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Guilford Student Begins Sigma Chi Alpha Chapter

Courtney T. Roberts
News Editor

Chris Tigani is on a mission. He is trying to build a foundation for the possibility of Guilford accepting the Greek system of fraternities and sororities.

"This is something I have always wanted to do at college," said Tigani. The establishment of Sigma Chi Alpha is Tigani's goal. "Some students feel a need for the Greek system," said Tigani. "Guilford needs to adapt to some of the students' needs."

Tigani's efforts have allowed him to successfully establish his own fraternity, complete with Greek letters and numbers but without sponsorship from a national chapter or Guilford College. Sigma Chi is a Greensboro fraternity with only Guilford College students. The fraternity is not registered with the National Fraternity Council. In order for Sigma Chi Alpha to be nationally recognized Guilford would have to approve the fraternity's affiliation with the school.

Guilford's Quaker philosophy has kept fraternities and sororities from previously being formed. Tigani's hope is that in five or ten years Guilford will see a need for the Greek system to be established on campus.



Chris Tigani/photo by Charles Almy

"Some feel the establishment of Sigma Chi is elitist. They would rather it be referred to as a social organization. They have an 'Animal House' idea about fraternities," said Tigani.

To support his argument, Tigani cites Swarthmore College as an example of a Quaker school that has adopted the Greek system. At Swarthmore, anyone can join any fraternity. There is no selective process for members.

He said there is a stereotype that haunts fraternities. Drunken parties, uncontrollable behavior and destructiveness, are some images that people have when fraternities are mentioned. "We, as a fraternity, want to do good things for the school, such as working as an organization on Work Day in the spring, providing leadership and responsibility opportunities and, of course, lasting brotherhood is also a plus side of fraternities. It's a place for people with common interests to gather. Partying is only part of fraternity life," said Tigani.

When asked about membership Tigani said that as of now any male can join; in the future they may decide, if other fraternities are approved, to adopt the traditional fraternity rush process. Now there are about 15 members and other students have expressed an interest in joining.

"There are students on campus who want the Greek system to be established. Women have even approached me expressing interest in the establishment of a sorority," said Tigani.

He said Sigma Chi Alpha is not trying to cause trouble. They are not asking for money, support, or recognition from the school. "We just want to give something to Guilford that they don't have," said Tigani.

Tigani has been asked why, if he wanted fraternities and sororities, did he not go to another school. "Guilford is a school that's known for respecting peoples' different ideas. I have an idea and I hope people will respect what I believe in and not hold it against me as the community did a few years ago when students tried to establish a Greek system."

Tigani said that Milner going co-ed is taking away the all-male fraternity like residence hall and offering no other viable alternatives."

"Guilford should re-evaluate their position on the tradition of not having fraternities if they are going to break the tradition of Milner being an all-male residence hall," said Tigani.

Director of Residential Life Richard Ford had no comment on Sigma Chi Alpha and said there have been no official discussions within the administration about the fraternity.

Though the idea of a fraternity is not new at Guilford it seems to have already progressed farther than the previous attempts. Perhaps with Tigani's continued efforts and Guilford's eventual acceptance Tigani's mission of a Greek system at Guilford may be completed.

Classes Reassigned Following Professors' Deaths

Justin Cohen
Assistant News Editor

Efforts to minimize scheduling adjustments due to the recent deaths of professors Grimsley Hobbs and John Grice have been fairly successful, according to the chairmen of the departments in which they taught.

Hobbs, a professor in the philosophy department and onetime president of Guilford, died of a heart attack on November 19. Two days later Grice also suffered a fatal heart attack. An associate professor in the Justice and Policy Studies Department, Grice had taught at Guilford for 15 years.

In each situation, two of the three courses each professor was scheduled to teach will remain in place, while one of the three will

be cancelled.

Next semester, Grice was slated to teach JPS 101 (Introduction to Criminal Justice), JPS 340 (Public Analysis and Public Administration) and IDS 401 (Political Crime).

JPS 101 will now be taught by Richard Kania, who has extensive experience teaching that course. Kania will be handling what is referred to as an "overload" situation, in which a professor teaches more than three courses.

JPS 340 will also remain in place. The instructor is yet to be determined, but is likely to be someone who would join the faculty in a part-time capacity. Currently, an interview process is underway. Among those who have expressed interest in the position is a doctoral candidate at UNCG and a retired criminal justice professor at

Ferrum College.

Grice's IDS 401 will be cancelled. Justice and Policy Studies Department Chairman Barton Parks cited a number of reasons for the cancellation.

"[Grice] was such a popular teacher that we felt people took the course because of him [teaching it]," explained Parks. "There are enough slots in other IDS classes to serve the needs of the seniors."

Parks also indicated it would have been difficult to find another professor who could teach such a unique course as well as Grice could.

"We could have found someone, but it sure wouldn't have been like Grice," said Parks.

Even though the deadline for a student to

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