

Portraits of first-years give insight about Class of 2017

BY LEK SIU
STAFF WRITER

For most first-year traditional students, whether from as far away as Japan or as nearby as Greensboro, coming to Guilford College is both delightful and intimidating. The pressures of a new curriculum and social lives present challenges and new opportunities.

Students arrive with their own stories, seeking new experiences that will guide their futures. Some fit right into college life, while others need time to adjust. Each student anticipates a unique continuation of their personal story, and at Guilford, their stories become their own.

"I was really excited," first-year Nicole Barnard said. "I guess I missed home sometimes, but it's great to be here."

Like many first-years, she said she didn't fit in right away.

Barnard, from Westchester, N.Y., said she wants to explore the "different clubs, meet new people, and do different activities."

She is undecided on her major, but she said she likes to write and is excited to take English 102.

"Guilford is a good place to start," Barnard said. "Education is

like a job."

First-year Jose Oliva from Jutiapa, Guatemala, has been in Greensboro for over two years. When he first arrived, he attended Guilford County's Newcomers School. He speaks Spanish, English, some French and some Portuguese.

"I feel very excited to be here," Oliva said. "I cannot wait to meet everybody on campus. . . The campus is beautiful and everybody's friendly."

Oliva said he wants to major in political science and hopes to gain knowledge and experience before graduating from Guilford.

"Every professor is different in the way they teach, they act and what they believe, and that makes Guilford unique," Oliva said. "Guilford believes in the success that students can achieve, as well, Guilford helps to achieve that success."

First-year Hsung Ksor from Vietnam, who has lived in Greensboro for seven years, said she hopes to gain knowledge and confidence by being at Guilford. She is interested in geography, but is undecided on her major.

"Guilford is a diverse college with a lot of international students," Ksor said. "Guilford College is a good school ... A lot of support

from professors and friends."

Ksor said she feels discouraged because her advisor is only having her take 14 credits, but she expects great things to happen. Her First Year Experience class took her by surprise, and now she is settled in and is happy. Guilford is helping her to succeed, she said.

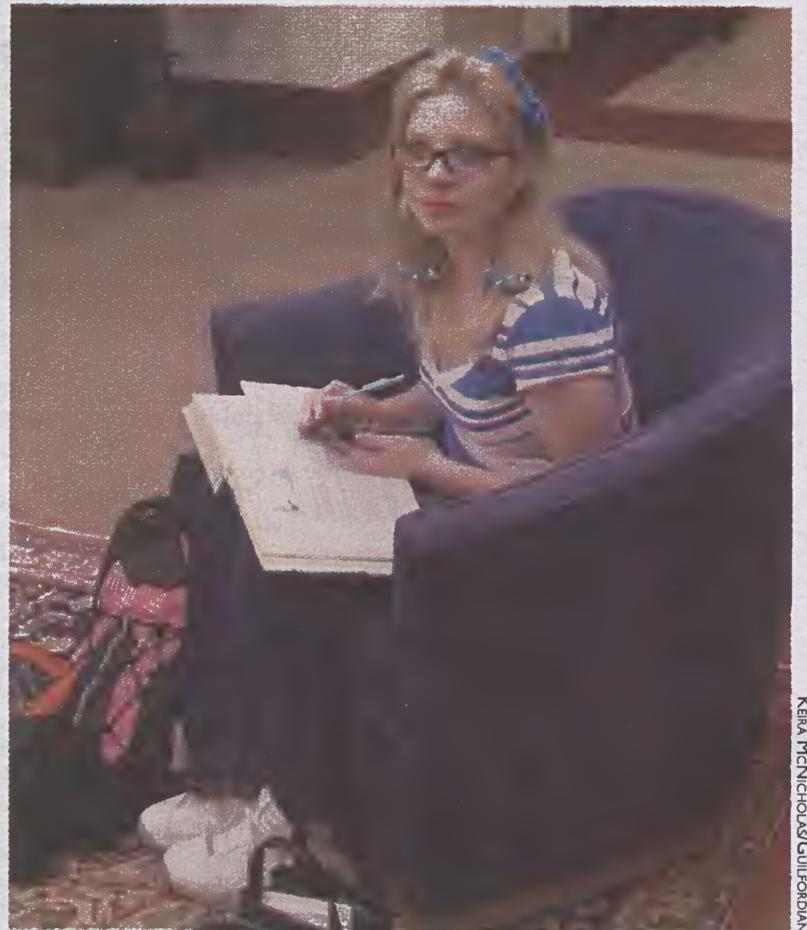
Bill McCarver '01 remembers his first day at Guilford vividly, having driven from Alabama in April to enroll for the 1997 fall semester. He said he immediately felt welcomed and appreciated.

"I liked everybody I met and it seemed to me everyone liked me," McCarver said.

He said he found Guilford comfortable and, after he arrived in fall 1997, felt so at home that soon Alabama was a memory. His advisor of four years, Dana Professor of English Jeff Jeske, once told him, "Guilford College widened its circle to include you."

"It did," said McCarver, now a lecturer in Guilford's Adult Transitions program and a professional writing tutor in the Learning Commons.

No matter where they come from or how they start, students often find Guilford is the place where they can live life to the fullest and is somewhere they can call home.



Melissa Fording, a member of the record-breaking Class of 2017, works on a homework assignment in the quiet of Hege Library after a full day of classes.

KEIRA MCNICHOUS/GUILFORDIAN

Inuit art exhibit in library tells timeless tundra tales

BY BRENT EISENBARTH
STAFF WRITER

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then an art gallery is a storyline.

"Narratives from a Culture in Transition" debuted in the Guilford College Art Gallery on Sept. 4. The exhibit displays Inuit art from artists in Nunavut, Canada's largest and northernmost territory.

The display showcases Inuit artwork of various mediums, topics and levels of abstraction. Stonework, whalebone, caribou antlers, watercolors and tapestries are only some of the mediums that make this exhibition exciting. The artwork recalls rich Arctic traditions, reflects on the tundra landscape and peers into Inuit mythology.

Terry Hammond, founding director and curator of the Guilford Art Gallery, began researching this project in 2011. Since then, the exhibition has spawned related classes, work-study projects and awareness of the ongoing battle for First Nations' rights.

"Part of the mission of the art gallery is to promote diverse cultures and to support the academic endeavors of the college," Hammond said.

And it seems this exhibit will do just that. For example, on Sept. 11, Associate Professor and Chair of Religious Studies Eric Mortensen will expound on Sedna, the goddess of the sea from Inuit mythology.

According to the mythology, Sedna's fingers became the sea creatures, the Inuit's staple of life. When the hunt was poor, Inuits would send shamans, the Inuit middlemen



These works of art, on display in the Art Gallery of Hege Library, were crafted using diverse materials including stone, caribou antlers, and whalebone.

ALISON DEBUSKI/GUILFORDIAN

between the natural and the spirit world, to appease Sedna. The Inuit believe that Sedna would then provide sea creatures for their livelihood.

On Oct. 24, Mortensen will compare Inuit religion with other shamanistic religions. This event will be held at 7 p.m. in the Art Gallery.

Art is a reflection of humankind's cultural reality.

That being said, this comprehensive event would not be complete without speaker Aaju Peter.

Peter certainly isn't your typical mother of five: she is an Inuit activist who performs music, designs modern seal clothing, translates and recently earned a law degree.

In 2012, she was named to the Order of Canada for promoting Inuit language and culture.

She has also been advocating that seal skins be sold more widely. Currently, the EU allows seal skins to be used only for cultural purposes, but not commercial purposes.

"It will have a devastating effect; it already has on the hunters," said Peter to This Magazine. "They normally would get \$60 to \$90 for a skin. Now they get about \$5. The cost of living is very high in the Arctic. They won't be able to get enough money to sustain their families."

Peter will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 in Hege Library's Carnegie Room.

To offer insights on the works on cloth in the exhibition, Canadian art historian Marie Bouchard will present about this unique art form at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 in the Leak Room in Duke Memorial Hall.

Bouchard has curated exhibitions for Inuit art across Canada, the United States and Japan. She is an independent art curator who has lived in Baker's Lake for 11 years.

"I'm excited to see a new art exhibit from a different cultural perspective I have not seen before," said sophomore Nina Troy.

This event is highly anticipated, and it will work to expand Guilford's horizons, particularly northward towards Canada and the Inuit.