

## Applications Up 47% in North Carolina

*Enrollment from Page 13*

This year applications are up 47% in North Carolina alone.

Assistant Director of Admission Jeff Thigpen, one of three counselors assigned to North Carolina, sees several reasons that contribute to the increase in applications. He covers most of North Carolina, except for Charlotte and Raleigh, which are handled by other counselors.

In addition to the extensive help of alumni, improved publications, an experienced Admission staff, and what Thigpen calls a gut feeling that students are choosing schools closer to home after 9/11, he credits the office's decision to increase the number of counselors covering North Carolina, up from one four years ago.

"That has made a difference," Thigpen said. "I believe collectively we do a better job staying in contact with students who have visited and/or have expressed a pressing interest in Guilford. Faculty and current students help us in making 'a quali-

tative difference' during and after visits. We are focusing on juniors more as well. I think we do a great job of staying focused and maintaining a personal relationship during the application process."

Thigpen also credits the North Carolina Initiative, a scholarship program for North Carolina residents that "has made it more affordable to attend a private school." Thigpen says that if the cost of attending Guilford becomes comparable to a public school's, "I believe that many students choose Guilford because we are qualitatively better."

While pleased that applications are up in North Carolina, Thigpen warns that many of Guilford's NC applicants are overlap applicants at other NC schools.

"We are all working very hard right now related to the transition from higher applications to [higher] yield," Thigpen said.

Susan Bagley, the associate director of admission for Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, three of

Guilford's top-10 application pool states all of which saw an increase in applications this year, suspects that the book *Colleges That Change Lives* by Loren Pope, which includes Guilford, might help explain the growing pool of applicants. "I know it has changed our overlap list [schools that receive applications from the same pool of students], since publication a few years ago."

One of the big reasons that Doss, Thigpen, and Bagley all cite for the increase in applications is also one of the simplest. The rise of web-based technologies, particularly the efficiency of on-line applications, makes it easier for students to learn about the college and apply.

### Campus Visits

Emily Bebber, Guilford's coordinator of visitor services since last spring when the previous coordinator, Nancy Reimer—formerly Houston—became an assistant director of admission, confirms that there has been an increase in campus visits this year.

Bebber says it is hard to measure campus overnight visits against previous years', as last fall the college adopted a policy of only allowing students who had applied to stay overnight, effectively eliminating junior overnights altogether.

She notes that there were few overnights in the fall, but says there have been a lot in the spring.

"It is always very busy this time of year," Bebber said. "But, I don't remember it ever starting this early."

"We take great care to allow students have overnights, meet students and faculty, and make a well-rounded decision regardless of [their] state," Thigpen said.

Bebber has been pleased with

the efforts of student tour guides this year, noting that many of them are seniors who are experienced and know how to respond to questions.

Bebber identifies setting up classroom visits as the most challenging part of her job, noting that she knows the professors who are most receptive to visitors, but tries not to overuse them. She also sees arranging the classroom visits as "probably the most rewarding ... because I think it is a really good experience for a prospective student to have while they are visiting."

### Projections for the Class of 2007

Doss predicts that the next first-year class will raise the college's enrollment to over 2,000 students, "or certainly right at it."

Anthony Gurley, associate dean of enrollment, notes the small size of the current graduating class as a factor that could influence the overall enrollment next fall.

"If all we do on the admission side of things this year is bring in a class of 320 students, comparable to the last couple of classes," says Gurley, "we still ought to have somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 more students here than we have had this year or the last couple of years.

Bebber is likewise optimistic about the incoming first-year class.

"It just seems like we have had great students visiting campus this year," Bebber said. "All-around nice kids that seem really happy to be here."

### Looking Ahead

When asked to predict how Guilford could look five or ten years from now, Doss says "it is very easy to think that we could be 3,000 students. And again, that is counting everybody."

As for whether the college will grow that big, or how a student body of 3,000 would break down between Early College, Traditional, and CCE, Doss says that will be for committees like SLRP to determine.

"We have not gotten there yet," he added.

"If you want - and I think we do want - to keep a real emphasis on full-time faculty, student-faculty ratios, and average class sizes, than if we're that large, quote unquote, it certainly means more full-time faculty."

"And you never know how technology can affect how you teach and where you teach," Doss added. "That kind of stuff is just emerging everyday."

Total Applications Received by Year over Last 5 Years

State:	2003*	2002	2001	2000	1999
North Carolina	417	284	270	294	237
Virginia	137	111	114	105	100
Maryland	125	86	77	92	72
Massachusetts	90	77	83	65	59
New Jersey	69	32	47	51	40
Pennsylvania	69	55	72	40	51
New York	63	76	69	71	73
Florida	60	55	60	94	119
Georgia	45	36	48	53	35
South Carolina	36	10	35	51	28

Source: Guilford Office of Enrollment.  
\* Information current as of March 19, 2003.

## Black Men Panel

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of taboo issues that African American society imposes on black men to the challenges present in black communities.

"We have a lot of problems we have to deal with. It isn't white folk standing on the corner selling drugs to our children," said Shields. "We've got to take responsibility. We need to expect more from our black men and not blame it on society."

Following the forum a reception was held in the foyer where panelists and attendees mingled to discuss the panel. Junior Spencer Tisdale reflected that he found the program insightful and engaging.

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of taboo issues that African American society imposes on black men to the challenges present in black communities. "We have a lot of problems we have to deal with. It isn't white folk standing on the corner selling drugs to our children," said Shields. "We've got to take responsibility. We need to expect more from our black men and not blame it on society."

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