

News

Prospectives come on campus

By Rebecca Muller
STAFF WRITER

If you noticed that the campus seemed a bit more chaotic than usual this weekend, it may have been because more than 100 prospective students came to campus. Students attended both Honors Weekend and Students of Color Weekend.

Both events are considered a vital part of the recruitment process. Students of Color Weekend has been held during Honors Weekend off and on for several years.

Steven Onyeberechi, an admissions counselor, has organized it for the past two years.

Susan Bagley of the admissions office said, "We want to give students of color a chance to come here and visit the campus where we can intentionally match them up with students of color on campus."

"They can meet each other

and learn not just about the school but also what it is like to be a student of color at this school."

This year, only students who had already been admitted were invited to the weekend. "We had fewer students than last year, but there were reasons we invited fewer," said Bagley. "This year we had only the students who had committed to the school." Most students stayed until Monday, when they attended classes.

Seventy-three students came for honors weekend, which is about ten students less than have come in previous years.

Prospective honors students had the opportunity to attend a

sample class. "It was a lot of fun and showed me the open-mindedness of the school," said Vera Brown, who went to a sample class with Vance Ricks. "The classes were very interesting," said Tessa Shanks, who enjoyed participating in Carol Hoppe's Greek mythology class.

“Five or six years ago, the students interviewed with faculty only, but for the last four years, the applicants will interview with 1 faculty member and 1 honors student.”

-Bob Williams

really enthusiastic about these weekends. It's been a lot of fun and the hosts have done a really good job."

Bagley feels that it is essential to recruit students to the program. "They have many other options available to them and we are competing with other schools, so it's important to let the students know about it."

Many various activities were held in connection with both events, including panel discussions, tours of the not-quite-finished science center, thesis presentations and a Bonner presentation. Hosts attended the various activities with their prospective students. Carl Willis took his prospective student to the barbecue and the Frank Family Science Building Tour.

Many people were satisfied with the weekend as a whole. "I think it was a really good experience for the prospectives and the best way to learn about Guilford," claimed host Ali Kleeb. Murik agreed. "I think if all the prospective students came, they'd really add a lot to the community." Williams felt that the community efforts certainly paid off. "To me, it is always a fun day, because I get to meet so many fun, energetic, and creative young men and women."

Quaker physicist visits and discusses the Universe

By Peter Morcheck
STAFF WRITER

"Our planet is orbiting a bog-standard star in a typically normal galaxy."

So spoke the short woman of ordinary appearance. She wore a black dress and black flats, orange scarf wrapped elegantly around her neck, glasses sitting lightly on the bridge on her nose. While her dress was indeed ordinary, the topic of her talk was anything but.

The woman was Jocelyn Bell Burnell, a Scottish physicist. Her audience was several dozen students, faculty, Greensboro community members, and scientists from around the country. Her topic was nothing less than "The Universe and Us," the reconciliation of science and religion.

This year's Judith Weller Harvey Distinguished Quaker visitor, Bell gave five lectures during her four days here, over her spring break from a visiting professorship at Princeton University.

As a graduate student at Cambridge University in the late 1960s, Bell discovered pulsars, which paved the way for her eventual appointment as the second female professor of physics in all of Britain.

In her four days at Guilford, she gave numerous talks to audiences ranging from physics professors, students, and alumni from far and wide, to residents of Friends Homes across the street, to a group of Quaker ministers from across North Carolina. She also met with the Quaker Leadership Scholars group and a class of fifth and sixth graders at New Garden Friends School.

"What was fascinating to me was her ability to talk about such a wide range of things: the universe, faith, women in science, etc.," said Director of Campus Ministries Max Carter. "The breadth of it and her ability to communicate such complex scientific ideas to fifth and sixth graders and then turn around and talk theology with a bunch of ministers."

Of her talk on the universe at New Garden Meeting, Carter expressed wonder. "She was able somehow to balance a belief in the mechanics of it without having to fall back on a 'God of the Gaps' [i.e., 'We don't know what happened in the first milliseconds after the Big Bang so it must have been a miracle of God']. Still, she maintained confidence

in the existence of God because she felt his presence in Quaker meeting for worship."

Having spoken of black holes, red dwarfs, comets, and God, Bell ended her talk on the universe with a metaphysical challenge for all: "Given the beauty and complexity of the universe, what can you own? How can you reach a state of grace?"

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