

## The first year: a time for exploration



By Ryan Gordy  
STAFF WRITER

Class is again in session at Guilford. Students have their class schedules ready and are excited for what the new semester will bring. For the many that spent their summer away from Guilford, the campus is a familiar site.

Except for first-years.

Meagan Jolliffe, student success counselor, put being a first-year student into perspective: "Being a first year is like a dream — everything is completely different. You're the leader of your life with so many opportunities."

Guilford offers a new and exciting environment, free of parents and set schedules, for all of its first-year students. College is the start of something great and should be cherished. I still remember moving into Milner in the fall of 2007 and have great memories from that year.

However, there are things that I know now that I wish I had known back then.

Besides the mundane "eat right and get enough sleep" spiel, the biggest piece of knowledge that I can pass

down after being at Guilford for four years is this: Guilford is an accepting place, so try out new activities and experiences.

Director of Student Leadership and Engagement Erin Fox echoes this point.

"Your first year of college is all about exploration," said Fox. "Don't be afraid to look outside your box and try new things."

This can be playing intramural sports, taking a music class, working in the Greenleaf, joining a club, or asking a classmate to hang out after

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class. Whatever it is, get outside your comfort zone and explore Guilford for all it's worth. I promise you won't regret it.

"You have to test your boundaries and be open-minded," said Hall Director and Student Success Mentor Justin Shreve. "I wish I had gotten involved with Guilford a lot earlier than I did. The Guilford community is very accepting, and I'm grateful for all

the opportunities given to me here."

Another key piece is that students need to find a balance between social life and school work. Everyone is different. This is why the Learning Commons is so vital.

"The Learning Commons isn't a scary place to be," said Jolliffe. "Seeking help is a strength; the essence of the Learning Commons is to cultivate critical thinking."

Even if a student just picks up a handy semester calendar to map out their work for the semester (which I still do), the Learning Commons is here to help.

Faculty members are here to help students as well. I strongly encourage first-years to get to know their professors. At Guilford, you aren't some number who will never be recognized; you will get to call your professor by his or her first name and be invited to their house for dinner. The professors here care about you and want to push you to succeed.

"Being on a personal level with teachers is great," said junior Karyle Miller. "I can talk to my professors about academics, life, and what's going on in the world."

The last piece of knowledge that I can give is simple: be true to yourself. Everyone at Guilford is here to help if you need it. Even though Guilford may seem small, there is a world of opportunities waiting to be grabbed.

In the words of Erin Fox, "Don't be at college, be in college."

## A call for awareness, safety



By Ron Stowe  
PUBLIC SAFETY, DIRECTOR

With another year at Guilford College beginning, and a new group of students arriving, the Department of Public Safety would like to welcome both new and returning students. Along with this welcome, we'd like to take the opportunity to point out something to you in hopes of making you safer and making Guilford a safer place in general.

Guilford is typically a safe place — one that everyone in our community can, and should, take pride in. Along with that, though, it is important for us to remember that being "typically safe" does not mean there is a magic bubble surrounding us that makes

us immune to bad things. We were all reminded of that after a couple of serious incidents occurred last spring.

One of the many things that sets Guilford apart is the woods on campus. While the woods can be a great place for legitimate activities, they can also be a place that attracts undesirable and dangerous

is the scary part, and what we wish to impress upon our community.

First, neither the victim nor the assailant were Guilford students or even had connections to Guilford, but just heard about this party and decided to attend. That brings up something we all must remember: when large gath-

clearly not a person we want mingling with our community

The Guilford community averted tragedy in this case. Things could have been different, though, as the victim could just as easily have been a student. Crowd dynamics are often such that a person driven to committing a violent act like this often isn't discriminatory, and the suspect could have just as easily lashed out at anyone at the time of his alleged provocation. Instead of what turned out in this case to be an event of basically no consequences for our community, we could have been dealing with a tragedy where a student — or worse yet, students — had been injured or killed.

We beg the community to think about this, to realize that things can get out of control very quickly. Be aware of the circumstances you find yourself in, and be aware of those around you. Unknown visitors can very quickly become unwanted visitors that can bring undesired and unexpected consequences — potentially dire consequences.

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Last spring, such an incident took place when a young man was stabbed after a large party in the woods. The victim was not seriously injured and the Greensboro Police quickly arrested the assailant.

At first glance, that appears to be good news — no serious injuries and the suspect was arrested — but the information learned after the incident

erings take place there is little control over who attends. This opens the door for unsavory and unwanted guests, who often appear just like us.

Second, the person arrested for this incident had a lengthy arrest history and was recently released from prison after serving time for kidnapping and robbery. If that isn't concerning enough, he is also a registered sex offender —

## CAMPAIGN CHRONICLES



Kara Thomas  
FORUM EDITOR

The air is thick with hairspray and empty promises. Red, white, and blue tour buses are crisscrossing the country. This can only mean one thing — the presidential campaign season is upon us.

With only 431 days left until the next president is decided, politicians are buttoning their suit jackets, donning their flag lapel pins, and chowing down on regional delicacies. And most of the country — Guilford students included — is watching with rapt attention as these politicians spout sound bites.

Staying up-to-date on all the candidates and campaign moves can be a full-time job in and of itself. That being said, you still need to follow MTV's advice and "Rock the Vote."

For those who aren't inclined to follow each candidate on Twitter it becomes all too easy to be apathetic, or worse, to simply toe the party line.

A quick survey of bumper stickers around campus will reveal that the party line at Guilford is almost undeniably pro-Obama, but a mass of bumper stickers shouldn't be enough to win your precious vote. Your vote should be awarded on the facts and hopefully not empty promises, and not on how a candidate orders a Philly Cheesesteak.

That's where this column comes in. Rather than expecting each of you to give up studying and socializing in favor of scouring the Internet for the latest updates, we'll do it for you.

From candidate meltdowns to polls and primaries, it is our job as the news organization at a politically-minded college to keep you up-to-date.

More than just delivering the facts, though, we hope to put them in perspective. We hope to provide you with knowledge about all the candidates, even the ones you don't like or didn't know existed, and a frame of reference with which to view them.

At a time when so many things seem to be going wrong for America and party lines are being drawn deeper than ever, it is imperative that we remember that politicians aren't trying to destroy us.

Whether you realize it or not, underneath those strangely white teeth and baby-kissing lips is someone who genuinely thinks he or she has America and her citizens' best interests at heart.

It is in that spirit that this column will go forth. It is that spirit that we as reporters hope to uphold. And it is that spirit that we hope to impress upon you.

Let the games begin.