

Staff Editorial

A letter from next year's Editor in Chief

During my stay in Ireland this semester I've taken time every Friday morning to indulge in some homegrown Guilford nostalgia. I do this by logging onto Guilfordian.com and catching up on the happenings on and around campus. Lately, I've found this weekly ritual to be more than a simple remedy for homesickness. My need to stay connected has revealed the importance of the widespread circulation of the Guilfordian and, on a much larger scale, the importance of the Guilford community itself.

When I return to school next year and assume the position of Editor in Chief, I plan to hold onto this renewed appreciation. I am anxious to step into the shoes worn by past staffs, which have repeatedly showcased the spirit that defines the Guilford community with creativity and a passion that manifests itself in every publication.

I anticipate the continued technological advancement of our organization in The Guilfordian's growing website. The online edition is changing the way we deliver the news. Community members can now be heard, literally, through filmed interviews; campus events can be exhibited in photo slideshows; meetings and speeches can be recorded and reproduced through embedded sound bites.

We aim to put these new media tools to good use. With the support of the Center for Principled Problem Solving, The Guilfordian is taking steps to address social justice issues using these new technologies. In the upcoming semesters, our reporters will use multimedia coverage to give fuller attention to the ongoing struggles for justice and equality, both in and outside Greensboro. In this new endeavor, we will blend journalism with activism, further aligning our mission with the college's core values.

The Guilfordian's online presence will improve both access to the news, and also introduce a new online forum. The web community will be able to discuss, challenge, and offer further insights to our stories. Readers can interact with both the Guilfordian staff and other online users. As always, we consider community dialogue an essential part of our mission; now, that important dialogue can be viewed with the click of a mouse.

We do not gauge The Guilfordian's achievements in the number of papers picked up or online hits each edition receives. Instead, our efforts are successful when they spark valuable discussions, activism, and awareness in our readers. The website allows us to expand our readership to Greensboro residents and fellow Guilfordians, alumni and current students, viewers here or — like me — abroad. We are looking forward to integrating their discussions into The Guilfordian's constant evolution toward better journalism for Guilford and beyond.

Erin Reitz, junior

Webcam makes eagle chicks an internet sensation



By Andrew Glass
STAFF WRITER

It is baby-making season.

And, not only are chicks hatching in nests all over campus, they are hatching online as well.

A bald eagle nest in Decorah, Iowa, has gone viral, attracting over 25 million views. The webcam installed in the nest can be remote-controlled to provide a better view and even has infrared capabilities, allowing viewers to creep on our national birds even as they sleep.

When I first watched the nest, there were two chicks, a parent, an egg, a furry carcass, and a dead crow. Later, the other parent brought a fish, which it tore into bite-size pieces for the chicks.

I spent the next hour watching to catch glimpses of the two adorable balls of fluff, too often

hidden under warm feathers.

As the parents look at the camera, it seemed as if they could see me, and I could not help but to respect the power they held in their gaze.

There was quite a stir in the online community with each of the three chick's hatchings, all of which can be seen using a quick YouTube search.

But these birds have not been living the lives of most YouTube celebrities. They have had their challenges.

It is hard not to sympathize

winds have rocked the nest, and on several nights, an owl has attacked the parent warming the chicks. The eagle spreading its powerful wings, daring the owl to come back and try again, and you just can't help but pay attention. You can't see that anywhere else.

The webcam offers an exclusive view into the life of the extraordinary bald eagle. This is a view that unfortunately I, and undoubtedly many of the viewers, have not had an

through binoculars, and no chicks had hatched yet.

The webcam is a great step in the effort of environmental outreach. Launching videos of bald eagles which can contend with other YouTube celebrities allows environmental groups to reach a new generation, one which knows Justin Bieber more than Jane Goodall, and help them realize the importance of all life on this planet.

The bald eagle itself was in danger of extinction just decades ago. After great efforts from the environmental community, DDT was banned, and combined with conservation efforts the eagles have been brought to a more healthy population.

With Guilford's focus on sustainability this year, it helps to know why such efforts are necessary, and the Decorah eagle webcam provides just that opportunity.

I am glad that finally something worthwhile has gone viral. Although the eagles may never surpass "Friday" or kitten videos, they will continue to inspire countless individuals to see the beauty of the natural world and to protect it.

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with the parent as it sits in the chicks' first thunderstorm, acting as a shield from the wind and rain. It looked miserable and soaked, but I am sure the chicks appreciated the warmth its sacrifice provided.

There have also been moments of terror. Powerful

opportunity to be privy to many times in my life.

The closest I had gotten before this webcam was my ornithology field trip earlier this semester to see the bald eagle nest on Lake Brandt, less than 10 minutes from campus. But even then, it was simply

Lessons from the Guilford Book Drive



JACOB ROSENBERG
BY STAFF WRITER

John Zickefosse did not learn to read until he was 35 years old. He graduated from high school without being able to read his diploma.

The truly sad part about this story is it is all too common, even in Guilford County. Students just like Zickefosse get through the school system without even knowing how to read.

This year, the Guilford County School system issued a challenge to collect one million books by January 2012. The countywide initiative is an effort to prevent illiteracy and make reading a priority. The idea is to put books in the hands and homes of students who want to read, and give all students an equal opportunity to learn. The Guilford community, as it so often does, responded with generous support.

A group of students, hoping to help Guilford County Schools in their effort, launched the Guilford Book Drive. As a member of the executive team of the Guilford Book Drive, I saw first-hand just how much the Guilford College community was willing to help their neighbors in Guilford County.

I saw struggling college students give away books that could have been sold for a few bucks and a nice weekend. Prized possessions were given away with "the hope that some other kid will love it as much as I did" said former student David Lee.

The Guilford community donated more than 600 books to the Guilford County School System, benefiting the countywide initiative. The books will be disseminated to schools and also available through a central warehouse for teachers to request. Additionally, adults like Zickefosse will be able to access

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them through new parent-education programs being established.

However, some critics have said that donating books is just giving to nothing, stating that the school system is so crooked that there is no use in even trying to help those students who struggle and that the school system dooms them in the first place.

But I believe the real problem often

lies in unequal beginnings, with students not reading books outside of school. This initiative allows for an increase in book availability for many Guilford County students. By allowing the opportunity to learn, you give kids a shot, a chance to not have to live with illiteracy.

The success of this particular project deserves recognition, but the real credit lies in the resources that Guilford has to offer, and the people who go here.

The Center for Principled Problem Solving backs small group projects throughout Guilford College, giving these projects the resources to help others, and to learn along the way. The CPPS gave our project backing and was one of the key reasons for its success. Kim Yarbray, project and communication manager of CPPS, led us throughout and contributions were crucial.

Many colleges have programs for leaders or service involved in their curriculum. However, few go as far as Guilford does in helping any member of the student body create, facilitate, and run an actual service project. No matter what your interests may be, or how you want to help others, the greatest part of Guilford is that there is a system set up to make sure you can.

John Zickefosse is called Mr. Z now, and he talks to children about learning to read at a young age. Public education may be broken, and kids may not want to learn like they used to, but when students graduate without knowing how to read, that is when everyone has to help change.