

GRADUATION RATES REVEAL DISPROPORTIONATE PATTERNS BASED ON GENDER AND RACE

By Deena Zaru
NEWS EDITOR

A study of Guilford's 6-year graduation rates for the past 10 first-year class cohorts (1993-2002), for which data is available reveals a pattern of females graduating at a higher rate than males, black females consistently graduating at a higher rate than all men and at times white females, and black men generally graduating at a lower rate than white students and black females alike.

Guilford's Diversity Plan calls for quantitative and qualitative understandings of diversity in our community. Graduation and retention rates, while only one facet of statistical analysis regarding the success of an institution, are one window into the health of the academic and social fabric of the Guilford community.

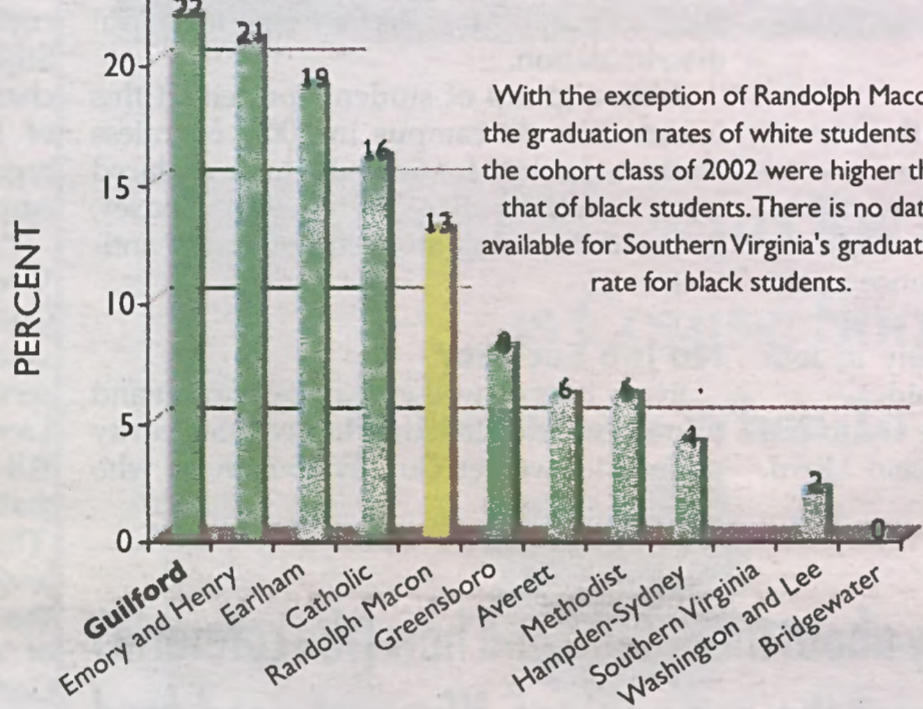
Diversity Action Committee

The Diversity Action Committee (DAC) is currently engaged in research and is specifically focusing on student retention.

"The diversity action team is determined to make sure that we look after issues of diversity," said Jordan Auleb, Community Senate treasurer and traditional student representative on the DAC, "and that Guilford is a culturally pluralistic place that celebrates different cultures and offers resources for students from different backgrounds."

Auleb said that while the DAC works to implement quantitative or numerical goals in terms of

PERCENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRADUATION RATES OF BLACK AND WHITE STUDENTS



COURTESY OF DEENA ZARU

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Dill schools prepare to track athlete graduation rates
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diversity, their work and research is focused on qualitative goals that complement them.

"We are going to different units and doing research," said Professor of Theatre Studies and DAC member, David Hammond. "We are examining what has been done and what each unit sees the challenges are so we can prioritize

and then plan the action steps to be addressed in the next few years."

While exploring graduation rates of black males, several areas need to be examined including the athletic department because according to Vice-President for Enrollment Services Randy Doss, it is common that the majority of black males come to Guilford as part of a sports team.

Doss said that of the 72 black students admitted in fall 2009, 38 were male and 34 were female, and that of the 38 males, 18 were on the football team and five more were a part of other sports. Twenty-three out of 38 entered as athletes.

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NEWS

Workers, students allege mistreatment in cafeteria

By Eric Ginsburg
STAFF WRITER

Last year, Debbie Grogan received the Dick Dyer Staff Hearts and Hands Award. Earlier this semester, many people were shocked and confused when Meriwether Godsey fired her. Now, students, workers and former employees are speaking out against what they consider to be a pattern of abuses, arguing that problems with the company run much deeper.

Employees' complaints encompass a variety of issues, ranging from what they claim to be insulting eight-cent pay raises to racial discrimination. The most common complaints are overworking, a complete lack of job security, and a problem with the work environment created by management.

"Slave days are back at Guilford College," said one employee in a telephone interview. "The atmosphere is so tense in there."

Current employees who were interviewed declined to speak freely on record for fear of being identified and losing their jobs for speaking out. Former employees who feel they were wrongfully terminated were more willing to share their frustrations and anger.

"I think I sold my soul to the devil for a few more dollars an hour," said former employee James Crump, referring to the promised pay raises when

Meriwether Godsey's contract was negotiated.

The prospect of unexpectedly losing a job is arguably the most troublesome aspect of the issues with Meriwether Godsey. Watching beloved employees like Barbara Pinnix and Debbie Grogan lose their jobs in the last year seems to have caused the most outrage amongst workers and students alike.

In this economy, especially for older workers and longer-term employees, losing a job can be a crippling and devastating blow.

"I have been out every day out looking for jobs, going to Goodwill, looking on the computer. I am really in a bad, bad situation," said Grogan.

Ms. Debbie's Story

Grogan was fired earlier this semester. While Meriwether Godsey cannot and will not talk about it, other people are.

"I was surprised," said Jonathan Varnell, who manages Guilford's account with Meriwether Godsey. "Nobody, legally, can say a word. You have no idea and

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ALLIE STEWART/GUILFORDIAN

WORLD & NATION

Liberian president Sirleaf announces plan to run in 2011

By Becca Heller
STAFF WRITER



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Two months ago, current Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf announced that she plans to seek reelection in 2011.

"I know from whence we came yesterday. I know where we are today; I know where we ought to be tomorrow and I know how we will get there," said Sirleaf in her announcement, according to Women's Media Center.

Elected president of Liberia in 2005, Sirleaf became Africa's first female head of state. Li-

beria's feminist movement, already picking up steam, strengthened tenfold with Sirleaf in charge.

One of Sirleaf's primary focuses during her presidency has been to empower the women of Liberia. After 14 years of civil war, Sirleaf inherited a country haunted by a history of violence, torture and rape. During this time women lived in constant fear of abuse, and, even after her election, the aftermath of this mistreatment of women is evident.

Sirleaf's solution? Put women in charge. Sirleaf filled her cabinet with capable wom-

en, and flooded law enforcement with strong, well-trained women officers. She put numerous policies into place, according to The New York Times, aiming to empower Liberian women through educational and economic means.

"Women are no longer sitting at home, waiting for their husbands to give their food," said market vendor, Christiana Miller in a report by The New York Times. "They can run a business, they can read and write. Now I feel like

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