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Next year's Bryan Series speakers announced

Charlie McAlpin

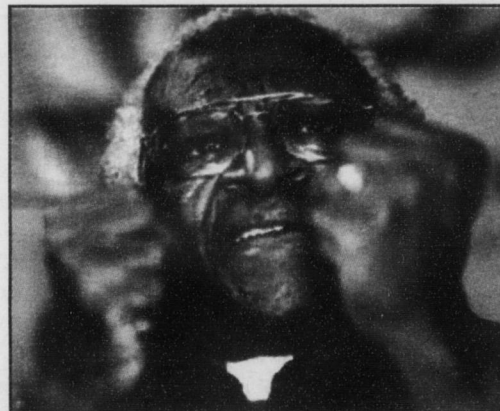
Staff Writer

For the first time, Guilford is choosing 2005-2006 speakers around a predetermined theme. At the request of the Initiative on Faith and Practice, that theme will be The Year of Spirit and Spirituality (YSS).

Karen Armstrong, Desmond Tutu and Bill Moyers will headline the theme in the Bryan Series.

"We needed to figure out how to include in dialogues across the campus people who do not define themselves as religious," said Eric Mortensen, professor of religious studies and member of the YSS Guiding Committee. Spirit and spirituality will extend beyond specific religions.

In the previous Year of the Arts, Guilford



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Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu will headline next year's Bryan speakers

President Kent Chabotar came up with a theme after he had seen the speakers.

Next year Chabotar is choosing speakers, with the input of some faculty and staff, for

their abilities to contribute to a central theme.

"Gorbachev is a really tough act to follow," Chabotar said, "so we knew we wanted at least one person who was very well known and who fit within the theme."

That person was Desmond Tutu.

Tutu is Archbishop Emeritus and Dean of the Anglican Church in Cape Town, South Africa. For battling apartheid, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Tutu was the first black dean of St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral in Johannesburg, the first black bishop in Johannesburg, and the first black archbishop of Cape Town.

President Nelson Mandela appointed Tutu the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The group investigates crimes of apartheid in South Africa.

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Sodexho and Follett employees gain benefits

Caitlin Adams

Staff Writer

Sodexho and Follett full-time employees at Guilford will gain tuition remission benefits for themselves, dependents and spouses. President Kent Chabotar announced these benefits, which will closely mirror those that Guilford employees currently receive.

"This is my idea. Believe it or not I have an original idea," said Chabotar.

Chabotar thought of this in early Nov., shortly after the strategic plan passed.

Goal five in the strategic plan is community. Giving tuition remission benefits to Sodexho and Follett employees will, ideally, add a greater sense of community between them and the rest of the Guilford community.

Additionally, out-source employees will receive access to the library and athletic facilities.

"The President is trying to

weave the strategic plan into things that he could easily make happen here on campus," said Fred Devine, Director of Human Resources.

"A dining services worker came up to me and she said her daughter was going to Guilford," said Chabotar. "She had to pay the last part of her tuition and she felt it was really too bad she had to do that because she felt as much as part of the community as anyone else, but she worked for an outside contractor."

"I did it for her," he continued. "She is such a nice person."

The tuition remission is retroactive, allowing reimbursement for the current semester for those that are eligible.

Full-time Sodexho and Follett employees must be employed for 30 days to receive these benefits for themselves, and 12 months of continuous full-time employment is necessary before their college-age dependents or

spouse are eligible. New Guilford employees follow the same guidelines.

Guilford is the only institution that provides this benefit to out-sourced Sodexho employees.

"I thought that plenty would be doing this and I wanted to copy any policies, but we couldn't find one," said Chabotar.

The Sodexho and Follett employees that take advantage of this plan will pay taxes on it. The value of the reported tuition must be claimed as taxable income to the IRS.

"According to the college's CPA (Certified Public Accountant) firm, the IRS contends that the college can provide the tuition remission benefit to non-employees on a non-discriminatory basis," said Devine. "But, non-employees cannot exclude it from their income as employees can."

Michael Watts, General Manager of Dining Services said, "I was very excited to hear

that President Chabotar was going to do this. I think it does a great deal in building the relationship, partnership and building a community."

"I have not been contacted by any bookstore or dining service employees yet about the program," said Devine. "Even if it is just one or two people it is going to be successful."

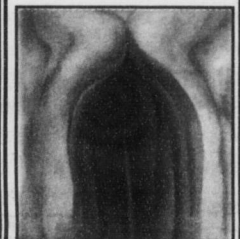
Pam Jones, six-year dining services employee, expressed interest in such benefits previous to the tuition remission announcement. In respect to her 23-year-old daughter, Jones said, "I would definitely look into that and want her to come here."

"People that work for Sodexho and the bookstore, a lot of them don't make a lot of money. It helps those that are neediest in our community," said Chabotar. "If we gain two or three good students that would not come here otherwise, that to me is pay back for this."%



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