

Tony Blair to open this year's Bryan Series on Oct. 4

By Emily Cooper
STAFF WRITER

"The Bryan Series has grown in size and in fame over the last several years," said President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar. "When it first got started, they had one guest a year."

In July, U.S. Airways Magazine did a four-page spread on the Bryan Series. They called it "a window of the arts, humanities, and public affairs with lectures by former heads of state, Nobel Prize laureates, and other international figures."

The Bryan Series is truly a privilege students should take advantage of.

"We don't use a dime of student tuition dollars for any of this; it all comes out of Joe Bryan's endowment and gifts, as well as the corporate sponsorships, ticket sales, and season tickets — talk about a nice arrangement," said Chabotar.

This year, the Bryan Series is proud to present former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Tony Blair as the first speaker.

"The (Bryan Series') goal is to present speaker programs that will be educational and enjoyable," said Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing Ty Buckner. "Prime Minister Blair is a world leader who is actively involved in promoting Middle East peace, the eradication of poverty, and other issues that are important to people at Guilford. Hopefully, the opportunity to hear directly from someone who is on the world stage will be beneficial for our students."

It is not a secret that Blair's career has been controversial at times.

"Tony Blair has had a very long career in the British government," said Chabotar. "He has some clear

accomplishments (and) has some things which are controversial ... like almost every speaker we have had."

Blair's international relations background includes encouraging then-President Bill Clinton to get involved in Kosovo, working with George Mitchell throughout the North Ireland peace process, and working with rescue missions to prevent genocide.

The Bryan Series provides an informational panel for students, which gives a hands-on learning experience.

"We had the same thing for Ralf Reid when he was here several years ago," said Chabotar. "I think it's great that students get to delve into all this stuff from their own majors and educate students about the good, the bad, and the ugly."

Students who are aware of "the good, the bad, and the ugly" involving Blair are not blinded by his fame.

"While Tony Blair had a long and successful career as Prime Minister and created great reform through the implementation of national councils for North Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, he must also be remembered for his cronyism with the Bush administration and the undisclosed sums he accepted from international oil firms with vested interests in Iraq," said senior political science major Brian Jones.

On the other hand, Blair started the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, a program to promote understanding and respect among religions. Blair believes that faith is beneficial to those facing challenges attaining globalization.

The Tony Blair Sports Foundation promotes participation in sports and encourages children who feel excluded to partake. The program also helps adults become trained coaches to help children.

Blair currently works for the Office of the Quartet Representative. The mission statement on the office's

website states, "The Office of the Quartet Representative works with the Palestinian Authority, the Government of Israel, international organizations, and NGOs to help build the institutions and economy for a future Palestinian state."

Though Blair's work can be considered controversial by some, having him as a speaker at the Bryan Series is an outstanding opportunity for Guilford students. Whether you rank him with the good, the bad, or the ugly, the chance to hear Blair speak and learn from his experience is one that should not be under-appreciated.



Former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **Tony Blair** will become the first of this year's Bryan Series speakers on Tuesday, Oct. 4. His current work involves preparing Palestine for statehood.

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Beyond "Green and Beyond"

Reduce your carbon footprint: eat less meat

By Briana Halliwell
STAFF WRITER

The consumption of meat has many facets to it — how it affects the health of the consumer, the ethical dimension of animal slaughter, the cost of current day meat production — but one of the most pertinent elements of meat-eating to the condition of the world today is its impact on the environment.

Reducing the amount of meat you eat is easy at Guilford College. The difficulty lies in the realization of why this should be done.

For our water

4,200 gallons. According to Richard Schwartz, author of "Judaism and Vegetarianism," this is the standard amount of water that meat-eating Americans require to function every day. It is used for animals' drinking water, irrigation, processing, washing, and cooking. A person on a vegan (animal-product-free) diet, on the other hand, requires only 300 gallons of water per day.

Fresh water is a resource that many people take for granted, but it's one that has its limits. According to the Worldwatch Institute, an organization dedicated to sustainable living, humans are consuming about half the available fresh water on the planet, leaving the other half for the million

or more other species who inhabit our Earth. Studies conducted by the International Water Management Institute show that industrial agriculture is the heaviest user of water on our planet.

The authors of the 2004 edition of World Watch Magazine suggest that the most effective way to reduce the substantial amount of water that humans use, and thus prevent a depletion of fresh water, is to reduce the amount of meat that we eat.

You could lessen your environmental impact more by refraining from eating an extra pound of meat every day than by not driving an extra mile every day.

For our atmosphere

"Livestock operations account for more greenhouse gas emissions than the transportation sector," says Dr. Ward Robinson, medical director of the Guilford County Department of Public Health.

This means that you could lessen your environmental impact more by refraining from eating an extra pound of meat every day than by not driving an extra mile every day.

"The greenhouse gas emissions of livestock and the fossil fuel used in transporting

cattle, poultry, and hogs over long distances are two signs that support the idea that the concentration of the meat industry in certain locations has had, and will continue to have, significantly detrimental effects on human health and the overall environment," asserted Jim Hood, professor of English. Hood is currently teaching the FYE "What Should We Eat," which focuses on the various impacts — environmental, social, and ethical — of the human diet.

For our land

According to John Robbins, author of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated "Diet for a New America," over 260 million acres of U.S. forest have been cleared in order to accommodate concentrated animal feeding operations.

Fifty-six million of these acres are producing hay for livestock. Only 4 million acres are actually producing vegetables for direct human consumption, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce's 2004 Census of Agriculture.

In order to prevent global starvation due to lack of land used for food production, the Worldwatch Institute believes that "only one major option remains: to cut back sharply on meat consumption, because conversion of grazing land to food crops will increase the amount of food produced."

On the brighter side

Guilford professors, such as Hood, and experts all over the world are raising awareness about the effects that eating meat has on our Earth.

"I was curious about the production of food; where does it come from?" explained Hood. "I decided to teach this FYE because I realized I didn't know what the answer was. I wanted to make my problem other people's problem and introduce students to how to face academic, as well as global, issues with a rational, confident attitude."

This curiosity and confident attitude may revolutionize how humanity views eating meat. While the arguments for animal rights are many, the argument for eating less meat can be simple: it's better for the environment, and therefore, for you. You don't have to go full vegan, but try opting for a veggie burger at the Grill tomorrow, or sharing these facts with friends and family who care about the well-being of the Earth. We can lessen our impact on the environment if we all work together.