

Features

Kircher Speaks On Importance of Teaching



Guilford's Timothy Kircher

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WORLD AND NATION EDITOR

We live in a very different world than the one 700 years ago.

In an age where large universities and lecture halls often dominate the scholarly scene, a re-evaluation of what it takes to be a teacher plays a critical role in the direction education is headed.

Guilford history professor Timothy Kircher spoke on the importance of choosing teachers for their attributes in a talk he gave Monday, November 6th. The talk was part of the Newlin lecture se-

ries in the Guilford College History Department.

Kircher chose this topic "to show, first of all, how important this topic is not only for us today, but also for writers and thinkers in the Renaissance, and second that the Renaissance has much to teach us about it," he said.

In his lecture, Kircher outlined Renaissance humanist Petrarch's four criteria for choosing teachers. Petrarch chose his teachers based on his respect for their wisdom and upright actions. He chose them because they challenged his view of life. Petrarch sought teachers who expected him to question their teaching, and he wanted his readers and students to also question themselves as well as their teachers. This interchange of ideas was intended to be dynamic, as "Petrarch displayed

shifting perspectives both toward himself, and toward his teachers," said Kircher in his lecture.

Much of Petrarch's education was spent dedicated to understanding the teachings of Saint Augustine, one of the Fathers of the Catholic Church. Augustine lived nearly 900 years before Petrarch, yet Petrarch used him in his dialogue, the *Secretum*. "The theme of the *Secretum*, which is Latin for secret," Kircher said, "is Petrarch's search for happiness." This search was aided by the manner in which Augustine taught Petrarch.

Although Petrarch lived nearly 700 years ago, the quality with which he chose his teachers is still important today, Kircher argued.

"Petrarch's ideas on good teaching and learning are more important than ever, when students are increasingly pressured to steer their college courses toward a narrow, professional end," he said.

"While preparing for jobs and careers has become a critical piece of our studies, Petrarch tells us that life's larger subject,

the happiness of the self, shapes this preparation."

At Guilford, these qualities continue to play an important role in education. A recent survey in the *New York Times* of college students showed that at most schools, discussions between faculty and students outside of class rarely occur, and, with large lectures during class, in-class discussion is uncommon as well.

"Guilford provides a special environment to learn through conversation, when students may challenge teachers and themselves," Kircher said. "What we need to ask is how many of us take advantage of this environment and hold each other accountable for what we say and do."

"What are you doing, little man? What are you dreaming? What are you waiting for?" These first words St. Augustine says to Petrarch in the *Secretum* illustrate Kircher's view of the relationship between a teacher and his student. A constant interchange of ideas through dialogue is something that continues to be an essential foundation for Guilford today.

VOICE-MAIL:

10 situations, tips, and tricks

Zack Hample

STAFF WRITER

WHEN YOU'RE CHECKING YOUR MESSAGES...

1. "Wait up! Lemme run to my room and check my messages!" Hey, tough guy, you can check your voice-mail from someone else's phone. Dial 2501. When you hear the computerized, female voice, press pound (#) followed by your four-digit extension. Then follow the basic instructions for entering your password and proceed as you normally would.

2. "I missed her digits because she was talking mad fast, yo." Plan A: press 1 to rewind her message 10 seconds. Plan B: press 11 to rewind her message to the beginning. Plan C: press 4 to slow down the playback speed of her message. Plan C is phat.

3. "Who was that, anyway? She didn't say her name, and I have so many honeyz that I can't tell them apart." Okay, pimp daddy, press 5 while her message is playing. If she called from somewhere on campus, you'll find out her name and mailbox number, in addition to the date, time, and length of the message.

4. "Another frickin' mass voice-mail to waste my time. I really don't give a hoot about FedEx." All righty

then. Option one: press 3 to fast forward the message ten seconds. Option two: press 33 to fast forward to the end. Option three: Press 6 to quicken the playback speed. Option four: press 77 to instantly delete the message. Option five: press pound (#) to skip it and move on to the next message.

5. "My girlfriend who's in Spain this semester left me the most loving message, and I want to copy it word for word into my journal." Better enjoy it now before she dumps you. You can pause her message by pressing 2, copy down her melodic words, and press 2 to resume her message where it left off.

6. "Oy, my poor eardrums. The first message was too loud, the second too soft." Hey, quit your kvetching and change the volume. Press 8 to lower it or 9 to raise it.

WHEN YOU'RE CALLING SOMEONE, LIKE, SAY, YOUR BOYFRIEND...

1. "I forgot to tell my boyfriend goodnight, and he already went to sleep!" Chill out, lady. You can leave him a message through the voice mail system, and he won't hear his phone ring. Dial 2501, and when you hear the computerized, female voice, sim-

ply dial his four-digit extension.

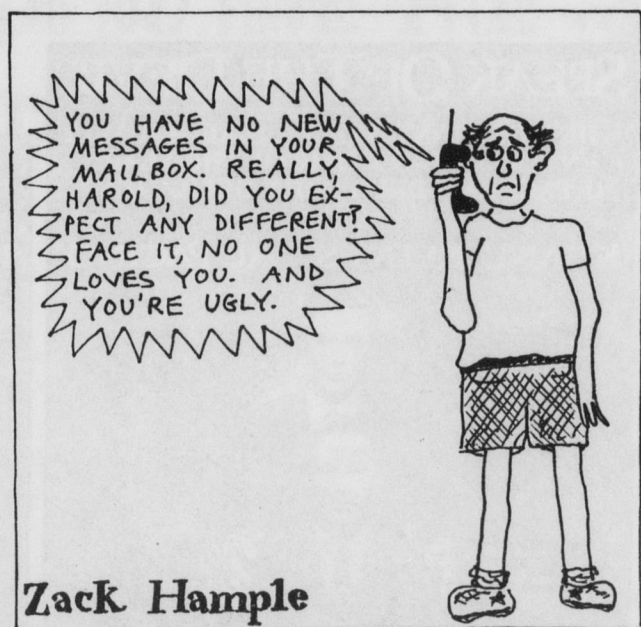
2. "I really do like him, but his message is long and stupid and annoys the hell out of me every time I call." Maybe, you should tell the guy, but until then, save yourself the time and agony of listening to it by pressing pound (#) when it comes on. This whisks you right to the end, and you'll hear the beep that indicates you can begin leaving your message.

3. "Oh my god, this message I'm leaving him is so dorky." Luckily, you can unsend the message that you're leaving him as long as you haven't yet hung up. Press star (*) and you'll hear the voice say, "Message erased. At the tone please rerecord your message. At the end of your message please press one." After pressing one, you'll have lots of options, and the

instructions talk you right through it.

4. "What were those beeps I heard when I was talking at the end of my message?" Just like your boyfriend, the double beep says that you talk too much. After you've babbled for 80 seconds, the beep serves as a warning that you'll get cut off after another 20 seconds.

That's all, folks. Good luck in your respective voice-mail pursuits.



Zack Hample