

ARCHIVES WEEK



PHOTOS BY MAX KOCHINKE/GUILFORDIAN

College archivist **Gwen Erickson** shows Nathan Hunt's hat, part of the collection kept in secure rooms in Hege Library, during Archives Week.

Guilford participates in NC Archives Week with new sports history case

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Quaker history," Librarian and College Archivist Gwen Erickson said.

The research room, open to the public, houses rare books, Quaker genealogies and Guilford history. But, behind the well-appointed desks and bookcases are several rooms of storage and offices dedicated to record preservation.

The tours of the inner-workings of the Friends Collection allowed the community to learn how the collection of items are accumulated, processed and stored. Even though several Guilford students have used the collection for their research, not many took the tour.

"We didn't have much, if any, student participation this year," Erickson said.

Rows and rows of manuscripts, student's theses and strange artifacts line the walls and shelves of climate-controlled secure rooms.

Erickson and Cook explained the significance of the leather-bound volumes, with some that date back to 1695. Cook revealed a ledger of accounts with columns of neat handwritten entries and a

recorded collection of twenty-five cents collected for the girls athletic association.

During the tour, Erickson pointed out the invaluable contributions of the dozens of volunteers that help maintain the historical collection.

J. Wilbert Edgerton, known to the library staff as Wil, volunteers in the research room every Friday. Edgerton, who will be 90 this year, graduated from Guilford in 1940 and met his wife of 65 years on the first day of class.

He proudly related that the Friends Historical Collection houses his family tree, which was created by his aunt who also graduated from Guilford.

"It includes her handwritten script that goes with it explaining missing elements," Edgerton said.

Much like his aunt, Edgerton has provided the staff with the information missing from a collection of papers the library received from one of Will's classmates.

"He helped us fill in the gaps and was able to tell us some of the unnamed people in the photos that we received as part of the collection," Erickson said.

RETENTION

Poor retention rate spurs administrative action

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The second word is persistence. This is what people think retention means – the total percentage of students that returns year to year. It is not used as a measure because it does not track individual students as precisely.

The third word is attrition – the total percentage of students who leave a college. This is also not commonly cited as a statistic because the reasons students may leave are so diverse and,

as noted above, "retention is a complicated issue."

To deal with this issue, the college has taken a number of steps. First, it has hired three new professional hall directors who will divert their full time to underclassmen who need their help. It has also hired a full-time academic advising liaison.

"The goal here," said Fetrow, "is a coordinated response between the judicial and the academic response."

"All we at Campus

Life can do," he said, "is the best we can for the students who remain. This is why we've tightened our enforcement of alcohol and drug rules on campus – because the dealers and drunks, they drag others down. We can't control the students, but we can try to control the alcohol and drugs that affect them."

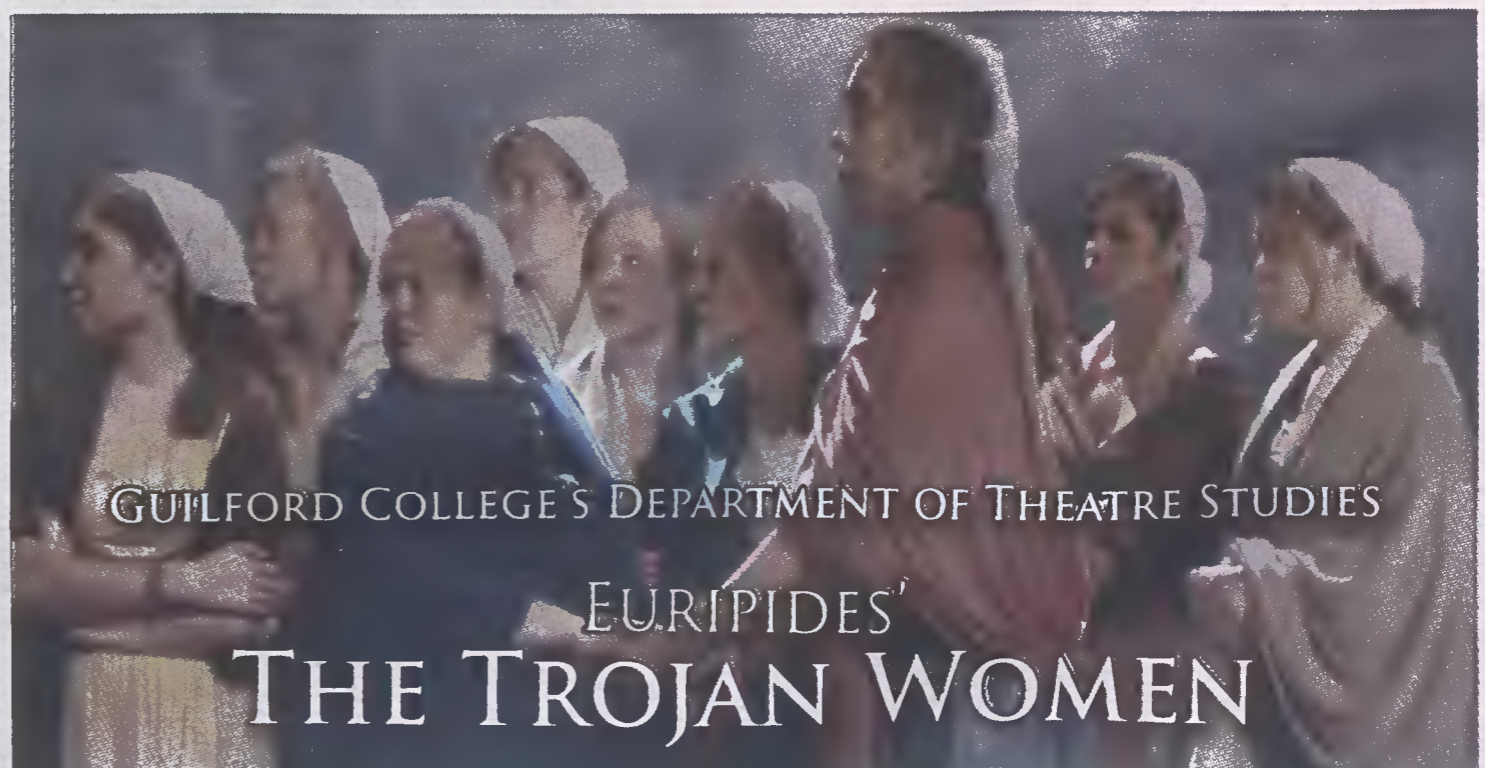
About one third of the attrition is academic – "an uncharacteristically high number for a school our size," says Doss. A further 8 to 10 percent are what Fetrow calls "physi-

cal and mental health" withdrawals, although as both noted, every student who leaves has more than one factor influencing their decision. Of particular note is the state of the economy, which Coaxum, Doss, and Fetrow all felt was of real concern in the past year and going forward.

Finally, both Doss and Fetrow noted that Guilford is a transformative place. As Fetrow put it, "You've got to expect that some people are going to transform differently."

IN DIRECTOR, DAVID HAMMOND'S WORDS, "THE TROJAN WOMEN SPEAKS TO US TODAY AS SURELY AS IT HAS SPOKEN TO HUMANKIND IN TIMES OF TURMOIL FOR MORE THAN 2,400 YEARS."

CLASSICIST EDITH HAMILTON HAILED THIS STORY OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE TROJAN WARS AS "THE GREATEST PIECE OF ANTI-WAR LITERATURE THERE IS IN THE WORLD."



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GUILFORD PROFESSORS MAX CARTER, KYLE DELL & CAROL HOPPE WILL HOST A POST-SHOW PANEL AND AUDIENCE DISCUSSION ON THE 13TH.

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