

## New black alumni advisory board formed, offers unique cultural perspective

BY RENEE DEHART  
STAFF WRITER

Diversity. Stewardship. Community. These three core values are all being honored with the formation of the new advisory board: Black Alumni of Guilford College.

BAGC formed in September with five main goals aimed at helping African American students, alumni, faculty and staff on and off campus.

The College is excited for this new board and the contributions it will bring to the community.

"Whether it's mentoring students, providing advice or helping fundraise for scholarships, it's all good," said President Kent Chabotar in an email interview.

Led by its president David Hopkins '91, BAGC consists of 29 members and works closely with the Guilford College Alumni Association Board.

The new advisory board's goals include providing a professional and social network for black students, alumni, faculty and staff, helping with student recruitment and retention, supporting fundraising that advances the development of black students and helping preserve the College's black history — all while assuring an anti-racist, multicultural and socially relevant campus environment.

"It was around 2002 when black alumni decided to form a group to stay in touch called 'My Family,'" said Jada Drew, director for educational initiatives & partnerships. "It wasn't received or institutionalized, and they didn't have the time or money to continue it."

While there are black alumni on GCAAB, the College felt that there needed to be more black representation in alumni boards to better represent the community.

"It became apparent that black alumni had different experiences here and they have different emphases," said Karri Manson, senior director of the alumni relations and programs. "They have different access to students. It's a particular cultural passion they have for doing this work, and they want to be a little more focused on how they are doing that."

"I think it's important to juxtapose their experiences with ours because they're very similar," said sophomore Leah Brown. "As a larger group, now we can create change because they're not always awesome experiences."

The BAGC goals reflect those of the GCAAB while offering a unique cultural perspective.

"They can take what we need to be doing and dial it in a little more for this group," said Manson.

BAGC has opened the door for other



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Tanisha Layne '03 is the president-elect of the Black Alumni of Guilford College for 2013-2014.

advisory boards to form.

"It is entirely possible that this is the first for other groups as well," said Katherine Cummings, president of the alumni association advisory board. "There could be a board for LGBTQ or something as broad as science majors."

BAGC may not lead directly to new boards launching, but it has certainly sparked conversation about possible groups forming in the future.

"There may not be more advisory boards, but more affinity association groups," said Miriam Biber, the assistant director of

alumni relations.

Two essential ingredients make up BAGC: hard work and time.

"They're spending weekends here, conference calls, making plans, informing committees and that is a huge gift to the college, that stewardship," said Manson. "It's totally voluntary."

Drew encourages students to engage with alumni.

"Take advantage of the alumni," Drew said. "They are really ready to work, to connect students, to give them advice. They want to build relationships with students."

### SENATE UPDATE

#### This Week's Developments

A transfer of \$5,000 from the rollover fund to the general fund was approved to allow for the funding of more student activities. Students discussed the Board of Trustees proposal to have a meet-and-greet session in Dana Hall and are excited about that development. The lack of trash cans and recycling bins at the Old Apartments was discussed. Students were also interested in learning more about how the library hours work during finals week.

#### Next Week's Plans

Senate will discuss the enrollment numbers for fall and spring and how they affect the Senate Budget Committee's available funds. Senate will also look into the process for getting student art for display in Boren Lounge.

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Compiled by Samir Hazboun, Community Senate President

## New Bryan Series: Robert Gates

BY VALERIA SOSA  
STAFF WRITER

Director of the CIA? Check. Secretary of defense? Check. Served the country under eight different presidents? Check.

With a resume rivaled by few, Robert Gates is kicking off the Bryan Series this year with a bang.

On Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in Greensboro's War Memorial Auditorium, community members will gather to hear Gates speak.

Having served as the director of the CIA, president of Texas A&M University and secretary of defense, he is sure to entertain.

Ty Buckner, associate vice president of communications and marketing, is heavily involved in organizing the Bryan Series.

"We always try to present one of our best speakers in the opening event, which is always highly anticipated," said Buckner. "I expect it to get us off to a great start for a season of five programs that we are really looking forward to."

George Guo, professor of political science, commented on Gates' unique careers and experiences.

"Gates is the only one in American history who has served as secretary of defense for presidents from different political parties," said Guo. "Of course he has significantly impacted the U.S. militarily."

Gates joined the CIA in 1966 and served as director from 1991 to 1993, becoming the only career officer to rise from an entry-level employee to

a director.

In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed Gates as secretary of defense — a position he maintained during Barack Obama's first presidency term, when he helped overturn the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

On July 2, 2011, Gates officially retired as secretary of defense and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom — America's highest civilian honor.

Robert Duncan, visiting assistant professor of political science, was a colleague of Gates' when both were new recruits to the CIA career program.

"We were together in a class of maybe 20-30 people, learning the business of what the agency did," said Duncan. "At the time (Gates became CIA Deputy Director of Intelligence), I was working in the office of training and education at The Farm (Camp Peary), and for the classes I was teaching there, occasionally, I would ask Bob Gates to come down and talk to the students in the class."

Although Gates is now the chancellor of the College of William & Mary, Duncan joked about what Gates could do with his free time nowadays.

"He recently retired ... I don't know what he's going to do now, but we are looking for a president. Why not hire Bob Gates?" said Duncan.

On Sunday Oct. 27, at 3:30 p.m. on the second floor of Hege Library, Duncan will lead a seminar on

Gates' career.

Taylor Bradsher, an Early College junior, plans to attend Gates' talk at the War Memorial Auditorium.

"I want to hear Robert Gates speak because of his role as secretary of defense and his work with the CIA," said Bradsher. "I find it really interesting that he worked his way up from an entry-level position to one of great influence. I am really excited to hear him speak."

#### BRYAN SERIES 2013-2014

October 29:  
Robert Gates

November 19:  
Robert Ballard

February 13:  
Itzhak Perlman

March 4:  
Elizabeth Alexander

April 8:  
Lara Logan &  
Steve Kroft