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NASIMEH EASTON/GUILFORDIAN

## Eight full-time faculty cut for 2009-2010

By Paula Wilder  
STAFF WRITER

Eight full-time faculty members will not have their contracts renewed for the 2009-2010 academic year. They are visiting professors who were hired with one-, two-, or three-year contracts.

These cuts will be felt by students, existing faculty, and of course the professors who will no longer have jobs.

According to Adrienne Israel, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean, all of these positions

were expected to end. Budget cuts and a decrease in enrollment size played a role in determining the number of faculty that were not renewed, but Israel stated that these were not the only factors involved in the decisions.

"The vast majority of visiting professors are on a year-to-year basis depending on whether we need those positions," said Israel. "They provide flexibility for the college and all of the faculty understand that if you are not tenured then there is always the possibility of non-

renewal."

In Fall 2008, Campus Ministry Coordinator and Friends Center Director Max Carter spoke with the budget committee about the approaching the budget cuts using Quaker principles.

"During the depression, the college faculty and staff took a one-third pay cut so the community could continue as a whole," said Carter. "In light of that, I suggested that upper-level faculty and staff take a voluntary reduction in

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## Rabbi Ben Packer speaks about Gaza crisis

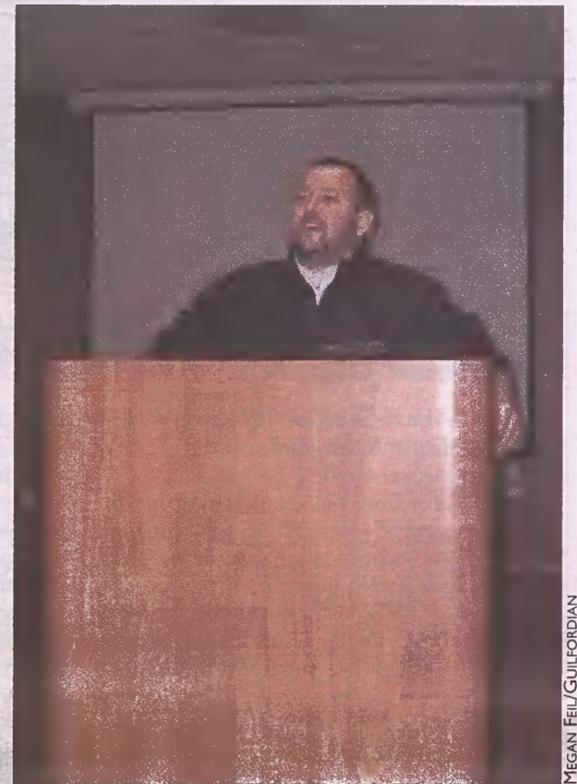
By Megan Feil  
NEWS EDITOR

In response to rising death tolls in the Gaza Strip, Hillel invited Rabbi Ben Packer to speak in the community center on Jan. 21.

"We decided to hold this discussion when our school did nothing to educate students about it," said Joseph Fox, co-president of Hillel. "Remember when the economy collapsed and Guilford had a group of top faculty from the school discuss it? I wish Guilford would have done something for this situation. The fact that it was lacking is atrocious."

Members of Hillel arranged for Rabbi Packer, who served in the Israeli army as a combat soldier in the Gaza Strip, to hold a two-part event starting with an hour-long presentation of a condensed history of Gaza. He discussed the significance of its location as a historical trade route and its earliest religious connections to the current waves of cease-fires and violence.

A group of about 60



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Rabbi Ben Packer speaks in the community center on Jan. 21. Hillel invited Packer to address Guilford students about the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

students, faculty, staff, and community members absorbed the information, though afterwards, some commented on the partisan nature of the historical account.

"I don't believe in objectivity; his telling of

the history was accurate for the most part, except he left out some specifics," said Maria Rosales, assistant professor of political science. "Some examples are exactly

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## College reports 95 percent 2008-09 persistence rate

By Deena Zaru  
SENIOR WRITER

"The national media is very concerned with retention statistics but I wish that they would pay more attention to persistence," said Aaron Fetrow, dean of students. "Yes, first-second year retention is important but the key is persistence. We don't just want to see students get to their sophomore year. We want to see them graduate."

Because retention looks at how many first-time, full-time students return for the second year, Fetrow said that persistence rates are more inclusive and therefore are more telling of how well the entire student body is functioning.

"Persistence statistics measure how many students total return from the fall semester to the spring," said Fetrow. "Persistence includes first years, sophomores, juniors, seniors and CCE students."

However, Vice President for Enrollment

and Campus Life Randy Doss said that persistence rates for CCE students are calculated separately because CCE students "generally have a lot more to worry about like jobs and families."

These circumstances are echoed in the results of the data collection.

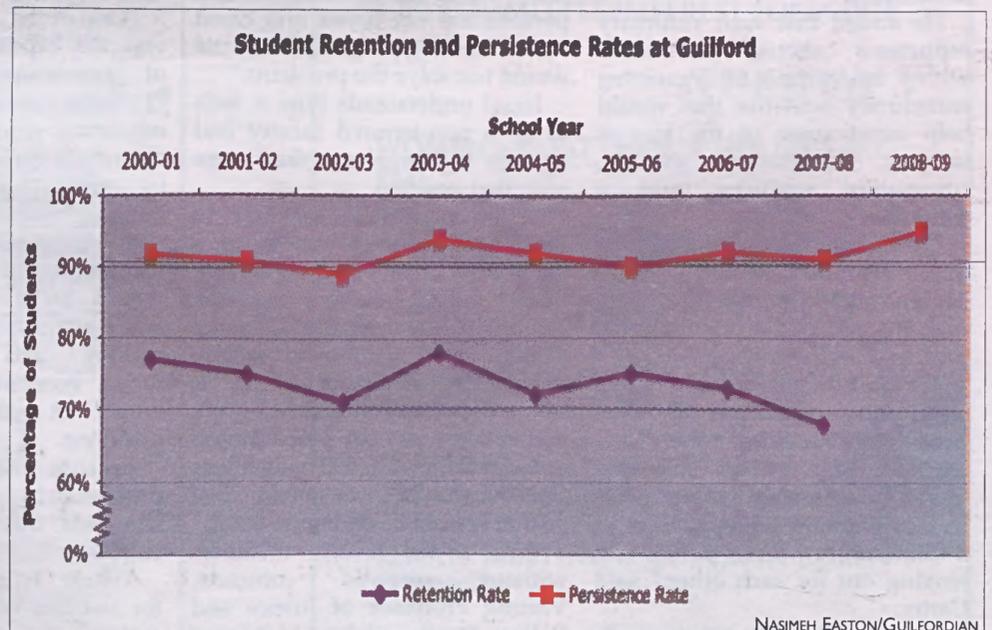
The nine-year average of traditional student persistence from fall to spring is 91 percent, while the nine-year average for CCE students is 81 percent.

In terms of retention, Doss said that since many CCE students are not first time college students and transfer to Guilford, they are rarely included in these figures.

This retention rate of 68 percent is a figure that was released Oct. 1, 2008, and measures how many of last year's first year students returned this year as sophomores.

According to Doss, persistence is calculated from Oct. 1 to Feb. 1 of every year.

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