

LEGISLATION

Guilford PRIDE raises awareness about proposed bills

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Martha Lang, who is also LGBTQA resource coordinator and co-advisor of Pride.

The South has become an important arena for debates about same-sex marriage, and other LGBTQA-related issues.

"There are more openly gay people in the South than ever before," said Assistant Professor of Political Science Maria Rosales.

"Additionally, gay people who live in the South are more likely to have children than gay people who live elsewhere in the U.S.," according to Rosales.

Though same-sex marriage is already illegal in North Carolina, proponents of this bill argue that a constitutional amendment is still necessary.

"Legal developments from other states require that this policy be in the constitution in order to be fully effective," House Majority Leader Paul Stam told *The Dispatch*.

Other proponents stress that the bills do not amend the constitution, but instead ask the voters to decide.

"If you step back from the subject itself, we are doing what we told the people we were going to do," said Representative Dale Folwell, according to the *Salisbury Post*. "At the end of the day, we are not changing the constitution. We are pushing power to the people that the constitution belongs to and asking them to decide whether they want to change it."

"The problem with that is that it's the majority voting on the rights of a discriminated minority, and historically that has not turned out to be a good idea," said senior and Vice President of Pride Nicole Guilfoyle about Folwell's comments.

The bills will also have consequences beyond the ability of same-sex couples to marry.

"Consequences of the Senate bill are profound on so many levels," said Lang. "Both tie up state funds and will ban domestic partner benefits."

Some also argue that the amendments will have detrimental effects on the state's job markets. Some corporations settled in North Carolina consider the bill a restraint to employee benefits and rights.

"Major corporations, including locally based Bank of America Corp., are increasingly extending same-sex benefits as the pursuit of talent trumps lingering prejudices over sexual orientation," Bank of America CEO Hugh McColl told the *Charlotte Tribune*.

To help garner as much support as possible in order to stop the bills, Pride has reacted quickly. On Sept. 2, Pride began phone bank training on calling North Carolina constituents about the legislation.

"This is important because you're reaching out to people who don't necessarily know that this legislation is on the table right now," said Guilfoyle. "When you inform a lot of people, then those people might contact their



(L-R) Hall Director **Justin Shreve '10** takes notes while Pride President **Kim Parmenter**, senior, leads members in a discussion of the bill Monday, September 5th.

senators and representatives."

On Monday, Sept. 12, the Greensboro Vigil for Equality will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Greensboro Courthouse Plaza at the corner of West Market Street and West Washington Street to protest the legislation. For those interested, Pride is organizing carpooling to the event. Those who are interested in the carpool should email Pride at guilfordpride@guilford.edu or Pride President Kim Parmenter at parmenterkd@guilford.edu.

In addition to the Sept. 12 vigil, there will be a rally outside of the state capitol on Sept. 13 to protest the legislation.

Lang, who will be speaking at the vigil, hopes that opponents of the legislation can calm the fears of the legislation's supporters.

"If people could understand that it's about love and people coming together in a public declaration of love, maybe that will make it less scary to those people supporting the bill," said Lang.

Semester reboots with new technology across campus

By Victor Lopez
STAFF WRITER

As the summer winds to an end, some items on campus are finding new beginnings, such as the many new technology changes at the college.

Vice President of Administration Jon Varnell said that those changes included computer deployments, yearly replacements of Mac's and PC's, new Xerox printers, a modified wireless service, new door access points, and a newly designed website for the college.

These changes have been celebrated by some and loathed by others for myriad reasons.

"The printing portion of the copy machine installation has been frustrating, but is getting better by the day," said Varnell.

Following the summer's end, the leases on the copy machines throughout campus were up for renewal, and the old copy machines had to be returned.

Director of Information Technology and Services Teresa Sanford said that, while the new printers installed throughout campus provide superior print quality, there have been complaints about the software platform.

"Before, only students had to swipe in order to print," said Sanford. "Now all faculty and

staff — along with students — have to swipe in order to print, which some feel is a slow, complicated process."

CCE students and staff, like Rita Serkin Dean and Vice President of the Center for Continuing Education, feel lukewarm and yet hopeful about the new machines.

"My staff and student reaction to the new printers is hardly printable, although everyone admits that when you finally get your printing job it produces a

connect to the intranet and that had to be solved," said Sanford.

In a survey of 42 students, 43.9 percent rated the wireless system good and 9.8 percent said very good.

However, there were mixed reactions to Guilford's new website, which, according to President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar, took a lot of work and input to erect.

"A special subcommittee of four trustees worked with the

Education Holly Wilson said that some students have concerns about the website being misleading.

"Some people are concerned that the website is too polished," said Wilson. "And it is not a good representation of what our campus really looks like."

Wilson said many Caucasian students shared the concern that the website makes the campus look more diverse and multicultural than it is.

Students such as junior Nicolas

said that it is confusing and very slow.

Senior Jazlyn Gibbs said that after a spell, the website did not seem daunting to navigate at all.

"I personally love the new website," said Gibbs. "Everything is simple and easy to find. My friends also like the website. Of course at first it was a little tricky to find the email part, and logging into GuilfordNet, but after becoming more familiar, I think the website is great."

Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing Ty Buckner said that Guilford's new website supports the marketing needs of the college.

"The website project included not only a new home page but new architecture and navigation and new or re-purposed content on the primary pages throughout the site," said Buckner. "As part of reorganizing and streamlining content, we developed Guilford Net to contain information relevant to campus users. The main website is focused on future students and other external users."

Both Buckner and Sanford said that there would be constant additions and improvements.

"It is important to know that with technology it is not sit and fix, it is consistently evolving and we are evolving to meet technology needs," said Sanford.

"Of course at first it was a little tricky to find the email part, and logging into GuilfordNet, but after becoming more familiar, I think the website is great."

Jazlyn Gibbs, senior

nice copy," said Serkin.

IT&S is working with the contractor to make these changes more convenient, according to Sanford.

There was also a wireless system upgrade at the end of the spring semester.

"We had all kinds of problems having Macs and other devices

college on it," said Chabotar. "It's a work in progress with more changes and improvements coming. It's not done yet. The Board of Trustees like its more direct approach to marketing the college for admissions and fundraising and emphasis on Quaker values and tradition."

Director of Multicultural

Moore think the old website had a more straightforward approach.

"They are doing too much with the new site," said Moore. "There is just too much mess to look at. The old site was easier to navigate."

80 percent polled by *The Guilfordian* said that the website is very clean-looking, but most