

# Hodgin's Retreat breaks ground after long delays

Story by Pete Kostin

Photo by Cloud Gamble



Workers have broken ground at 811 Dolly Madison Road and plan to finish construction in the fall.

The Guilfordian has been covering the controversy and progress of Hodgin's Retreat, the soon-to-be-completed off-campus apartment complex, for the last two years. Finally, after multiple building delays, half a dozen Guilfordian articles and a neighborhood's personal battle with the college, workmen arrived just a few weeks ago.

At the site itself, almost every tree has been cut and stacked into ten-foot high piles. The driveway is covered in huge stones sturdy enough to support the huge backhoes, and there is a two-story mountain of dirt. All of this is visible from the Dana parking lot.

Hodgin's Retreat, when constructed, will offer a unique living situation for students. It is off campus, but only by a couple of hundred feet, and a road will connect

Hodgin's to campus via George White Road.

Some excitement circulates in response.

Sophomore Katie O'Donnell said she likes the way paying rent will be structured at Hodgin's; similar to when living in an on-campus residence, students are only financially responsible for their room. O'Donnell wants to live off campus in the future, but is concerned about finding an apartment mate who will not bail on the rent.

Another plus for sports fans is Hodgin's location next to the stadium. No doubt some students' rooms will double as box seats at a few of the more important football games in time for the fall debut.

"It will be pretty good for games because people will probably be hanging out and playing loud music," said senior Guilford lacrosse player Gates Benson, who remembers how Keiser House would

volunteer itself as a morale-enhancing jukebox for players.

However, Hodgin's has not won complete support.

Residents of Foxwood Drive took issue with the college in 2007. They formed a coalition and attempted to negotiate less intrusive options with the school. Senior Gabriela Spang, also a Foxwood Drive resident, claims the school largely overlooked their efforts.

"We have always been there for the college," said Spang. "We have even donated money, but this time we feel like the school is not being a good neighbor."

Spang described the long battle with the school as a painful one for Guilford's neighbors who will experience a change in their lifestyles.

One of the main concerns for these residents was a dramatic increase in traffic volume. Eventually the school agreed to

build a road connecting Hodgin's Retreat to George White Road (near the Dana parking lot next to Campbell house), which would take care of the congestion that Foxwood would have suffered.

However, this compromise will come at the expense of pedestrian safety on yet another quiet street: George White Road.

"The buzzword here is safety and crime," said Guilford theatre studies professor and George White Road resident Jack Zerbe. Zerbe also pointed out that the Early College headquarters is located on George White. Automobiles from 150 students will soon take to that street.

There are currently no plans to build speed bumps.

For now, some are preparing for the worst. Back at 811 Dolly Madison, a very busy site manager named Harold Starling is preparing to lay Hodgin's Retreat's first brick in February.

## FACULTY

# Cuts cause ripple effect throughout Guilford community

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salary so that no cuts would have to be made."

He added that such voluntary reductions should be made within the context of organizing community activities that would help offset some of the loss of income: community gardens, community potlucks, and a community woodpile.

Carter believes that developing this attitude would foster community and build relationships that are part of the foundational principles of the college.

"I think many people crave community as much as they need large salaries. There are ways to have a very enjoyable life without having the big bucks in a community when you are in a community where people are looking out for each other," said Carter.

Aware of the suggestions made

by Carter, Israel also shares in the concern for the individuals whose contracts were not renewed. She said, "These cuts do not mean that persons are not loved and cared for, and asking people to take cuts would not solve the problems."

Israel understands how it feels to be a non-tenured faculty and realizes the problems that come with that position.

"I am personally sensitive to the feelings that go with being a temporary faculty member," said Israel. "In 1982 I was working at the University of (Maryland) Baltimore County as a contracted faculty member with no job security. It was emotionally difficult to leave and to take a pay cut. I took the job at Guilford for \$16,000, which was \$2,000 less than I was making, just so that I could be on tenure track."

Two of the faculty members without renewed contracts, Visiting Professor of Justice and Policy Studies John Motsinger

and Visiting Associate Professor of Education Studies Nancy Yoder also understand the insecurities of temporary faculty positions.

"One of the appeals of Guilford was the expressed valued sense of community," said Yoder. "I have experienced this in education studies, so I expected the whole campus to be involved in community-wide decision-making."

She believed that as part of the community, all involved parties would be able to offer input and suggestions in decision-making and problem-solving in an economic downturn that would not result in loss of jobs or positions.

Because Yoder is one of two professors in secondary education, she feels that the students will suffer.

"There is simply too much for the one remaining person to maintain the secondary education

program, let alone grow it into a larger program," said Yoder.

Yoder's other concerns lie with severing the relationships that she has built with public high school administrators. Yoder said that these relationships are essential to placing students in the right internships and student teaching positions.

Motsinger also explained that as class schedules are planned, fewer faculty will mean fewer courses.

Junior Sam Connors has already noticed the reduction in choices. He said, "There aren't nearly as many classes to choose from this semester. I can tell that they have been cut. Usually there is an excess and I normally have a hard time choosing, but this semester I am just trying to find one."

Besides the effect the faculty cuts will have on students, Motsinger expressed personal concerns.

"What is probably the most devastating for me is access

to employment-related group health insurance, said Motsinger. "One member of my family has a pre-existing health condition that would be uninsurable or prohibitively expensive on the private, individual market."

Motsinger continued, saying, "it becomes especially hard for older people like me, almost 62, who suddenly find themselves on the job market during a time of rising unemployment and the effects of ageism on hiring decisions."

When budget cuts are made, students feel the impact, personal concerns exist, academic departments feel the crunch, and college-wide concerns abound.

Israel assures that with seven tenure-track searches continuing, the faculty will not grow weaker, but stronger. The administration is committed to the strategic plan for the college, which states a 16-1 student-teacher ratio and a class size of 20 or less.