

Learning Commons enhances student support with online tutoring program

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Most courses allow students to dip their toes in the water before getting into the core of the class, but in some courses, students can feel like they're thrown straight into the deep end almost from the beginning. Within a day, some classes have students knee-deep in new vocabulary and foreign concepts.

For those types of classes, the Learning Commons has found a solution: partnering with an online tutoring program, Forward Tutoring, to enhance its regular tutoring program.

This program helps prepare students for courses like biology, chemistry and calculus that often build on basic concepts that some students never solidified before taking them.

Students who need to retake a course they previously dropped may also find Forward Tutoring helpful. This program will allow those students to work at their own pace to understand the material and reinforce

concepts through periodic quizzes.

It also utilizes an online whiteboard and chat box so that students will have a visual aid to guide them during their lessons.

Along with helping students improve their basic understanding of these subjects, the new program encourages students to do more volunteer work because students pay

Despite its alignment with Guilford College's core values, the program has struggled to get enough participation.

"Getting the word out is a little difficult," said Early College senior Dylan Caskie, a Learning Commons tutor. "Some people are reluctant to sign up for an online tutoring service because they are more used to the

of Mathematics Ben Marlin. "Ideally, before you go take a calculus course, you should go review your trigonometry and algebra, but we have a tendency to not do things in preparation."

As a result, the online tutors are also working hard to market the new service as a more accessible supplement to the traditional method. They hope students who live off campus and have busy schedules will be able to use this service when they cannot easily reach the Learning Commons.

"Going forward, I hope that we can better integrate the Learning Commons' traditional tutoring methods with the online tutoring program," said Early College senior Aditya Garg, Forward Tutoring correspondent. "I hope that everybody at Guilford eventually knows about the opportunity."

He also hopes more students will become tutors, so this program can really impact the community by increasing math and science literacy and the amount of students involved in service learning.

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for the sessions through community service hours.

"This is the first online method that I have endorsed because I think it speaks to who we are at Guilford," said Learning Commons Director Melissa Daniel Frink. "When you work in that service learning component, you make it fit in with our values."

traditional tutoring system."

Others have found that many students are less likely to take preparative measures, instead seeking help only after they receive a poor grade on an assignment.

"It seems like this is a wonderful idea, but I have some reservations about it because of human nature," said Associate Professor

PRESIDENT

Hopeful presidential candidates arrive on campus for interviews

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more community service and listen to the wants and needs of the Guilford community.

"Jane was sweet and seemed very intrigued about the issues the students were concerned about," said junior Roderick Walker, the tour guide of all three candidates.

On April 3, Dr. Michele Perkins shared her experiences as president of New England College and explained to her audience how important she finds Guilford's core values.

Perkins discussed each of the core values and used examples from her own presidency to explain how each of them are both important for Guilford and for the president.

"Michele was very knowledgeable about the specifics of being a president," said Janet Wright, faculty secretary/ombudsperson.

When talking about community, Perkins explained how crucial it is for everyone to be on the same page and work together.

"Michele talked about the

importance of government and networking in regards to fundraising and lobbying," said Monica Jones, activities' director for the CCE Student Government Association.

Perkins has been able to drastically increase the enrollment at her two previous institutions. She hopes to use those successful strategies to help Guilford grow.

Due to illness, Carolyn Stefano's visit was rescheduled for April 7.

She started each meeting with a brief introduction and then went straight into answering people's questions.

"I enjoyed Carolyn," said junior Shannon King. "I really liked how comfortable she became with the students."

Stefano moved about the room and engaged with the audience. Because she spent little time introducing herself, it opened the floor for more questions.

One question asked at the student session was: If she could teach a 400 level course at Guilford, what would it be?

Stefano chose an interdisciplinary course. She said the course would be set up like a seminar and would have a history portion that would help students understand core values and how those values have changed.

She was also asked questions about tenure, for which she strongly advocates, along with questions about faculty salaries. Her view on salaries was to determine the facts and discover what really matters to the faculty and staff at Guilford.

"I really liked Carolyn's enthusiasm and interest in the student body," said Walker. "She was really excited to hear all the good things about Guilford but just as excited to make a change."

The board of trustees, along with members of the community, have been discussing their preferences for who the next Guilford president will be.

As of now, it is unknown when this board's choice will be officially announced to the public.

Given that all of the candidates were carefully chosen based on their extensive experience and admirable character, the final decision will not be an easy one.

"All of them brought different strengths to the table," said Wright. "I wish we could clone the different qualities into one person."

SENATE UPDATE

this week's developments

Candidates running for elected Senate positions came and made themselves and their positions known to the student body and fielded questions from the community.

Candidates:

- President:
Jose Oliva
- VP:
Justin Przezdziecki
Tesia Burton
- Treasurer:
Ben Strozier
Mara Stern
- ICC:
Alex Morales
David Wheaton
- Secretary:
Khadija Carr
Nick Huckins

next week's plans

Elections for Senate will be happening from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 14. Come by Founders where members of Senate will be available to help you cast your votes and determine the future leadership of the student government body in 2014-15.

contact us

Have an idea?
Concern? Great
recipe? It's
important to us.

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or visit
guilfordsenate.
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SARA MINSKY/GUILFORDIAN

Students attended sessions where they could ask questions of all the candidates.