

Fernandes addresses financial crisis at open forum

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Jane Fernandes, president of Guilford College

BY BANNING WATSON
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 22, Jane Fernandes, president of Guilford College, held an open budget forum to address the College's current financial crisis.

Fernandes announced that Guilford is currently suffering a deficit of around \$2 million, due mostly to decreasing enrollment of both traditional and CCE students since 2008. She also announced that the Board of Trustees has decided against cutting programs and instead has decided to borrow against its line of credit.

"I thought the result of the Board of Trustees' meeting was positive," said Fernandes. "I think it was a very forward thinking action. I'm glad they

took that action to help me and the community. I think it was the best thing we could have done."

Jimmy Wilson, interim vice president for finance, shared a similar opinion.

"I do think it was forward thinking of the board to incur short-term debt to give the president an opportunity to step into her new situation, and give it a full assessment and be strategic about how she starts out her plan for the College," said Wilson. "It's better for the College. In the end you'll have a much stronger program, the College will do much better and the educational experience would be much better. It says a lot that the board is willing to take that step to do what's best for the College."

Fernandes also announced in the forum that the College would

be allocating more resources toward financial aid to boost enrollment as well as toward faculty and staff compensation.

"Yes, there is money in there for faculty and staff raises," said Elwood Parker, professor of mathematics and faculty representative on the Board of Trustees. "As Jane said during the Board of Trustees meeting and the forum, it's not enough, and it's a small amount, but at least there's something there."

"One thing they could have obviously done to reduce the deficit was not give any. That is a message to the faculty and staff that we know you deserve it."

Rachel Riskind, associate professor of psychology and forum attendee, summed up the situation.

"There a lot of other colleges in much worse financial situations," said Riskind. "Some are contending with a \$10 million deficit or 100 million, so it's not something that makes me want to go home and cry myself to sleep at night, but it is a problem."

Fernandes emphasized that in order to compete as a college, Guilford needs to figure out what the specialties of the College are and admit that it cannot be all things to all people.

While Fernandes is not yet sure what those strengths are, for the next month she will be holding consultations with students, faculty and staff to get a better grasp on what it means to be Guilford.

During the forum, it was announced that Adrienne Israel, vice president for academic

affairs and academic dean, would be leaving the College at the end of this year after 13 years in office. Fernandes noted that such a lengthy tenure in the post could only be achieved by a person with very special skills and thanked Israel for her service.

Fernandes also announced that forums following Board of Trustees meeting would become a regular staple of the Guilford community.

"I thought that it would be important for the community to understand more about the board meeting and what happens there," said Fernandes. "It's just a good practice to share so the community understands the importance of the decisions the Board's involved in. It's important to talk through the perspectives and the range of options."

Author Bill Bryson to talk about 'A Walk in the Woods'

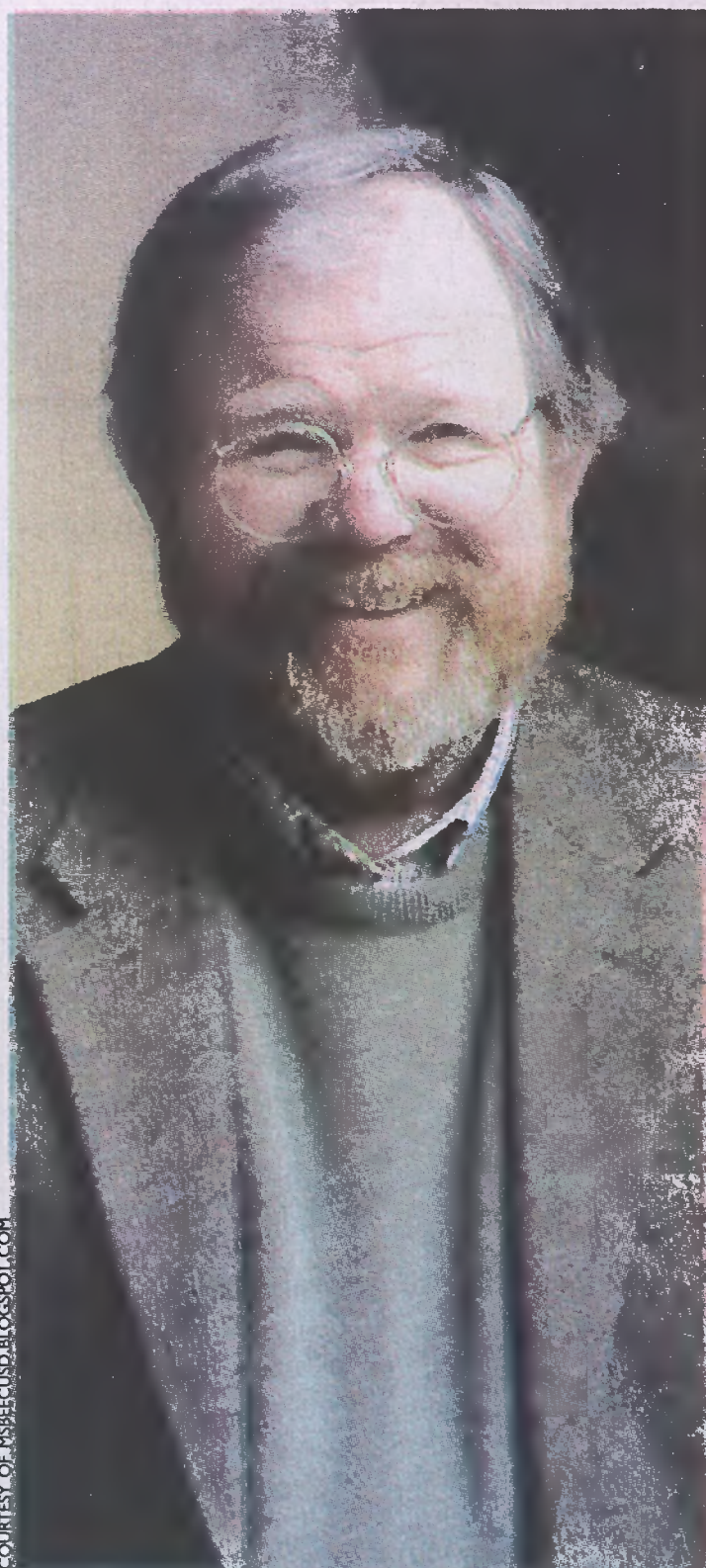
BY HENRY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Once again, the Bryan Series has hit the ball out of the park. On Nov. 11, famous author Bill Bryson will be visiting campus and addressing the community at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex.

Bryson is a bestselling American writer who has experimented with several genres of non-fiction. He has written books on travel, science and the English language.

As a realist and a humorist, the accomplished author has developed a cult-like following of devout fans.

Many enjoy the funny, witty, entertaining



and knowledgeable nature of his writing.

"Of all the things I am not very good at, living in the real world is perhaps the most outstanding," said Bryson in his book "I'm a Stranger Here Myself."

This next chapter of the Bryan Series kicks off at 4:00 p.m. with an on-campus session where select students will be able to meet with Bryson and ask him questions. This group will consist of mostly, but not exclusively, students involved with environmental studies and writing.

The session will focus on analyzing his successful book, "A Walk in the Woods," a book that is currently being made into a major motion picture starring Robert Redford. This comical story is about two friends hiking the Appalachian Trail. It has ties to environmental conservation and the importance of nature.

"When I read 'A Walk in the Woods' for the first time, I could not stop laughing for 75 pages — and I mean belly-aching laughter," said Professor of English Jim Hood.

Students, as well as faculty, have expressed excitement for Bryson's presentation.

"As a fan of his work, I cannot wait to put a face and a voice to his writing," said senior and Bryson enthusiast Mitch Robinette.

Instructor of Art Maia Dery expressed that this presentation could be very influential and inspiring for the student body.

"Bryson has one of those passionately engaged dream jobs many traditional Guilford students think they might want to have someday," said Dery. "He spent years developing his chops, growing accustomed to rejection and the hard work of writing before he became what he is today."

The Bryan Series has been a successful program and has been growing annually. Past speakers include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, author Toni Morrison and television journalist Tom Brokaw.

According to Associate Vice President of Communications and Marketing Ty Buckner, one of the most difficult and important processes for the Bryan Series is selecting speakers.

"The Bryan Series is a year-round effort," said Buckner. "We are always looking for future speakers."

This process includes countless hours of research, consultation with lecture centers across the country and communication with other universities with similar programs.

Speakers are selected by a combination of affordability, availability, popularity and the consistency with Guilford's core values.

"Bryson will be an appropriate speaker for the community (and) will certainly be entertaining," said Buckner.

SENATE UPDATE

MEETINGS ARE ON
MONDAYS @ 7 P.M.

BOREN LOUNGE
(FOUNDERS)

this week's developments

This week, Serendipity founder and Chair of Student Affairs Committee Esther Hall and Interim Vice President and Dean of Students Jen Agor spoke about Serendipity, what the concerns are and what Campus Life is doing. Students shared ideas about how to save the annual event. To find out how you can help, contact baylesjd@guilford.edu.

next week's plans

To be announced

contact us

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

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Compiled by Nicole Zelniker, senior writer