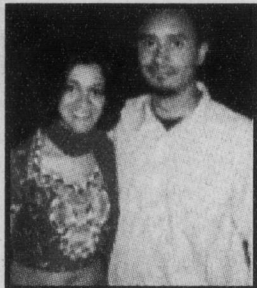


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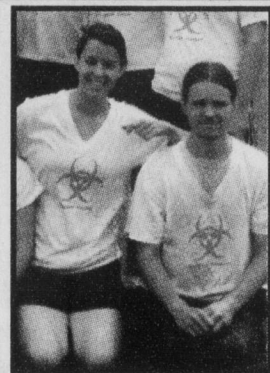


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# Meet Your Student Graduation Speakers

Angie Barnett

Staff Writer

Imagine that you are about to speak in front of about 500 people.

They are your peers, your professors, and your family members. You can probably feel the blood rushing through your veins, and you might be feeling a little nauseous.

These symptoms are just a few that Sarah Humpal, Josh Neas, and Deedee Pearman might be feeling at graduation on May 10, 2003.

Sarah Humpal has a double-major in English and philosophy and is excited to speak at graduation.



**Joshua Neas, the Head Music Director for WQFS, started the original petition against Rep. Howard Coble (R).**

When you can't find Humpal in class, you can find her at work in the admissions office arranging overnights for prospective students. She still doesn't know what she is going to speak about, but she has it in her head.

"I'm not really that nervous speaking in front of so many people. I'm nervous about figuring out what I'm going to say. I don't want to make some trite, feel-good speech

that tells graduates that the world is completely open to them.

"I've been given an opportunity to express concerns about this institution to an audience of my peers, faculty, administration, and trustees. Though I don't really expect my speech to change anything, I've been given a big voice. I want to use it," Humpal said.

"Being at Guilford, I've learned that I don't know much of anything. As I do my readings for my classes, I realize that I have so many other scholarly works to read to understand what I'm reading."

Josh Neas, whom everyone knows from WQFS because of his artistic style of music, is both excited and honored that enough people nominated him to be one of the speakers.

"I'm flattered because my classmates chose me," Neas said. He will graduate from Guilford with a degree in English and secondary education.

"Being at Guilford has shaped so much of who I am," Neas said. "It has given to me in ways that are different from anyone else."

"The radio station is as important to me as my major is," Neas said.

Neas isn't nervous about speaking at graduation because he has always gotten up in front of large crowds as an amateur musician.

Like Humpal, Neas has an idea of what he's going to say but hasn't

written anything down on paper yet. Deedee Pearman, the secretary for education studies, accounting, and political science faculty,



Photos by Sarah Austin

**Sarah Humpal is an active assistant in the Office of Enrollment.**

College means to her. A single mother, Pearman is honored but a little scared to get up in front of her graduating class because she doesn't like to speak in public.

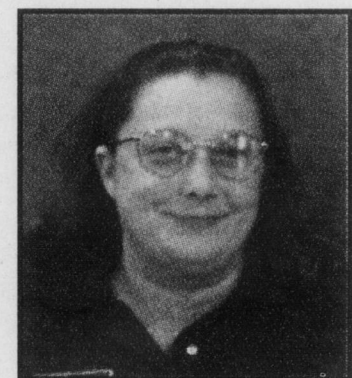
After being at Guilford for seven years, Pearman is a triple major who will be graduating with majors in sociology, justice and policy studies, African American studies and a concentration in English.

"I'm really happy and excited that I'm going to be graduating, but I know I'm going to miss it a lot," Pearman said. "I would like to thank the people at Guilford that have done things for me, especially for the faculty and staff for their flexibility and their patience."

All three made the point repeatedly that "I love Guilford," and Humpal discussed how Guilford freed her from one kind of traditional thinking and introduced her to alternatives.

"I've learned that a lot of what I had been taught growing up was really wrong or at least seriously skewed. By this I mean that many of histories I've been taught have been andocentric, Eurocentric, and homophobic. □

"I've learned that I have just the most basic understanding of what racism, sexism, and homophobia are and how they work in my life and in the institutions of which I am a part including Guilford Humpal said. "I've learned to question what I am taught. Sometimes this is disheartening. □ Sometimes it's inspiring."



**Bauman Receptionist Deedee Pearman, the CCE speaker, has been at Guilford for seven years.**

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