

# The Guilfordian

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## Making it through the first year

❖ *Freshmen cope with the challenges of college while the ramifications of the low retention rate reverberate throughout Guilford.*

**Cory Birdwhistell**

*News Editor*

"College wasn't what I expected," explains Sophomore Amanda Phillips. This surprise led her through a first year at Guilford which she expected to be the last. Like many other first-year students, she wanted to transfer from Guilford. Unlike 30 percent of her class, she stayed.

**THE CURRENT EFFECTS** The aftershocks from the earthquake of last year, when a significant portion of the first-year class did not return for a second semester, still shake the school still today. Interim Academic Dean Cyril Harvey informed the faculty in early November that changes will have to be made in the schedule for the fall 1995 semester. Because of the very small expected junior class, the college will be forced to accept more first-year students to keep the revenue stable. Therefore, more professors will be needed to teach introductory courses and advanced classes may have to be cut.

**THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS** In order to increase the freshman retention rate, Director of Student Life Mona Olds and the Student Life Advisory Committee struggle to determine ways to enhance the quality of the first-year experience. Their discussions focus on two basic elements: school spirit and necessity for direction. They are analyzing students' perceptions of the school and the FYS program's role in student adjustment to college life. The Community Senate will soon sponsor an Issues Table in Founders for students to comment on their FYS experience.

Efforts to study the freshmen

retention problem include looking at not only why students leave Guilford (difficult because each person's circumstances are unique), but why they stay.

**A CASE STORY** Phillips tells of her decision not to transfer. "I decided after the first month I hated it and would never be happy here," she begins. She realizes now that she was going through a normal adjustment, but at the time she faulted Guilford for her unhappiness and was determined to

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The first semester is unlike any other.

--DICK DYER

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leave. By her second semester she had been accepted to a school closer to home and claims, "I stopped being so negative. . . I got involved in clubs and made good friends. As the year came to a close, I was sad to leave."

Near the end of the year, Phillips says, "I was blabbing on and on about Guilford [to prospective students] and—oh my God!—I was saying what I really thought." That day she went to Dick Dyer to officially withdraw. He told her that he did not understand why she was leaving and so he held her withdrawal papers for several weeks. This was crucial, because during this time she had to admit to herself, "I'd been closed-minded from the beginning." She exclaims, "All this time I'd been complaining and I was wrong! I decided to stay and I've had a wonderful [sophomore] year."

**ADVISING** Dyer's job is to help students survive the challenges of college. "I'm lucky the college has given me the opportunity to get in the middle of this," he expresses. With freshmen, his job is especially vital because so many have trouble adjusting. He says, "The

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## A 144-24 Russian victory



Heather Glissen

Rashida McKenzie outruns Natalia Chunts of the Russian National Team. The final score was 144-24, the Russian team as the victor. See sports pages for details.

## Recycling all recyclables still challenges college

**Cara Skeat**

*Staff Writer*

Most Guilford students are familiar with the outside recycling dumpsters, the green recycling bags, and even the new recycling cans in Founders hall. However, there are several recycling issues with which students may not be so familiar.

Recycling aluminum cans is mandatory in North Carolina. Director of Landscaping and Grounds David Petree asks that members of the Guilford community comply with this new law.

The Grounds Department has begun helping Marriott Food Ser-

vice recycle cardboard food containers. Marriott's tin food cans, though, are not being recycled. Food Service Manager Tim Tyree says that he is in favor of doing this, although he has no immediate plans to implement tin can recycling.

Marriott's cafeteria office also does not recycle waste paper, but most other campus offices do. The Admission, Business, and Financial Aid Offices, as well as the Print Shop and Main Campus Mailroom, recycle waste paper.

Another issue is the lack of intermediate recycling sites, or recycling bins. Enough of these exist inside buildings but more are

needed outside along Guilford's sidewalks, says Petree.

Reaction to such a plan is mixed. Petree notes that there are financial and aesthetic considerations to be addressed before any more bins or dumpsters can be installed.

Forevergreen President Carolyn Howes believes that student participation in recycling efforts can be increased by encouraging them to use existing containers.

Founders Hall Coordinator Jen Harrison says that outside containers "probably would be all right."

Whatever the outcome, Petree says to Guilford's population, "Hey, it [recycling] is out there, let's do it."

## Jennings approved as Senate Secretary

**Luisa Constanza**

*Senate/Club Coordinator*

The Community Senate approved Stephanie Jennings as Secretary on Wednesday, Nov. 15, filling the position left vacant after Terrence Laster's recent resignation. Jennings is a junior double-majoring in political science and international studies.

"Senate seems to be accomplishing much more this year than in past years, but there is still room for improvement," Jennings comments. She is working on creating a Communications Committee to address communications issues on campus. The goals will be to improve the communication between faculty and students, and between Senate and the different

student organizations on campus.

Senate President Rich Ewell says Jennings was chosen because, "She is someone who will be good for decision making because she's thoughtful and has good communications skills. She has already been active and responsible in Senate."