

## All the king's horses: searching for a new president

As the chilly winter months morph into bright and crisp days, the evolution of the college continues: students will graduate, professors will come and go, finances will go up and down.



**BY VICTOR LOPEZ**  
SENIOR WRITER

Oh, and the college will start a very detailed process to hire a new leader. Kent Chabotar announced his retirement a few months ago. Many now wonder if their voices will be heard both in the search process and when time comes for the College to select a new president.

Amid the concerns of faculty and staff, some discerning students including myself wonder if their thoughts will be addressed. After all, if I am paying tens of thousands of dollars for an undergraduate degree, I hope the institution it comes from keeps or raises its value.

It is crucial that the board of trustees keeps their word and honors Guilford's core values

and commitment to Quaker testimony and process when conducting their presidential search. Doing so will go a long way in showing prospective students, current faculty and the greater community that our core values are more than just veneer.

Not doing so tells the very product of our college — the students — that what is good for the goose is not good for the gander. It is our duty as a college, whether the board of trustees, the administration, staff or students, that we set ourselves apart from the pack by doing what we say and saying what we mean.

Finding a president fit for Guilford means searching for a leader who will devote their immediate life to Guilford. Our new leader will have to take chances and make positive changes that might make some uncomfortable, or the institution will just tread water until we drown. Hopefully, through the inclusion of voices from students, faculty and staff, the trustees will hear this loud and clear.

Neither college presidents nor trustees have the power to part the Red Sea. Presidents come to colleges and universities

with strengths and weaknesses. Trustees have financial considerations that go beyond the purview of my education.

Still, I am haphazardly of the opinion that the board of trustees will hear the recommendations of the small folks here at the College. By small folk, I mean students, faculty and staff — all of whom have something important to say.

As students, we deserve the very best in technology, the highest standards in academics, the best recruitment policies available and a president who truly represents the institution.

Among other things, if Guilford is to survive, it will have to do so by carving out its place in a market saturated with better offerings than the College currently provides.

Right now, the technology used in Guilford's classrooms and employed through academic courses provides the Guilford student with about as much preparation as a public library. Our internet and technology in classrooms are abysmal. While our access to professors and hands on learning is top rate, the younger generation of students will demand more and get it at institutions for a

fraction of the cost it takes to attend Guilford.

Professors are paid so far below the national average that it is both laughable and admirable. Laughable only when administrators somehow shift the blame on faculty for complaining too much, and admirable when brilliant professors devote their lives and efforts to students and the College at a fraction of the salary they would receive had they worked elsewhere.

I don't need an MBA or a Ph.D. to discern those needs.

Seeing as how we have a wide and diverse set of trustees who don't always agree, at least at first, I think there will be a concentrated effort to hear the recommendations of the community.

I hope for their sake, the sake of the college and the morale of the students, faculty and staff, the board of trustees set a good example. I would hope that voices of the young souls this institution claims to molds and professionalizes for the working world are good enough for those who run our college at the highest level. Doing less undermines the very product and ideals that make this college a diamond in the rough.

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### Can Clinton overcome the gender barrier?

It's only been half a year since the last presidential election, and there is already talk about who will be running in the next one.

Hillary Clinton is one of the most talked about potential candidates that could be running, but she seems to be out of the public eye more than any of the others.



**BY MICHAEL CASWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

Since Clinton left the Secretary of State position, she has been quiet on major issues that have come up. She has not even commented on the Benghazi incident, which will sure be a target topic if she does decide to run.

Two things could be the reason for Clinton's reclusiveness. One, she is really done with politics, or two she is strategizing for the upcoming election.

But, before we find out whether she is running or not, we need to ask a crucial question. Can she win the democratic primary and become the next president?

Gender issue is a question that has been arisen when talking about Clinton's possible run at president. Has America progressed enough to where a woman could have a chance to win office?

There is no question that gender will be an underlying topic of Clinton's potential run. Whether it's positive or negative, the topic will be there. I believe there will be problems that Clinton faces that other candidates will not, simply because she is a woman.

Some people treat, view and undermine women in society. Although, I do believe it has become more acceptable in the political arena to be a woman. Clinton will still lose votes from some of the less enlightened people in the country that view women separately.

Before Sarah Palin, it was looked at as a disadvantage to be a woman running as president or vice president. Now, it has become a strategy. The McCain campaign put Palin on the ticket strictly for the hope that she would bring in more voters. Palin did bring more voters but ended up being a bust due to her lack of political skills and public speaking abilities.

However, Palin relied a lot on gender tokenism, whereas Clinton will be standing alone.

Clinton knows what it takes to win an election. She witnessed her husband do it, and Bill's campaign manager James Carville has come out saying he will be joining Hillary's campaign if she decides to run.

The gender issue will be a topic throughout the campaign if she decides to run, but I believe the main area of concern should be Clinton's lack of experience.

Even though she was Secretary of State, I believe she only got that position because of her husband. She has no strong experience or set of skills other than her public speaking and knowledge of how an election is run. However, if the Republicans cannot find anyone better than the candidates in the last election she should still have a great shot at the office.

So far, Chris Christie and Rand Paul are likely candidates, though neither should pose much of a threat to Clinton. The only person that has been mentioned that I see posing a threat to Clinton is Ben Carson. Carson is a neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital and has gained some spotlight from the Republican party in the past couple of months.

If Clinton decides to run, she will face some major obstacles. Obstacles that no other woman has conquered. The next election could be the best chance a woman has ever had to become president. History could be made in 2016.