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Daughters of Brown vs. Board Plaintiff speak at Guilford

D'Nise Williams

Staff Writer

"I can still remember starting that bitter walk and the terrible cold that would freeze my tears," said Linda Brown Thompson. "Often times I'd return home unable to complete the 1 mile journey, every inch of my little body numb with cold."

Thompson is the daughter of the Late Rev. Oliver L. Brown of Topeka, Kan., who was the first named Plaintiff in the case resulting in the Supreme Court decision to ban segregation in elementary level schools.

Thompson and her sister, Cheryl Brown Henderson, spoke Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in Dana Auditorium. The event was held in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark decision.

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court announced, "separate educa-

tional facilities are inherently unequal." This ruling effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in Kansas and 20 other states with segregated classrooms, overturning the 1892 Plessy vs. Ferguson ruling and forever changing race relations.

In the early 1950s, racial segregation in public schools was the norm across America. Although all the schools in a given district were supposed to be equal, most black schools were far inferior to that of whites.

Brown vs. Board began when third-grader Linda Brown was forced to walk a mile, through a railroad switchyard, to get to her black school -- even though a white school was only four blocks away. Rev. Brown tried to enroll Linda into the white elementary school, but the principal of the school refused.

"My father pondered why -- why his daughter had to fight the harsh elements and travel so far each day to

receive that education that was rightfully hers," said Thompson. "Why black people could live all over town but not send their children to the schools closest to them."

Frustrated, Brown went to McKinley Burnett, head of Topeka's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and asked for help.

Nearly 200 other black parents

joined the Browns and in 1951 the NAACP requested an injunction that would forbid the segregation of

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D'NISE WILLIAMS/GUILFORDIAN

Linda Brown Thompson and Cheryl Brown Henderson spoke in Dana on the Nov. 17 anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court case

Guilford bookstore gets new manager and new style



TALEISHA BOWEN/GUILFORDIAN

Display at the bookstore

Deidre Rhim

Staff Writer

Matt Walker, previously the assistant manager of the bookstore at Elon College, joined the Guilford community in early November. He brings five years of experience from managing numerous Barnes and Noble college bookstores to the job. He says, "I am looking forward to many wonderful years on campus."

Walker has a staff of four employees, including textbook

manager Mellony Dargan, who Walker described as his right hand.

Walker intends to make a plethora of changes. "My goal is to make the bookstore and myself as visible on campus as possible," said Walker. In addition to requesting more students' input by meeting with student organizations, and adding more student workers, Walker plans to hold various raffles, contests and giveaways throughout the coming academic semesters. Students are encouraged to

participate in the effort and become "educated about Follett."

On Nov. 18 the bookstore supported the Grill's grand opening by offering raffles and giveaways. On Dec. 1 faculty and staff will get an extra 10% off of purchases for Appreciation Day. During exam week, which Walker says is the best time for students to sell books back, Coca-Cola will be sponsoring buyback and they plan to raf-

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