



# Guilfordian

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## Dr. Donald Deagon Dies At 58

GREENSBORO — Donald David Deagon, 58, chairman of the Guilford College Drama and Speech Department, died Sunday, June 30, 1985.

Deagon taught for two years at Furman University before coming to Guilford in 1956. An associate professor at Guilford, Deagon had served as the chairman of the drama department since 1970. He completed his Ph.D. from Tulane University in 1969.

In addition to his regular teaching duties at Guilford, Deagon directed *The Revelers*, the College's drama group. He was the author of three plays, including "The Little Pond," "The Little Wonder," and "The Last Stop." He served as director and technical director for some 50 major productions, performed in 30 shows and for 10 years acted in the native American production "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee, NC.

Dr. Deagon is survived by his wife, Ann, professor of classical studies and writer-in-residence at Guilford College; two daughters, Andrea, lecturer in classics at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, and Ellen, a junior psychology major at Guilford College; and a brother, Larry Deagon,



Dr. Donald Deagon

photo courtesy of The Quaker

instrumental supervisor for the Jefferson County School System in Birmingham, AL.

On the 7th of July this summer, family and friends, including members of the Guilford faculty and student body who could attend, gathered at New Garden Friends Meeting to remember and to celebrate the life of Donald Deagon. Again, at this fall's first

those before, were productive and enriching.

Only his students, a few fortunate faculty members and faculty children (including his own Andrea and Ellen) who acted or built sets under his direction can tell firsthand of the inspiring demands he placed upon them. The rest of us, however, who attended his play productions were able to experience the spirit of magic that he managed to capture from playwrights and then to convey through excellent performances. The plays (some musicals) were of a great variety. He had a special appreciation for the "theater of the absurd" which caused him often to put on works of writers like Ionesco and Pirandello. Many plays, such as those by Brecht and Frisch, he chose for their political/ethical messages as well as their aesthetic merit. An actor as well as director, Donald also participated for 10 years in "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee, NC. He continued, from time to time, to act in Guilford's plays.

Donald was generous with his talents. Not only did he build Guilford's Department of Drama

to the level of excellence enjoyed today, but he, along with his wife, Ann, opened their home to students and friends who shared their interests or needed their encouragement and help in many areas. Their home is graced with products of his creativity: wood-carvings, a beautiful screen, model airplanes, a self-assembled harpsichord, and a dulcimer, which he also played. In connection with music, one picture of Donald remains vividly with us. It is that of him in full Scottish regalia as he plays the bagpipe.

Donald was a member of New Garden Friends Meeting. It is of special interest to Quakers that his doctoral dissertation dealt with Pacifism in Greek and Modern Drama and that the *Guilford Review*, Spring, 1980, contains an article by him on "Ernst Toller: The Pacifist Spirit in German Expressionism."

Perhaps what remains uppermost in our memory of Donald's personality is his sense of humor. His ever ready and most original wit, expressed especially in drollery and repartee, endeared him to all.

## Guilford's Sesquicentennial Quest

resource for article: Quest Brochure  
Written by Bill Rogers

By Holly Hobbs

Last Thursday, September 5th, while students ate in the cafeteria, Kelly and I attended the gala opening of the Greensboro area Quest campaign. It was a good thing I didn't have to know what Quest is in order to go. If asked, I would have answered "Quest is raising money for Guilford." That is quite an ambiguous reply, as Quest is much more than that.

Quest is part of Guilford's sesquicentennial celebration. The campaign is designed to change, create, and upgrade 6 areas of life at Guilford: students, faculty, the library, the physical plant, the Friend's Center, and the overall endowment of the College. The total sesquicentennial goal is \$10,100,000.

### Students

For the students, Quest is seeking \$1,000,000. Called the Student Scholarship Endowment Fund, the money would enable many students to attend Guilford who otherwise could not, and is aimed at diversifying the student body. The endowment is for academically gifted scholars, foreign, minority and Quaker

students, students studying abroad, scholar athletes, and students with demonstrated need.

### Faculty

85 per cent of Guilford's faculty hold Ph.D.'s or other doctoral degrees. However, the faculty salaries are below the average compared to other colleges comparable to Guilford. Quest is seeking \$1,000,000 for faculty salaries. In addition the goal for research and teaching development is \$100,000, and in order to upgrade teaching and laboratory resources and equipment, \$250,000 is needed.

### The Library

Currently, Guilford's library houses 200,000 books, etc. in a building designed for 125,000. Construction and renovation are needed badly, yet the goal of \$3,200,000 must be reached first.

The library also has the continuous need to replace and purchase new books, etc. \$200,000 is needed for this Collections Endowment. Quest is also aiming for a \$200,000 automation endowment, which would create an exchange network between Guilford and area college

libraries.

### The Physical Plant

Guilford's physical plant is in need of renovation as well. \$100,000 is needed for residence hall improvements; \$300,000 for the utility system, part of which is over forty years old. Quest is also seeking an endowment for maintenance of \$500,000.

### The Friends Center

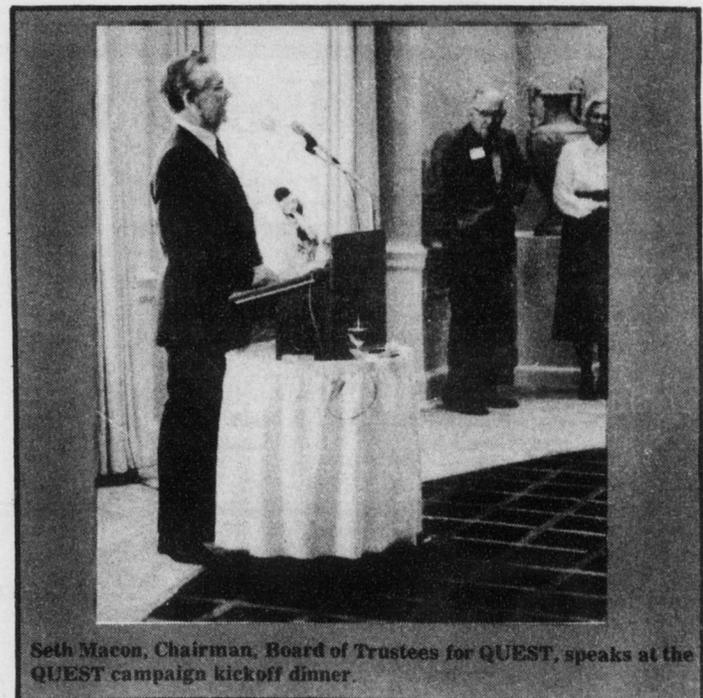
The Friends Center at Guilford provides services to Guilford students as well as the surrounding Quaker community. The center wants to continue the Quaker ideals of the college, and is seeking \$250,000 endowment for this area.

### Loyalty Fund

Separate from Quest, but part of the sesquicentennial drive, is Guilford's annual Loyalty Fund. The Quest Campaign hopes to raise \$2.25 million between 1984 and 1987.

### Unrestricted Endowment

Almost 85 per cent of Guilford's annual expenditures come from tuition. An unrestricted endowment would decrease the College's dependence on tuition. The goal for this fund is \$500,000.



Seth Macon, Chairman, Board of Trustees for QUEST, speaks at the QUEST campaign kickoff dinner.

These goals, if reached, could change and improve our lives here at Guilford. Support from

Guilford's family, community and friends will make the difference.