

THE GUILFORDIAN

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Guilford adjusting well to economic recession

By Joanna Bernstein
STAFF WRITER

Despite a \$2.7 million cut in the school's budget and the elimination of 20 faculty and staff positions because of the current economic downturn, President Kent Chabotar remains confident, yet cautious about future college operations.

Guilford's financial situation in the wake of the economic downturn is a mixed bag: while the school's endowment has shrunk by nearly 29% between 2007 and 2008, overall giving in terms of fundraising has increased by 92% to \$8 million since July 1, 2008.

"We're concerned (about our situation and the economy), but we're not immediately panicky," said Chabotar. "We're not seeing spring semester's effects yet because fundraising doesn't go down during an economic crisis, and government bailout money supports universities, too."

Chabotar added that the school is more concerned about next fall and the fall of 2010, because the effects of the drop in the market endowment value will not be visible until then. Thus, for the time being, the school is focusing more on its steady growth in enrollment.

While many chief economists have warned colleges about possible decreases in enrollment, applications at Guilford are up for next year. The admission office has had a specific influx of applications from Virginia and North Carolina.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, many students want to attend colleges either in or closer to their hometowns in order to save money on food, living accommodations, and transportation.

Even if traditional student

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"We're concerned (about our situation and the economy), but we're not immediately panicky."

Kent Chabotar, president



JACK SINCLAIR/GUILFORDIAN

CELEBRATING CHANGE

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ON JAN. 20, 2009, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DESCENDED ON WASHINGTON, DC, TO WATCH BARACK OBAMA TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE. ABOVE A SEA OF JUBILANT ONLOOKERS, OBAMA BECAME THE FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S.



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NASIMEH EASTON/GUILFORDIAN

Community shows solidarity for peace in Gaza

STUDENT-LED PANEL AND CANDLELIGHT VIGILS DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR SOLUTION IN WAR-TORN REGION

By Meredith Jones
STAFF WRITER

"It's called ummah," said first-year Madiha Bhatti, describing the sense of community at the Jan. 12 candlelight vigil for victims of recent political strife in the Gaza Strip.

"It's an Arabic word. It means community, the feeling that even if you don't know these people on the other side

of the world, they are your family, and it makes you sick to know that they are being hurt."

Traditionally ummah is applied only to the Islamic collective, but those who participated in the vigil represented members of many avenues of belief, all of whom stood united against violence.

Fliers and emails detailing the event took great pains to assure readers that it was "not in any way, shape, or form... political. Region and religion should have no bearing in this issue."

An issue it certainly is. The most recent CNN estimate of the death toll in the Gaza Strip places the number at 1,100. Thirteen Israelis have also been confirmed dead in the wake of the attacks. Though a tentative

cease-fire was enacted on Jan. 17, Gaza residents still have no access to outside health care, food, or water supplies.

The peace vigil officially began at 6 p.m., but participants arrived as early as 5:30, bringing candles that ranged in style from votive to scented and carved. Each new addition lined up silently beside the next, forming a line of lights that stretched down the sidewalk of Friendly Ave.

The Jan. 12 vigil was not the only event recognizing the violence in Gaza.

A student-led panel was held on Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Founders Gallery. The room filled quickly with an estimated 50 people.

Dana Hamdan, vice



CLOUD GAMBLE/GUILFORDIAN

Seniors **Sam Sklover** and **Susannah Goodman** react to a fellow student's question at the Palestinian panel on Jan. 15.

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MLK Jr. Day: a day for community

By Liz Farquhar
STAFF WRITER

"On MLK Jr. Day it's a day on, not a day off," said Jada Drew, Interim Africana Community Coordinator and Guilford alum.

Because of its Quaker heritage, Guilford College only has two holidays off aside from Christmas and Thanksgiving: Memorial Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. According to Drew, the school has had the holiday off for at least the past six years, but this year, the Career and Community Learning Center and Multicultural department devoted two weeks to commemorate King through a variety of activities.

The student turnout for the events in past years has been subpar, according to Drew, and some members of the committee worry that the holiday has become more centered around a day off, rather than a day to appreciate and engage.

"People in communities across the nation come together to do service work; that's what it's going to take to make a change is for everyone to come together, not just black or white," said Drew. "Since we get the day off professors should help send students to events as credit for class, or something so more people get involved."

James Shields, director of the Bonner center for Learning, shares Drew's view that there are not enough students

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