

THE GUILFORDIAN

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Since 1914, but never quite like this

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Courtesy College Relations

Last year's freshmen class welcomes the class of 2001 with open arms.

Welcome class of 2001

◆Guilford's class of the next millenium arrives and CHAOS begins

BY MARJORIE HALL
News Editor

Another year has rolled around at Guilford, and with it have come the students of the class of 2001, the true first class of the next millenium. Three hundred and twenty-five new students are arriving on the campus, including 290 freshmen and 35 transfer students.

Many of the new students have already arrived for the various Avanti programs. Orientation for all freshmen begins on Wednesday the twentieth. Chaos lasts until the twenty-fourth, the day before classes begin.

"I have really positive feelings about what this class can bring to Guilford and what Guilford can give back to them," said Al Newell, Dean of Admissions. The median SAT score of this class is 582 verbal and 552 math, both up two points from last year. The average new student graduated in the top 30 percent of their high school class, and the average GPA is about 3.1.

This class is definitely geographically diverse. This class

contains more international students than previous classes. It includes eight international students, including students from as far away as Bulgaria and Japan. Stateside, students hail from more than thirty different states, one student traveling here all the way from Oregon.

Theologically, the class members belong to around 39 different denominations and religions. Ten percent of the new class is Quaker, making Guilford College one of the only Quaker schools in the country with an increasing number of Quaker students. The number of Jewish students enrolled has increased considerably.

One unique quality of the class of 2001 is the number of them that indicated interest in more non-traditional religions on their applications—everything from Buddhism to Wicca. The firesides that Max Carter, director of campus ministries, has planned for the fall semester reflect this diversity, including speakers on Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, and Judaism.

The class has shown inclination to service activities. Many of the incoming freshmen have expressed an interest in the work trips planned over fall break (including a trip to Cuba) and spring break.

The class is 52 percent female, average for Guilford. The campus has become more diverse. "The number of students of color is up significantly," stated Al Newell, citing 20 percent as a low estimate.

The students chose to come to Guilford over the most selective group of other schools Guilford has seen in four or five years. Through looking at cross-application, we know that Guilford has drawn students away from schools like Brown, Earlham, Haverford, Tulane, Oberlin, Bard, Goucher, Lewis and Clark, and Sarah Lawrence.

Al Newell and the rest of the faculty of Guilford are excited about the class of '01. "We're very pleased," he said. "I'm always pleased, but this class just really seems to show the spirit of Guilford."

Loss of a gift

◆Start of school is bittersweet as Guilford loses Dick Dyer

BY MARJORIE HALL, ADAM LUCAS, OLIVIA L. RIORDAN

On August 19 around 3 p.m. the Assistant to the Dean of Student Life, Dick Dyer, collapsed in the Moon Room while giving a speech to welcome parents. He died later that afternoon.

Although Dyer, 48, was an administrator, most students thought of him as a friend. "Most of what I do is listen seriously and help when I can," he told *The Guilfordian* in an interview last February.

Dean of Student Life Mona Olds was a close colleague of Dyer's. "He was in the business of getting to know troubled students," said Olds late Tuesday night. In his capacity, Dyer also worked with the Judicial Board advising students brought up on charges.

Dyer's speech Tuesday afternoon addressed the separation process of first-year students and their parents.

"He was giving an absolutely wonderful speech, the best I've seen him give," said Olds. "He said he had been here for 18 years and he made a point in his speech that he came here at the same time these first-years were born."

President Don McNemar had a specific memory of the speech. "Dick said 'I've loved my 18 years here and hope you find the same joy. May it open your soul.' I hadn't heard him say that before. You don't often hear the word 'soul' mentioned in a welcome speech."

As a Quaker minister, one of Dyer's favorite metaphors was that of a 150-year-old Shaker rocking chair. Max Carter, director of campus ministries, said "It symbolizes his integrity, his balance, his care for the kind of work you do."

Dyer made many contributions to Guilford, which, as always, he summarized best: "We're all given certain gifts ... a lot of what I do here is to help people discover their gifts."

I spend a lot of my time getting in the middle of things.—Dick Dyer