

LIFE AFTER GUILFORD: Is graduate school right for you?

By Kim Kleimeier
STAFF WRITER

If you're currently a junior or senior, chances are the words "graduate school" have been lurking in your brain, especially since the time you have left at Guilford is running out. The question "What are your plans?" asked so frequently by parents and friends seems more like an interrogation than anything else. It's time to start thinking about life after Guilford.

According to Alan Mueller, director of the Career Development Center, about 20 to 25 percent of Guilford graduates apply to graduate school every year. But how exactly does the process of applying to graduate school work? It starts out with a search for the right school for you.

There are two different types of graduate schools: professional and academic. The professional grad programs are for students who are pursuing a specific career. Professional degrees include Master's in Business Administration, Master's of Social Work, and Master's of Education.

An academic graduate program is for students who want further study in a specific subject, rather than preparing them for a specific career. These degrees can include, but are not limited to, Master of Arts, Master's in History, Master of Science and many more.

Whether you are looking to get a Master's in Business Administration or a master's in general, there is a program for everything. Along with an application to the school, students are also responsible for sending in a résumé or curriculum vitae—a more academic-oriented résumé—and a statement of purpose. Just as when applying to undergraduate programs, entrance exams and standardized tests are a part of the system as well.

"Taking the Graduate Record Examination twice can make a huge difference, (as can) preparation courses, which are offered through Guilford," said Mueller.

The GRE can be closely compared to the SAT. Many schools do require it, but there might be other exams required, such as the Law School Admission Test for law schools

or Graduate Management Admission Test for management schools.

Most schools do have a minimum cutoff in terms of the scores, though there are some schools and programs that do not require these standardized tests, just as Guilford does not require applicants to submit the SAT or ACT scores.

Daniel Hood '11 is currently pursuing his Master's in History at Boston College. His advice for current Guilford students was to shop around for programs, to talk to faculty advisors and to visit the campuses.

"If you're using graduate school as a stop gap from going into the real world, you will be disappointed and broke," said Hood. "Graduate school is not for everyone."

Hood described the work load he has now as triple the work of his IDS at Guilford.

But if you do decide that graduate school is the right move for you, there are things you can do now in order to make the process easier.

Talking to faculty advisors from the specific majors and finding out what their experience was at graduate school can

be extremely helpful. Getting in contact with Guilford alumni who are currently at graduate school can also be a great tool. It is also important to start your search for graduate schools early.

"I started my junior year," said Katie O'Boyle '10. During her third year at Guilford, O'Boyle started researching graduate schools, making visits and sending out her résumé. She knew she was looking for a program that would give her teaching licensure, but that also put her on the path to receiving her doctorate.

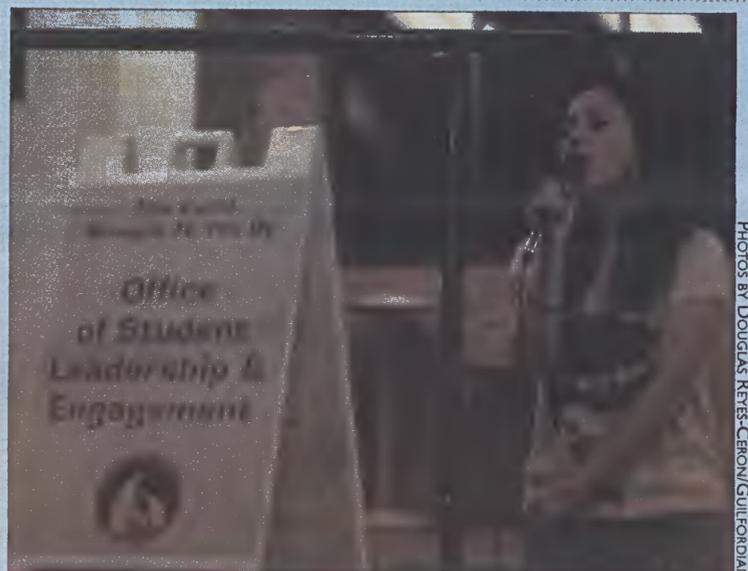
O'Boyle's advice for current Guilford students is to start researching different programs and getting in contact with the heads of departments from those programs. Making connections and networking can help you get a foot in the door.

The Career Development Center always has an open door and can help tremendously with any questions and concerns. With the right planning, the future and the real world do not have to seem so scary. Graduate school might just be the next step into your own bright future.

OSLE hosts a week of events and activities for JanJam 2012

Guilford's OSLE kicked off the Spring 2012 semester with JanJam, a week of recreational events and activities. A screening of "Footloose" in Bryan Jr. started a week that also featured a keynote and dialogue with poet & filmmaker Lee Mun Wah, magician Leon Etienne, musical chairs, a rock band and a delicious midnight breakfast.

(Left) Saturday's night's musical chairs.
(Right) Karaoke at the Quakeria.



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LEE MUN WAH

Diversity trainer Lee Mun Wah leads workshops to facilitate discussions on campus

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they have never been trained in how to discuss diversity.

"At Guilford, we have good intentions to value diversity and create a healthy multi-cultural community, but we don't really know how to do it," said Harvey. "I don't know of any institutions that have it all figured out. I see, year after year, students of color coming to Guilford with high hopes about this place ... Yet, sadly, I see so many students become sad and disillusioned when Guilford feels just like any other white-dominated institution."

"It is ... important to recognize the efforts we have in place to address these issues and the commitment of the institution to become an anti-racist school," said Jorge Zeballos, Latino community program coordinator. Zeballos and Harvey, along with select committed students, organize the Understanding Racism workshops and the White Privilege series every semester.

At the afternoon keynote speech and dialogue entitled "What Stands Between Us: A Cross Race/Gender Conversation," attendees discussed the different ways in which prejudice against race and gender manifest themselves. Individuals were then organized into small groups to share their personal experiences with such prejudices. Sophomore Mindy

Souvannalay thought that Mun Wah's group exercises, which emphasized the listening skills of all group members, were particularly effective.

"By the end of the exercise, we had built a sense of community with the other participants by sharing something intimate about ourselves," said Souvannalay. "It was definitely surprising for many of us as to how open we were able to become with complete strangers."

The day concluded with a screening of the teachers' edition of "If These Halls Could Talk," a documentary directed by Mun Wah. The screening was open to the community, and before the film began, Mun Wah observed the audience that had gathered in Dana Auditorium.

"We sit apart from other people," said Mun Wah. "How many of you made sure that there were one or more seats between you and someone else? Those two seats might as well be a million miles apart."

Mun Wah then instructed everyone to look around the room, find someone they had never met before—perhaps someone who was different from them—and sit with that person. The audience spent several minutes exchanging names and engaging in conversation before the film began.

"It took everyone (by) surprise, but in the end, I think some really good relationships were formed," said Souvannalay.

In the documentary, nine college students from all different backgrounds come together in a cottage in Ukiah, Calif. Over the course of the next four days, Mun Wah facilitates the students' discussion about prejudices based on race, religion and sexuality. As the students begin to speak more openly, their discussions become more heated.

"This was the most difficult facilitation I have done in 20 years," said Mun Wah of the film.

Will, an African-American student from Oakland, Calif., expresses his frustration at being considered "expendable" by his education system. He says that professors would assume that he would drop the class as soon as the drop date rolled around, so they would not invest time in him.

Vera, a Palestinian student from Boulder, Colo., says that she would keep her fear and sadness about the constant war in her home country inside because her classmates "wouldn't care."

In all, Mun Wah's day of events provoked discussion and thought about racism and other forms of discrimination.

"It's a lot to process and is going to take me a while," said Susanna Westberg, director of Residence Life and dialogue attendee. "(Lee Mun Wah) did not provide us with answers, but with important questions that we need to be brave and compassionate enough to ask ourselves and one another."