

The Guilfordian

Volume 79 Issue 8

Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C.

November 1, 1994

Retention a "Serious Problem"

Cory Birdwhistell
News Editor

Guilford's historic problem of student retention has reached a new level of concern. With the revelation that only 70 percent of last year's entering class returned for their sophomore year and because federal law will soon require colleges to publish graduation rates, administrators struggle to determine why students leave Guilford in order that they can act to raise the percentages of returning students.

According to Cyril Harvey, interim academic dean, Guilford's low retention rate is a "serious problem." It is also a complex one. Through a series of articles, the Guilfordian will dissect the numbers, reasons, opinions and effects of the issue.

PART ONE:

Two rates, freshman and sophomore retention, are vital to understanding the dilemma. While freshman retention fluctuates with curriculum changes and the academic quality of the particular class, consistently for twenty years approximately 20 percent of sophomores have not returned.

These numbers impede the budget process because when fewer students return than expected, the lost tuition creates a revenue shortfall. The cost of recruiting more people for the next class also strains finances.

In order to remedy this problem, Harvey, Dean of Student Life Mona Olds, Professor of Management Bill Stephens and others are studying the reasons students transfer or drop out of school. While none believe dramatic improvement in retention will occur soon, they are working toward gradually improving the rate.

Harvey comments, "It's striking that, in exit polls, students are mostly satisfied with Guilford. 60 percent are more than satisfied with the education they received here, but that doesn't keep them from leaving." He theorizes, although cannot prove, that especially as far as sophomore retention is concerned, students enter

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Quakers' streak snapped at 7

Joe Wallace

Sports Editor

On the heels of a 5-turnover performance, the Quakers received their first defeat of the season at the hands of the ODAC defending champion Randolph-Macon Yellow Jackets, in Ashland, VA by a score of 28-14.

After jumping out to a 14-7 halftime lead, the Quakers committed 4 of the 5 turnovers in the second half that allowed the Yellow Jackets to score 21 unanswered points.

Randolph-Macon was also successful in containing conference leading rusher and punter David Heggie, who had 17 rushes for only 46 yards, and 5 punts for 26 yards.

With the loss, Guilford, now 7-1 (3-1 in the ODAC), has probably lost its chance to compete in the 16-team NCAA Division III national playoff tournament, and now must win Saturday's Homecoming game against Washington & Lee to clinch at least a tie for the ODAC crown.



Scott Shaffer

Freshman William Rochelle scampers through the Emory & Henry defense. See related stories in the Sports section on page 13.

Winnett remembered by community

Kitson Broadbelt
Features Editor

Merry Moor Winnett died earlier this month after a long battle with breast cancer. She was forty-three years old.

It is a difficult responsibility which newspapers and journals carry, that of recording the deeds of an individual who has passed. Too often these final reflections become larger than the person they describe, trying to fill a void, an emptiness that has been left.

For Ms. Winnett, this job seems rather unnecessary. In a world where all of us struggle for importance, Ms. Winnett provided the two most important things of all. She gave us art and she was our teacher.

She first came to Guilford over ten years ago, starting photography classes both here and at the Sawtooth Center in Winston-Salem. She had one-woman shows

of her photography all over the country including regional and international exhibits; all the while winning award after award.

"She really got a kick out of teaching," said a former student Steve Grimes. "She got a lot out of life. She saw humor in everything."

Another former student, John Mottern, added, "Somehow, through a divine function, many of Merry's students experienced the moment when an image leaves the realm of craft and becomes art. Merry was a teacher of art, and many of us are better artists because of her willingness to share her vision."

Her colleagues agreed. Said Adele Wayman: "Merry Moor Winnett was a spark in the lives of the art department."

Two and a half years ago, Ms. Winnett was told she had breast

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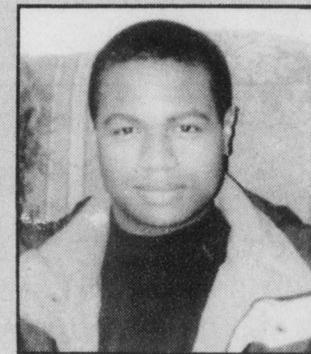
Laster Resigns as Senate Secretary

Cory Birdwhistell
News Editor

Secretary Terrence Laster announced his resignation from Community Senate after Wednesday's regular Senate meeting, citing personal reasons.

President Rich Ewell expressed his sadness at Laster's decision. "I'm very sorry he's going," Ewell says, "I appreciate what he's done this year. I want to stress that he's done a very good job... it will be hard to find someone as thoughtful and articulate, who expresses himself and takes part with the decision-making process."

The Executive Council plans on nominating a replacement at the Nov. 2 Senate meeting for senators' consideration.



Heather Clissen

Laster

"I will be fulfilling my duties [as Secretary] until a replacement is found," Laster explains, "and I will be helping with the transition to help them learn my organizational system." He also plans on remaining a member of institutional committees.