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Report calls for action to decrease attrition

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Staff Writers

Dean of Admissions Al Newell, Dean of Student Life Mona Olds, Academic Dean Cyril Harvey, and Provost Dan Poteet released the administration's "official" analysis of the retention issue this week.

The report analyzes five groups of data and organizes them into the broad categories of admissions, academics, and student life. It rec-

ommends an orientation process which extends through the semester, an earlier declaration of major, and expansion of the Career Development Center.

Although the administration studied the retention issue intensively, they admit that, "the collection and analysis of retention data must continue and become more systematic."

Much of the school's action will stem from the recommendations included in this 20-page report,

which is available at the circulation desk in the library.

The following questions represent key facets of the retention issue.

To what extent is retention a "problem"?

Although a single figure remains elusive for the retention rate of last year's freshman class, approximately 99 freshmen (about 30%) transferred.

Due to the small size of last year's national freshmen class

Guilford was forced to accept some below-standard students in order to fill quotas. Many of these freshmen—who would not ordinarily have gotten into Guilford—were forced to leave the school due to academic difficulties.

Despite these withdrawals, Guilford remains unusual because its graduation rate is usually larger than its freshman retention rate. Accepting in-coming transfers remains a significant way for the school to absorb new students.

Additionally, retention figures are misleading because they include students on leave who are planning to return to Guilford.

Newell asserts that Guilford's retention rate is average. When compared with similar schools like Antioch, Haverford, Oberlin, and Earlham, Guilford ranked in the middle regarding rate of retention. Other schools also report retention problems similar to Guilford's, in-

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Starmount: Development plans spur college, community debate



Heather Glissen

Community members cite traffic problems as one reason to oppose the proposed zone change at the area next to Flamingo Dr. and New Garden Road. See map on page 5.

Cara Skeat

Staff Writer

Guilford College may someday have a new neighbor to the north if a recent application for an amendment to Greensboro's zoning laws is approved.

In mid-December, the Starmount company entered the request to change the zoning of the Waynick property from residential to commercial. This property adjoins the soccer fields and the apartments.

If the request is approved, the company would like to build a shopping center containing a Harris Teeter grocery store, fast food restaurants and other businesses. The Starmount company has built several area shopping centers including Friendly Center.

Starmount plans to donate

eighteen acres of the land it hopes to acquire to the YMCA which rents space from Guilford College. If this occurs, the land will probably be used for playing fields, says Joe Warwick, president of the area YMCA.

Warwick says the YMCA is neutral regarding the request.

A change in zoning, he says, would be "an opportunity. We are neither for nor against the center, but we would take the land if it were offered to us." Warwick, however, has signed the request for the zoning change that would make the building of the shopping center—and the donation of the land to the YMCA—possible.

Alex Spears, the Chairman of the Board for the local YMCA, has sent letters to about 10,000 "YMCA Friends," as the greeting on the letter says. His letter reads, "Starmount Company proposes to

develop commercial property on New Garden Road, and a part of that development would include donating 18 acres of land to the YMCA. In order for this opportunity to become a reality... a zoning change must take place. Community support is needed." Spears then invites the recipients of the letter to attend a public meeting to "show your support" or "bring opinions to our [the YMCA's] attention."

Community opposition to the proposed zoning change has been organized. Clarice Smith, member of the Robinridge Neighborhood Association, has written in the *Greensboro News and Record* that the organization is "appalled that Starmount has not looked into the concerns

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Senate approves Apt. alcohol policy; Student, Res. Life voice concern

Cory Birdwhistell

News Editor

The Community Senate has approved a revision to the student apartments' drinking policy. The policy allows students 21 or older to consume alcohol in the open "common area" of the apartments.

The policy will soon be considered by the Administrative Council and the Board of Trustees.

According to Senate President Rich Ewell, the expansion of the drinking policy is in students' in-

terests. He has worked to develop this policy throughout the year, beginning with the first step of allowing apartment residents to consume alcohol on their porches.

Ewell believes the apartment dwellers will act responsibly. The major impact of the new policy, he believes, would be to allow residents to walk between apartments with alcohol.

Several administrators, however, express concern about the

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Abu-Nimer spreads peace in Gaza Strip

Cory Birdwhistell

News Editor

Over the holidays, people traditionally delight in giving and cherishing peace. The holidays had a special peace-giver, however, in Mohammed Abu-Nimer. The Sociology/Anthropology professor spent his break introducing practices of conflict resolution in the violent Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian who grew up in Isreal, Abu-Nimer will be speaking about his experiences February 7 in Dana Auditorium.

Abu-Nimer was working as part a team from a Washington D.C. based organization, The Search for Common Ground—Initiative for Peace in the Middle East. The main purposes of the group are to introduce conflict resolution, com-



Heather Glissen

Abu-Nimer

munity building and non-violent organization in the area.

Their goal in Gaza was to establish a local conflict resolution center. "We want to focus on the community itself," Abu-Nimer explains. This is unique because in Egypt and Jordan, for example, the

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