



# THE GUILFORDIAN

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## Class of 2004 arrives

Pleased administrators welcome the largest First-year class in recent history; early success of the *Vision and Strategy for Guilford College*

Daniel Fleishman  
NEWS EDITOR

One year ago, the Guilford College entering Class of 2003 had an abnormally low number of students: only 233. This year, in concert with plans to increase enrollment—known as the *Vision and Strategy for Guilford College*—the First-year student population increased inordinately, to 325.

The *Vision and Strategy*, presented in mid-January by College President Don McNemar, calls for an increase in student enrollment and retention. The 325 First-year students far exceeded their goal of 290.

A secondary goal of the plan emphasizes that Guilford draw in more student athletes and a greater proportion of North Carolinians. Randy Doss, Dean of Admissions, estimates that 25 percent of the Class of 2004 are athletes, compared to 20 percent of the class of 2003. And as of August 12, 36 percent are from North Carolina, while only 23 percent of last fall's incoming class is from this state.

Guilford administration's decision to increase the number

of North Carolinians is primarily fiscally motivated. When the college became financially unstable last year as a result of the diminished student body, money became issue number one. Students from North Carolina receive financial aid from the state to pay for tuition, while students from out-of-state must rely on only the college to cover their expenses. An increase of in-state students would simply mean the school could now afford to stay afloat.

"We don't have to spend as much Guilford money; it just makes more economic sense," said Doss.

J.J. McEachern, Director of the First-Year Center, has long been anticipating this incoming crop of students. "Not only is it a large class, but it's a class that brings so many diverse parts to the college," he said. "It brings, of course, the athletic numbers up, and you have a lot more students from North Carolina. But it just changes the dynamics of the college, and I'm just excited about it. I think it could, in the long run, help Guilford, especially in North Carolina, and especially on campus."

The means by which Guilford College would increase enrollment was of concern to some stu-

dents. They feared Admissions would accept a higher percentage of applicants, thus lowering their standards, and diminish the academic standing of the school.

The acceptance rate this year was 77.7 percent, 75.8 percent last year, and 76.3 percent two years ago.

The college increased enrollment by hiring a slew of alumni to work as recruiters, whose job it was to increase high school students' awareness of Guilford and what it has to offer.

"It's based on the notion—really the conclusion—that Guilford had done not as good a job of selling itself as it could,"

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## May storm hits Guilford

Elizabeth C. Laird  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, May 25, at around 9:30 a.m., a sudden storm passed through the Guilford campus, leaving a good deal of destruction in its path.

Over 50 of our campus' beautiful trees were ripped up, split, and torn, creating debris all over the campus. There was damage to the baseball field fence, and the loss of the huge oak tree that fell on it. Several other trees were not completely knocked down, but had damages such as splits in the trunk that required them to be removed.

The missing trees are definitely a loss to the campus. "It's sad now because you can tell where [the trees] were," said Senior Ginny Marble. The memories, blank spaces and stumps now are all that's left of some antique trees. Many other favorite and proximate trees were lost around the campus, such as those next to Shore Hall and in front of the library.

Bobby Wayne Clark, Vice President of Public Affairs, estimates that there may be upwards of a hundred thousand dollars worth of damages. The total is still unclear since repairs are still being made, and the amount that will be paid by insurance is also presently undetermined. Around sixty thousand dollars has been spent on tree cleanup so far.

The project for campus restoration was a cooperative effort. The Dave Tree Company was hired to do the bulk of the work along with our own grounds and physical plant staff. David Petre, grounds

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