a leather chair and a huge desk covered—almost consumed—by a sprawling mass of papers. Welcome to the office of Don McNemar, Guilford's sixth president.

Born in the small town of Wilmington, Ohio, a place not unlike Greensboro with its large Quaker community, McNemar longed to know a bigger world. "I grew up in a small town and going to a big city like New York and studying in Germany as a student made me develop a strong interest in international affairs" he said.

That passion has fueled his academic and professional career ever since. After studying at Earlham College and graduating with a B.A. in political science, he went on to a Ph.D. in international law at Princeton and decided to pursue the life of a college professor.

After teaching government, international law and peace and justice at

Dartmouth, he was asked by the college to become the Dean of Faculty of International Studies. Later he went on to become president of Philips Academy, a highly selective preparatory school, until he was named our new president last year.

"I guess my real love is teaching—that's what got me into Guilford" McNemar said. Teaching has remained an occupation for McNemar, and this spring he will offer a course

in international law.

"The president teaches all day long" he explained. "This way I'll get to know the members of the political science department and students. It's difficult to juggle all those

commitments but I think it's an important part of being in the community" he stated.

Lest you think our president is purely an academic, McNemar wants the Guilford community to know

about his family. His wife, Britta, is currently writing her doctoral thesis on literacy for Boston University. She is studying teenage mothers

learning English. Together the McNemars have two daughters: Heather, who just graduated from Dartmouth and is using her degree in Russian studies to help immigrants in Boston; and Galin, who after spending a year volunteering for Ameri-Corps is starting her first year at Earlham.

Though he has only just begun his presidency, McNemar already has plans for Guilford in



Don McNemar

the coming years. One problem that has bogged Guilford through the years is recognition—Guilford is often called the "best kept secret" in higher education, remaining an unknown option to many.

"Guilford has to be better at offering a great education than other places" he explained. "I think that we should launch an anti-bushel cam-

paign, raise the bushel covering Guilford . . . we need to celebrate the what's good about Guilford, and it applies to everybody, what faculty say at conventions, what students say when they go home. We should turn to ourselves and be proud of what we are" he proposed.

Unfortunately, fewer students graduate from high school than there are colleges to receive them, and Guilford's financial resources are rather finite this year. Therefore, several issues must be addressed, such as how many faculty are needed to run the school, what's the right approach to adult education, and how should Guilford present itself to the world.

"We're going to change and take advantage of what we do well and become a leader of liberal arts education" McNemar affirmed. The coming months shall bear an interesting witness to those changes and our president.

## The Class of



Guilford  
College

**IRENE KELLY**  
Staff Writer

Everyone remembers their first day at Guilford: some of us couldn't wait to tear out of our parents' arms while others begged our parents to do just one more walk around campus. Either way, it's an important experience for all of us however it turned out.