



Art gallery hosts a guided tour of rare 18th and 19th century paintings Friday afternoon.
News pg. 3

Students organize protest as professor Michael Strickland is denied tenure.
News pg. 5

A little friendly assistance for an obviously confused Guilford College community.
Forum pg. 12

THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, NC

Since 1914, but never quite like this

January 30, 1998

Interlink numbers down in recent years

◆ Some say declining international enrollment contradicts Guilford's dedication to diversity

BY ADAM LUCAS
Editor-in-Chief

After years of serving as a major hub of the Interlink program, Guilford has seen its number of international students decline in recent years.

At the height of the school's involvement with the program in 1990, the campus hosted as many as 85 foreign students enrolled in Interlink. While the numbers have increased recently to the point at which 54 students are now at Guilford, they sagged to around 25 students in 1995.

"The founders of Interlink came to Guilford because of its mission statement and commitment to diversity and international education," said Interlink director David Parsons. "I hope that we'll continue to see that commitment coming out in terms of what Guilford does in terms of curriculum revisions and what it does to actually have students as well as courses on the campus."

The problem is compounded by the fact that few people on campus actually understand Interlink. Enrolled students are not admitted to Guilford but do use on-campus housing, with most living in Worth House I.

After successful completion of the

program, students are able to apply for regular admission to Guilford, an option selected by approximately five percent of each year's participants.

The decline in enrollment has been

scholarships. The college certainly has a bigger decision to make, and that is how committed are we to international students?"

Funding is not the only problem.

in an area of the campus that is not frequented by most students.

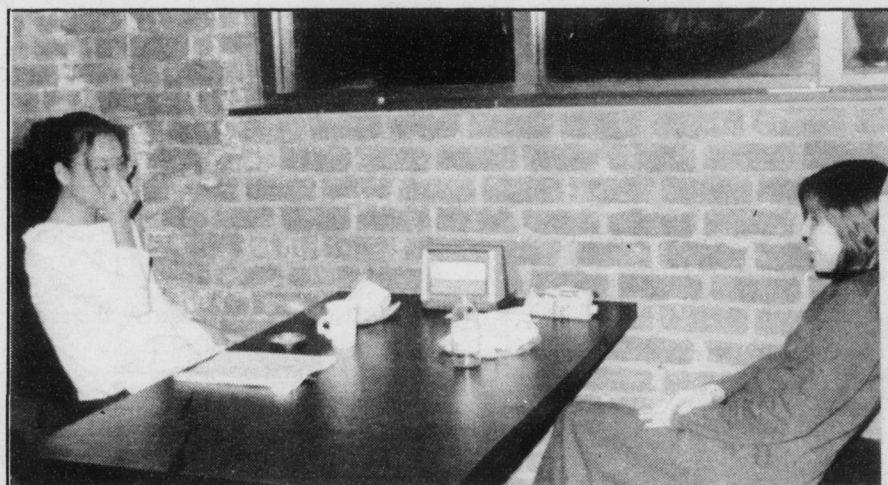
While academic dean Martha Cooley would like to see an increased Interlink participation at Guilford, she realizes that not all the factors are under the college's control. "International students have an interest in more technical degrees, and we don't have that," she said. "Also, Guilford doesn't have a graduate program and we're not in a big city, which is often a plus for foreign students."

The fact that Guilford and Interlink are currently unsure of their relationship is reflected in the most recent contract signed by the two parties.

While most other schools that work with the program—including Guilford in the past—have worked under three-year contracts, the leaders of Interlink decided in January that they would only renew their deal for two years.

The college has some significant work to do between now and January of 2000, but Cooley knows that it hinges on one significant factor.

"The reasons are varied," she said. "But we probably don't work hard enough here to make them a part of the community."



Spotting Interlink students in the Underground has been a little more difficult recently.
PHOTO BY CHRIS CARLSTROM

attributed to several factors, with the college's current budget crunch heading the list. "Interlink came here at a time when the college was providing funding for Interlink students," said admission director Al Newell. "At this point, all that is now available to them is merit-based

Since Interlink operates on a slightly different schedule than the rest of Guilford, housing can create dilemmas at certain times of the year.

Even when the calendars coincide, however, contact with international students is limited by the fact that many live

Plans for YMCA take a new direction

◆ Moses Cone Hospital may play a role in the long-rumored new YMCA construction

BY MARJORIE HALL
News Editor

Over a year ago, Guilford decided that developing better athletic space was a priority of the school. The college may soon get that space courtesy of Moses Cone Hospital and the Greensboro YMCA.

As the college was beginning discussions of the new athletic facility, the Greensboro YMCA was considering building a new YMCA in Greensboro. Currently, there is a greater demand for facilities than can be met by the Guilford YMCA. The school and the YMCA en-

tered into discussions and decided that many of their needs were the same. If they work in conjunction, the facility can be even larger and serve not only the Guilford community, but the rest of Greensboro as well.

During these discussions, Moses Cone Hospital was mentioned. Community hospitals all over the country have begun to sponsor satellite "wellness centers." Moses Cone was approached and showed interest in developing an outreach center.

These centers often include rehabilitation facilities, classrooms, and therapy pools, and offer information and

counseling on diet, exercise, and substance abuse. "Their feeling is, the more the public is involved in taking care of themselves, the less the incidence of serious illness," said Art Gillis, chief financial officer.

Under the preliminary design, a single entrance would serve the Alumni Gym and the Ragan-Brown fieldhouse, which would be linked. A new building with a multi-function orientation would be built behind Ragan-Brown. The new building may have space for functions such as concerts and convocation. The building could be built in as little as 18 to 24 months.

Contrary to some students' fears, the school will not build a new road, though it will probably widen the road and smooth out the 90-degree turns in front of New Garden.

All three parties are still reviewing possible plans. The YMCA and the college are both committed to the plan, which would be jointly funded. Moses Cone has not made a decision. "No agreements have been signed amongst the three parties yet, but it does seem easily in the realm of possibilities for the next few months," Gillis said.

Gillis stresses that if conflict should please see YMCA pg 2

I am not young enough to know everything.—J.M. Barrie