

OPINION

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Degrees are worth more than just paper

Wisconsin's governor, Scott Walker, is one of the many Republicans considering a run for the White House next year. He stands out, however, thanks to a simple thing: he doesn't have a college degree.



BY BEATRIZ CALDAS
STAFF WRITER

This fact has raised a lot of questions about whether he should be running for the presidency or not.

As a college student, I believe a college degree is indeed the best way to achieve what you want.

My parents always made sure that I had access to the best education possible. And grown-ups are usually the ones who know best.

"To me, education is priceless whether you can make a million dollars with it or not," said CCE junior Angela Russell. "I think education is a good investment."

CCE students are the perfect example of how much impact a college degree can have.

"Why wouldn't you want to go to school and learn about something that you don't know and expand on that?" said CCE senior Phil Gordon.

Going back to college is more than just having a piece of paper at the end of four years.

"By coming to college, you have that opportunity to seek ... what it is you're truly meant to do," said Student Success Counselor Nicole Arnold '11. "It's really about finding that passion."

According to U.S. News, a study published in 2011 by the Georgetown University Center for Education and the Workforce states that individuals with a bachelor's degree in any field earn an average of \$2.27 million in a lifetime, while those with only a high school diploma earn an average of \$1.30 million.

"In an economy that's changing as quickly as ours is, job security is huge," said Assistant

Dean of Career & Community Learning Alan Mueller. "It's not guaranteed, but a college degree helps with job security."

And it is not any kind of job that can hire someone based only on a high school diploma.

"If you have a passion to be a doctor or go into any kind of biology, any science, you've got to have a degree," said Career Development Counselor Teresa Fitzgerald '09. "It can help point you in that direction and open doors for you that otherwise would not have been opened."

Going to college is not only great intellectually, but it is also the best place for people to find themselves.

Emma Watson, who played Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter movies for over a decade, decided she wanted to have a college degree even though she is already settled in her acting career.

"I think (the college experience) is a great time to figure out who you are and what you like," said Watson in an interview with the New York Daily News.

This experience can make all the difference when going out there to face the real world.

"When it comes to the value of a college degree, it's an inside and outside of the classroom thing," said Career Development Assistant Director Amanda Fontenot. "Having that roommate experience (and) living and working with people that are not like you at all create a person that not only is knowledgeable about their field, but also has been exposed to different things."

On the other hand, not having a college degree does not mean you will not be successful or happy in your occupation.

Brazil's former president Luis Inácio "Lula" da Silva has had little education. He did not learn how to read until he was 10 and does not even have a high school diploma.

As a Brazilian myself, I do not agree with Lula's politics and despise him for all the corruption scandals he and his party have been involved with. But, I must admit he is

a great speaker and is smart enough to convince a whole country that he has got the solution to their problems.

"You don't necessarily need to be in college to be successful," said senior Anne Bell. "I'm really thankful for my opportunity to have a degree, but it's not a degree that is going to define me after I graduate."

Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder of Spotify Daniel Ek and the co-founder and former Apple CEO Steve Jobs are all examples of college dropouts who became millionaires and did not need a degree to do so.

However, I still believe that a degree is our best shot nowadays.

Zuckerberg, Ek, Jobs and Lula all had to get some education at some point in life. Walker dropped out of college in his senior year; he was educated enough already.

This is not about becoming a smarty-pants.

"It's about learning how to critically think," said Mueller. "My grandmother used to say 'Go to college because nobody can ever take your education away from you,' and this is powerful."



STAFF EDITORIAL

Budget committee needs transparency

As President Jane Fernandes expressed during the community meeting with students and board of trustees members, Guilford's budget crisis may seem sudden to us, but it has been building for many years. Action must be taken so that Guilford can sustain itself in the future. However, before decisions are made, we feel strongly that the entire Guilford community must be accurately informed and given the opportunity to share our thoughts. An exclusive and nontransparent process will not reflect the concerns of students, staff or faculty. When Jane came to visit Guilford last spring she acknowledged the lack of financial transparency the community had been afforded by President Chabotar's administration. She vowed to not follow his pattern.

Hence, the editorial board of the Guilfordian urges all those on the budget committee addressing the \$2 million deficit to uphold transparency.

Meanwhile, our community is currently being told "everything is on the table" to possibly be cut. This is meant to be a comforting sentiment, but we take issue with this rhetoric.

If everything really is on the table, we demand that the highest-paid administrative employees, such as the VP of advancement, VP of finance, president, director of facilities, etc., be considered for salary cuts. We feel strongly that our community needs to take money from the top and distribute it to programs that are constantly in need of more monetary support. We urge the committee to keep in mind historically underfunded departments such as the Multicultural Education Department, the Bonner Center and the Health and Counseling Center, as well as many others, and not repeat these same patterns.

Though some cuts are necessary, the editorial board would be disappointed to see a repetition of austerity-like cuts that starve those already suffering and keep rewarding those already comfortable.

REFLECTING GUILFORD COLLEGE'S CORE QUAKER VALUES, THE TOPICS AND CONTENT OF STAFF EDITORIALS ARE CHOSEN THROUGH CONSENSUS OF ALL 14 EDITORS AND ONE FACULTY ADVISER OF THE GUILFORDIAN'S EDITORIAL BOARD.

When you're bilingual, you have to hold on to your roots

"Yo soy mi lenguaje, pero no abuses." Speaking two languages, I get asked one question almost daily: "How do you say this in Spanish?" It's always very comforting to know that I just helped somebody expand their knowledge on something, even if it's small.



BY LESLY VASQUEZ
STAFF WRITER

I especially enjoy it when the person is asking the question for useful purposes and not for the abuse of the language.

Being Hispanic myself, I had to learn how to blend in but still trying to keep my roots alive from my culture.

Si no aprendes ahora, nunca aprenderás. While I was growing up in a Spanish-speaking family, my parents enforced the tradition of learning Spanish because it was the only way to communicate with them. They would prefer that I speak the language in which I was brought up.

No nací y crecí en México, pero mis raíces son reales. I was born in California, so English came easily. What was difficult was learning Spanish. I heard everyone around me speaking it, so I caught a few words, but there were always those silly words that I would most often forget.

When I was 10 years old, I would always forget how to say "elefante," so instead I would end up putting my right hand towards my nose and making a trumpet noise. It was entertaining to some people to see me act out an elephant, but to me, it was the most frustrating thing possible.

Yo soy diferente comparado con los demás. I went to school with many Hispanics, so Spanish followed me to school. This was great, until I noticed some high-class Southern preps whispering "Do they not know that we speak English in America?"

It continued to be this way until high school. My freshman year was the last straw, when I heard a boy saying "This is America, we speak English here."

When I heard that, I also heard my mother's voice in my head saying "*Que nunca se te olvide tu lenguaje.*" It was inspiration to help me become better at speaking both languages.

By the end of my freshman year of high school my accent was completely gone, which is something that scared me, but it helped me blend in with the others. It was all that I truly wanted, but made me feel guilty. I would speak perfect English and nobody ever noticed I was Hispanic, until I spoke Spanish, of course.

I might have been born in California but I was raised in a small town in North Carolina called Asheboro. There's never much going on, but when Christmas season always comes around, they set lights all over the town. A week before Christmas they do a little festival called "Christmas on Sunset," on Sunset Ave.

Me and my family usually just drive by and see everyone having a great time, and every time I look through the window of the passenger seat, I imagine the future.

Will I keep the traditions that my parents taught me throughout my life? Or will I end up putting stockings all over the house? Will I be able to keep my roots alive inside of me? Or will I want to get my niece to put up a star on top of the Christmas tree?

Being bilingual is not all about the language, it's about what you've been taught throughout your life and always staying true to your roots. It's a privilege to know two languages, but it's a necessity to always remember where you come from.

Blending in with a culture that isn't yours can have its pros and cons. You will either lose yourself, or find that your roots will never leave you no matter what you try to do.