

THE GUILFORDIAN

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CLOUD GAMBLE/GUILFORDIAN

A Sodexo chef demonstrates exhibition cooking during an open interview on Feb. 15.

3 VENDORS BID FOR DINING CONTRACT

*RFP Committee
hosts 3 open
interviews*

By Joanna Bernstein STAFF WRITER
& Deena Zaru SENIOR WRITER

Last week, as the Sodexo contract nears expiration, Guilford hosted food provider vendors Meriwether Godsey, Bon Appetit and Sodexo in the Community Center to present to students, faculty and staff their future plans for the College's dining services.

The first to present, Meriwether Godsey, emphasized their company's small size and the importance of partnership and unity among students, staff and management within each dining hall that they operate.

"The most important things to us are the people that we serve and the people that we employ," said Leslie Phillips, director of business development.

Meriwether Godsey has investigated what constitutes a living wage for people living in the Greensboro area, and they are prepared to offer their employees fair compensation.

While students were pleased to hear that the workers would be paid a living wage, the mood in the community center dampened when Jonathan Varnell, associate vice president of operations and facilities, informed students that if Meriwether Godsey (or any food provider other than Sodexo) were awarded the contract, all of the current managerial staff would lose their jobs.

Meriwether Godsey said that they would do their best to retain all of the present cafeteria staff, but legally the management cannot stay.

After speaking about employment, the company shifted to menu options and food, main focus of their presentation.

"Our professional chefs test all of the

foods on the menu," Phillips said. "We have cycle menus, but you'll never see the same food in four weeks."

The company said that their dining halls have a "fresh market" feel and offer daily vegetarian and vegan options.

Meriwether Godsey also provides their dining halls with as much local, all-natural and organic foods as possible.

As part of their "Greening Guilford" plan to be environmentally sustainable in their business practices, the company promised that all of the milk in the cafeteria will be organic, all meat and poultry will be hormone and antibiotic free, and that during growing season, at least 50 percent of all produce will come from local farms.

Sophomore Amanda Ross thought that Meriwether Godsey was vague in answering some students' questions and describing their composting practices, but she also appreciated their efforts to be sustainable.

"I liked the emphasis on local and organic options," Ross said.

Junior Jason Meisner was impressed with the company's presentation, but he was simultaneously skeptical.

"They seem to care a lot about what Guilford students want," Meisner said. "But I'm worried about diversity within the management."

The second company to present, Bon Appetit, is more than twice the size of Meriwether Godsey.

As a subsidiary of multi-national Compass Group, Bon Appetit prides itself upon having made a positive impact in their line of work as a socially and environmentally responsible corporation.

"With regards to a living wage, in our proposal we decided upon \$9 an hour for cafeteria staff," said John Engstrom, regional vice president.

"We realize that the spectrum of a living wage varies depending on location," District Manager Randy DeMers said. "And we are

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Vagina Monologues — and more!

By Jake Blumgart
SENIOR WRITER

Every Valentine's Day weekend (Feb. 14-17) Guilford recognizes the epidemic violence against women across the world by performing "The Vagina Monologues," Eve Ensler's classic episodic play exploring women's experience.

But this year, senior co-directors Kathrin Gilbert and Mary Nevin Hobgood decided to change things up. Instead of only performing

"The Vagina Monologues" for all three nights, the directors introduced a newer play, "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and a Prayer," to the program.

In contrast to "The Monologues," which is solely Ensler's work, "Memory" is compiled by dozens of diverse authors. The play attempts to tackle an equally diverse range of issues, including race, class, power, and structural violence. But the starkest contrast to the original monologues was the gender-neutral casting call.

"Part of the reason why we chose to (perform Memory) is because "The Vagina Monologues" are problematically cut and dry," Gilbert said. "The Vagina Monologues' are written by a white woman of a certain generation. For Eve Ensler's generation they are completely revolutionary, but for our generation it isn't as revolutionary as it was. The new show talks about the systems that everyone is hurt by, structures by

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No love for the ladies?

Comparing attendance at home basketball games



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