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"Third Wave of Feminisms" at Guilford

By Debbie Highsmith

Mel Bringle flew from Switzerland; Laura Donaldson from California. They both arrived Wednesday February 8th to contribute to the ongoing Sequicentennial Distinguished Alumni Lectures.

These two alumni, who once sat in class together, now received the opportunity to lecture to their professors and a myriad of other interested Guilfordians on feminism and religious meaning.

Mel Bringle, currently assistant Professor of

Religion and Honors Director at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, graduated from Guilford with Departmental and High Honors in 1975, majoring in French and religion.

After studying in France for one year, Bringle mov-

ed to Emory University, receiving her Ph.D. in 1984.

Bringle's previous presentations include such titles as "What Becomes of the Name of Jesus When Women Re-Name the World?" "Wo/Men's Matters: Feminist Theology and the Care of the Earth," and "Images of Self, Images of God."

Laura Donaldson, also a religion major, graduated from Guilford in 1976 with High Honors, and then began a Ph.D. program in Historical Theology at Vanderbilt University.

In 1979, at the International Graduate Summer School of Oxford University, Donaldson achieved the highest rating among her peers. Finishing up her formal education at Emory University, she then received her Ph.D. in 1983.

Presently, she is a lecturer in the women's studies program at California State University, Fresno.

Donaldson's articles have been published in *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and the *Guilford Review*; her first book is soon to be published.

After arriving from afar, Bringle and Donaldson began a series of seven lectures, a workshop, and many informal discussions that continued for three days.

In her lecture, "Is There a Unified Feminist Voice?" Mel Bringle emphasized the neglect of lesbian experience within the feminist movement, questioning gender roles and definitions of sexuality.

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Admission Standards Escalate

By Jason Underwood

An increasing number of prospective students will find themselves being turned away from the doors of Guilford in the future, as admissions standards become increasingly stringent.

"The quality of applications overall is up; there has been a big jump at the upper end of the pool." The "upper end" that Larry West, Director of Admissions, is talking about is keeping out many well-qualified applicants.

The comparatively lower acceptance rate clearly displays Guilford's selectivity: in 1986 80% were accepted; in 1987 65% were accepted.

There has also been an increase in the sheer number of applications; the quantity received has jumped 23% since 1986. This means that there are more applications for a limited number of spaces.

SAT scores have likewise increased accordingly, in terms of the freshmen who have been

admitted so far this year. The SAT "catscan" shows the average score for this year's incoming Freshmen to be 1080, which is about 30 points higher than the average score of admitted students last year.

West emphasizes that "it (the SAT average) will probably go below 1080...it will not be where we end up." Still the change is significant. West says that one of the goals of Guilford's long-range planning committee is to raise the SAT average to 1100 within 5 years.

Another reason for Guilford's increase in application is the national recognition that the school is receiving. In the past, Guilford has been mentioned in popular publications such as *Petersen's Guide to Competitive Colleges* and *Fiske's Best Buys in College Education*, and will appear in the revised 1988 version of the latter.

U.S. News and World Report cited Guilford as one of the "nation's best colleges" in October 1987. *Christian Science Monitor* recently visited the school researching for a forthcoming article about minority students at Guilford. These recent recognitions, along with many others, have spread the word about Guilford, and the news continues to grow.



Larry West-Director of Admissions

Photo: Sabah Ahmad



Laura Donaldson

Photo: Eric Buck