

Chabotar retiring necessitates ninth presidential search

BY BRYAN DOOLEY
SENIOR WRITER

For only the ninth time in its history, Guilford College is preparing to select a new president. Over the coming months, Guilford will begin the long search process.

"I have seen three of these presidential searches during my 45 years at Guilford," said Elwood Parker, professor of mathematics. "The board of trustees decides how to conduct the search process. The typical process involves the formation of a search committee.

"The trustees have control over who is on the search committee and how many people are on the committee. Typically, there have been three faculty members, some trustees, members of the alumni association and some staff."

Linda Thorup '82, board of trustees member, gives more detail about the search committee.

"Board Chair Joseph M. Bryan Jr. is actively assembling a search committee comprised of 12-14 members which includes the Search Committee Chair and Vice Chair," said Thorup in an email interview.

The search committee is charged with narrowing down applications, doing preliminary interviews and ultimately making a recommendation to the full board of trustees so they can make the final decision.

Students and faculty also have representation on the committee. Typically, members of the faculty, a traditional and a CCE student participate in the preliminary interview process.

Many faculty members feel they need a

direct influence in the decision.

"Because of tenure, faculty members often have the longest standing relationship with a college of any constituency," said Jim Hood, professor of English. "Faculty are the guardians of the institutional memory and mission and should therefore play a key role in the decision making. They need to serve on the search committee and should be widely consulted throughout the search process."

Because of their long-standing commitment to the school, many faculty members have specific dreams for the future and hopes for the new president.

"My personal dream for Guilford emphasizes social justice, one of our key values," said Tom Guthrie, associate professor of sociology and anthropology. "We should be thinking critically about making Guilford a much more diverse and accessible institution, where all are concerned about improving the world."

Guthrie shared his opinion regarding qualities the next president should possess.

"My hope is that the president has a very bold, creative vision for Guilford, and will inspire us to create that vision," said Guthrie. "I would hope the president would build a consensus from the bottom up rather than leading from the top down."

Nancy Daukas, professor of philosophy, elaborated on this point.

"We've become very 'top-down' in our governance structure," said Daukas in an email interview. "If we hope to retain our identity — our soul — we need a leader who sees leadership as service, as facilitation, as enabling the creative, formative work of the community rather than as power and prestige.

"We need a leader who values grassroots, community-based decision-making processes guided by our core mission as a practical liberal arts college in the Quaker tradition."

Several faculty members would like to see an increased commitment to our core values, especially community.

"My dream is for an increased sense of community that is even more diversified than what we have but with a greater sense of community," said Richie Zweigenhaft, Dana professor of psychology. "We now have early college, traditional college and adult students all on separate tracks with very little interaction with the exception of the classroom.

"My dream would also include more appreciation of staff in our community. I would like for us not only to pay faculty more but also to pay the staff, including the lowest paid maintenance staff, more than we currently do."

Maria Rosales, associate professor of political science, would also like to see more appreciation for the Guilford community.

"I would like everyone who works at Guilford College, in whatever role, to feel both valued and to value the work of everyone else here, including students," said Rosales in an email interview. "I would like us to share our creativity even more than we do."

Suzanne Sullivan, assistant director office of communications and marketing outreach, also discusses the uniqueness of Guilford's community and the need to market this strength.

"I hope Guilford's next president will have a long range vision of the future of

Guilford," said Sullivan. "They should be able to help us keep our very important core values as an institution founded by Quakers, and at the same time, lead us to a successful future in a market that is increasingly competitive.

"I would hope that they would be able to project Guilford's uniqueness in a positive way that will encourage people to find out more about us. We have a special niche in society that is attractive to many people. This message needs to get out."

Most faculty interviewed expressed a great deal of appreciation for the many years of service from Guilford's current president, Kent Chabotar.

"I have enormous respect for Kent and what he's been able to do," said Visiting Professor of Political Science Robert Duncan. "He's dealt with some very nasty situations involving racism and violence. To Kent's credit, he hasn't gone into knee-jerk responses or jumped into the fray.

"He's always waited until all of the evidence was in and looked at the facts. He's very cool, calm and deliberate in dealing with crises. Perhaps most importantly, he pulled Guilford back from the brink of bankruptcy. He's smart, savvy and a good manager."

Faculty are not the only ones with a stake in the search for Chabotar's replacement. Students also play a role.

For the full story about the presidential search, go to: WWW.GUILFORDIAN.COM

Founders Update from The Guilfordian

On Tuesday, April 23, The Guilfordian and OSLE held an "Occupy Founders" event to discuss the ways in which the renovated Founders has not felt as community-oriented or student-friendly as the old Founders.

A group of students met and talked about this issue and various possible solutions. Some powerful ideas came from this discussion and they are listed below.

- A rolling corkboard: it could be put in the lobby during the day so that Founders could have a place for flyers (announcements, events, etc.), but then at night could be rolled into Steve Moran and Erin Fox's office so that the flyers would not be torn down
- Permanent art, possibly student art, on the walls in order to showcase student talent and add variety and color
- Accessibility: currently many doors in Founders (such as the doors to the Student Orgs Commons or both Galleries) do not have an accessibility button to press for entry
- A piano
- TVs that have shows or news on them, not just Guilford announcements
- Flowers/plants, real or fake
- More campus events in Founders, such as holding "video game" nights in the Galleries (we could hold movie nights too!)
- A ride share board
- Larger sofas; additional seating suitable for more than one person
- A book share shelf
- Air hockey table, foosball table, ping-pong table, pool table, Wii
- Stream WQFS music in the lobby areas (at least the area outside of the station)
- Commercials/sound on the rotating TV board; also figuring out a way to make flyer information more accessible so you don't have to stand and watch for a few minutes
- Games (could be on the bookshelf or at the info desk)
- Have Greenleaf sell coffee and food in Founders

If you have any questions, concerns or want to add to this list, please email guilfordian@guilford.edu. The Guilfordian will keep you updated with any new developments or plans as soon as they become available.



Guilford's second annual "Dollar and a Dream" concert was held this past Saturday, April 27 in Sternberger Auditorium, featuring performers such as sophomore **Rod Walker**, better known by his stage name **L.A.B.** Musicians, artists and crafters from all over North Carolina came to showcase their talents.