

The

# GUILFORDIAN

The Independent Student Voice of Guilford College

WWW.GUILFORDIAN.COM

April 6, 2007  
Volume 93, Issue 22



## Akimana, Reilley, Zavaleta-Jimenez and Aberle win Senate election

AMANDA PRESSLEY | STAFF WRITER

On March 28, the Senate Executive Council ticket of juniors Vital Akimana, Irving Zavaleta-Jimenez, Brennan Aberle, and Liz Reilley was announced as the winner of the Community Senate race, defeating the opposing ticket of Malcolm Kenton, Johanna Breed, Evan Drazhal Gasster and Kieron James.

Of the 407 ballots cast on March 27, the winning ticket received 331 votes — winning with 81 percent of the vote.

"I congratulate Vital, and I agree with the bulk of his platform," said defeated presidential candidate Kenton.

"We are very excited that the students of Guilford College chose us as their next Senate executives," said Secretary-Elect Reilley. "We have already begun preparing for next year."

Consisting of six interrelated concepts, ranging from community building to empowering the student body, Akimana's platform rested on the premise of improving relations and efficiency among students, Senate and the administration.

"We are angry about the current state of the Guilford College community," said a campaign platform pamphlet. "It's time to let the administration know that we can elect a ticket who will take a firm position on making sure students' voices are heard and represented."

The pamphlet outlined the winning ticket's frustrations with perceptions of Senate as a source of money and nothing else. It outlined the candidates' platform and defined their plans for changing Senate.

"This campaign is about creating ways for Senate to be able to better hear and represent ALL student voices," said the campaign document. "We would like Senate to support students' ideas and policy changes as opposed to simply backing monetary proposals."

The pamphlet continues by stating dedication to the addressing of student concerns and being open to innovation.

"We are committed to seeking out and addressing any and all of your ideas that you want Senate to handle,"

said the platform document.

"I'm going to take this straight from the Senate Web site; I'd like for us to be the voice of the student body, for real," said Treasurer-Elect Aberle.

"Basically, we want to be visible," said Vice President-Elect Zavaleta-Jimenez of the group's intention to stay actively involved in the Guilford community through open dialogue and other methods of communication.

"Communication in Senate is a two-way street," said Reilley. "We are creating as many mediums as possible to do that communicating."

These mediums of communication include a TV in Founders lobby that will run information and updates via The Buzz and e-mail.

The new senators are encouraging student input.

"An important point to note is that students are more likely to be involved in something they feel like they built, that they had a part in shaping," said Aberle.

A comment box, monthly polls on policy issues and actual first-person interaction with possible designated "Senate lunch days," where officers will be available in the cafeteria, will all offer opportunities for students to connect with senators and officers.

Their platform demanded accountability from both Senate itself and the college administration.

"We want Senate to be constructively critical of Guilford College's administration, strategic long range plan, mission statement, its commitment to core values, and its policies," said the campaign pamphlet.

The candidates also demanded that the administration be held responsible for "every decree they pass during exam weeks."

"We need to show the administration what students really want, and they need to listen," said Akimana. "We need to hold them accountable, because we are doing our part; they should do theirs."

"We're taking where they (the current Senate) left off and moving forward, definitely building off of them," said Zavaleta-Jimenez.

## Phase two of Armfield renovation begins

CARL FARLOW | STAFF WRITER

After the completion of the new press box and stands at Armfield stadium, the second phase of renovations is now underway. The bleachers for visiting teams have been removed and construction of newer and safer seating has begun.

"The visitor's bleachers were rusting and in a state of disrepair," said Athletic Director Marion Kirby. "They've been there since before I came here. The new bleachers will probably not be as wide, but the new seats will be elevated and more to the middle, like the seating we put in with the press box."

The replacing of the old bleachers is part of Phase Two of the Armfield Athletic Center renovation plans. Phase One included the construction of the new press box and scoreboard. The next step in Phase Two, after replacing the away bleachers, is to add lights to the stadium.

"With the lights, we can start scheduling games in the evening, so it's not quite as hot for the players," said Kirby. The lights will be optimized so that there is minimal off-site spill and an efficient monitoring system implemented to ensure that bulb outages are quickly fixed.

The estimated cost for the bleachers and lighting is \$350,000 and the entire project is estimated to cost \$2.5 million. Since no part of the school's budget

is allocated to this project, all of the money used to renovate the stadium comes from alumni donations.

"Alumni are continuing to give to Armfield with a goal of improving the playing surface for men's and women's sports," said Anne Hurd, director of development.

Currently, the sports played in the stadium include football and men's and women's lacrosse. The men's and women's soccer teams play in the Haworth Fields located in the northwest corner of Guilford's campus. Phase Three of the renovation plan would allow for all sports to be played in the stadium.

"We want to put in a new synthetic turf so we can play all our sports out there," said Kirby. "The new turf would also allow us to have a place to practice after heavy rains without hurting the fields."

"When we decided to renovate the stadium, we went to the Armfield family and proposed that we needed some upgrades," said Kirby. "Some other alumni got involved, and we started raising money. We could only do this through donations."



## Proposed U.S. withdrawal undermines Iraqi stability

JAKE BLUMGART | STAFF WRITER

In a March 22 press conference, Iraqi Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi warned American policy makers that a premature American withdrawal from Iraq could be disastrous.

"Many of the Democrats are now pushing the White House for a quick withdrawal of troops from Iraq," Hashemi said to The Middle East Times. "This is not going to benefit either Iraqi or Western interests. If troops are

pulled out on short notice, it will create a security vacuum in Iraq that cannot be filled by troops that have not been trained well enough and are not available in sufficient numbers."

"I don't think that anything the Iraqi government says will affect our policy at all," Assistant Professor of Political Science Robert Duncan said. "The Bush administration will use it for propaganda purposes, but it's not going to change the attitude of Congress. It's not going to change the

attitude of the American people. The last time I remember reading an opinion poll, the Iraqi people wanted us out of there too."

In the week since Hashemi's statement, the U.S. Senate has passed a bill that approves \$122 billion for the continued war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, but includes clauses strongly urging the President to begin removing U.S. troops within 120 days of the bill's passage or by March 2008.

Continued on page 5

### Zimbabwe

The Mugabe government has cracked down on activists from a rival party. A cycle of violence has erupted, with government forces killing and arresting many Zimbabweans.

World & Nation Page 4

### Energy Film Fest

The Sierra Club and Forevergreen are sponsoring the Energy Film Festival, a three-part film series that presents documentaries focused on energy-related issues. High quality films, low attendance.

Features Page 6

### Poetry Reading

Award-winning poet Judy Jordan returned to her native North Carolina to join students and faculty in poetry readings, book signings, tea at the Greenleaf and a poetry workshop at UNCG.

Features Page 9

### SLRP Questioned

One observer's close reading of the Strategic Long Range Plan's goals for diversity and anti-racism suggests dubious use of statistics and a commitment more rooted in marketing than in core values.

Forum Page 11

### Softball Redux

In a rebuilding year fraught with many problems, the softball team finds a new coach, Dennis Shores, wins five games, establishes a new home run record, and looks to the future.

Sports Page 12