

## Alumnus honored in Hege exhibit

◆ T. Gilbert Pearson was internationally known naturalist

BY ELLEN YUTZY  
Staff Writer

T. Gilbert Pearson, a Guilford graduate, rose to the top of his field.

A new exhibit in Hege Library honors the naturalist who was a member of the Guilford College Class of 1897. A poster above the numerous stuffed birds reads, "Ornithologist, Conservationist, Educator, Protector of Birds." Pearson was an internationally known scientist and president of the National Audubon Society.

"In many ways he represents many of the ideals Guilford wants to instill in students," said Carole Treadway of the Friends Historical Collection. "We want to honor him because he was a pioneer."

The display of stuffed birds and eggs from Pearson's collection is made possible through a joint venture of the Guilford College Friends Historical Collection, Friends of the Guilford College Library, Natural Science Museum, and the Greensboro Historical Museum. Leslie Carter, an organizer of the event, says, "We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of his graduation."

The exhibit was put up this fall and will remain on display for about a year. The birds, although they belong to Guilford, have been on display at the Natural Science Center for the past several years. Some of the birds were actually collected on the Guilford campus. The ones on display in the library are a small selection from Pearson's rather extensive collection. The biology department still uses some of Pearson's eggs and study skins.

Pearson devoted his entire life to the preservation and study of birds. "For a generation in the mind of the American public the Audubon Association meant Pearson," said M. Albert Linton in the 14th Ward Lecture delivered at Guilford in 1964. "In all that he did, every energy, every ability, was focused on the protection of wild creatures and . . . an association of like-minded protectors of the world of nature from the ruthlessness or thoughtlessness of man."

A Quaker farm boy from Florida, the future ornithologist became interested in bird and egg collecting at an early age. He taught himself taxidermy and developed an impressive collection of stuffed birds. He offered to lend some specimens to Guilford, and in addition, Pearson would be responsible for the collection and mounting of specimens for the College Cabinet. Thus began perhaps one of Guilford's more unique work-study programs.

After completing two years of preparatory work, Pearson was ready to enter the college. His original deal with President Hobbs had been for only two years. A Guilford College Bulletin dated less than a year after his death says, "He invited a trustee into the museum, explained its great publicity value, . . . what he had done with it in two years' time, . . . and what might be done if he were left in charge longer."

The trustee was impressed, and the college awarded Pearson tuition, room, board, and \$50 a year to continue the work. He continued his studies and traveled to expand his collection.

After graduating from Guilford, Pearson studied at UNC, returning to Guilford as a biology professor in 1899. Between 1902 and 1904, he organized Audubon societies throughout the state. He also was instrumental in the passage of laws for game protection in North Carolina.

In 1904, he became the secretary of the newly organized National Audubon Society and moved to New York. He was the executive officer of the society for ten years after the president suffered a stroke. He later served as chairman of an international committee concerned with protecting birds.

The board of directors of the Audubon Society said after Pearson's death, "As long as the National Audubon Society lives and serves, it will owe a debt of gratitude to this farseeing and courageous leader."

And Guilford can claim him as our own.

## The President's Corner

BY MOLLY MARTIN  
Senate President

I have never seen anything quite like it: thirty-some adults huddled around a wooden mannequin, giggling like crazy. But, strange things happen at every retreat and I guess this year's Senate retreat was no exception.

Don't lose too much faith in your reps (while they fawn over wooden statues), though, because this weekend was also a chance for Senate to gain its most important tools: each person's interactive styles and a greater understanding of what it means to work for and within a community. We ran around like kids, hiked to see the sunset, and brain-stormed for everything under the sun, but, most of all, we put our heads together to make this year an effective one.

Special thanks to Brad McNeely and Ryan Bek for "cheffing" at the Raven Knob event...ask anybody, the food made the weekend.

Now that the fun has started, so has the business. This week Senate examined more club constitutions and budgets, as well as the last of the nominees to fill the Senate roster. Please contact Steve Karakasidis and Colin McFadden-Roan if your club has

not yet "registered" with Senate.

Clubs aren't the only ones in the spotlight. The restructuring of the school will be the topic of the Student Services Committee's first forum of the year on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Café. Also on tap for Senate is a policy designating when the new keycard doors will be locked and unlocked daily.

Please contact your senators to learn how to make your opinion on these issues heard in Senate! Read the Senate minutes they post in your dorm. Unsure as to whom your senator is? Call the Senate office at x2310 and we'll set you up with the right students! Also, be sure and check out the pictures in the Senate glass case and learn some Senate faces.

Despite everything going so beautifully, we still need helping hands. More than ever, we need your input! Got an idea for a campus-wide change? A policy for your dorm? Your club? Come on in to Senate at 3:35 in Boren Lounge every Wednesday and speak up, especially during the special non-senator Talk Tank (around 4:50, near the close of the meeting). Join your hall council (contact your Hall Director for details) or a Senate committee.

You'd be surprised what one voice can do...why not let that voice be yours?

## We Want Writers!

The Guilfordian is open to anyone that is interested. Whether your preference is writing, taking pictures, helping with layout, or anything else related to a newspaper, we've got a position for you.

For more information, come to the weekly staff meetings every Monday at 7:30 in the Passion Pit. Or, if you'd rather not have to actually meet with people, call Adam Lucas at 286-1214.

## The Guilfordian

"Since 1914, but never quite like this."