



Professor **Robert G. Williams** speaks at Guilford's convocation on Sept. 9 about the importance of having a mentor.

ALEX MINNICK/GUILFORDIAN

Speakers advise students at convocation

By *Izak Shapiro*
STAFF WRITER

When Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter requested a moment of silence to begin Guilford's 173rd convocation on Wednesday in Dana Auditorium, the first-years squirmed.

Following Carter's brief opening, President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar and keynote speaker Voehringer Professor of Economics Robert G. Williams welcomed them.

The two professors tried to inspire their audience with lessons they felt important for the newcomers to know.

However, some students were not attentive during the speeches.

First-year Kacey Minnick said that she noticed some students texting each other and doing their homework during convocation.

"All of them," said first-year Trevor Hunter, commenting on how many of his classmates let their minds drift. "I would put money down that all of them were not paying attention."

"Good community requires respect," said Chabotar, as the word "respect" floated behind the President on the big screen.

Along with respect, Chabotar listed community, diversity, engagement, fun, positivity, and Guilfordians being good listeners as core values he associates with Guilford.

After Chabotar's address, Williams' speech focused on the importance of building student-faculty relationships.

Once acclimated to the Guilford com-

reflecting on his first year experience.

"The biggest jump in understanding comes from one-on-one with mentors," said Williams, who urged each first-year to set aside an hour to silently reflect on past mentors.

Williams' passion for the first-years to engage with the faculty stems from the relationship he had with his mentor.

Malcolm, a charismatic, tobacco-chewing cowboy, happened to have a gift for understanding animals, especially horses. Williams owned a horse that kept springing free when tied to a fence.

After weeks of patient observation, as Williams suggests the first-years do, he knew exactly when and how

to approach his soon-to-be mentor with his problem. Wait until Malcolm finished his lunch.

"I became Malcolm's sidekick," said Williams.

Williams said that it is up to each individual to take the time and the effort to build these relationships.

"I should take initiative," said Steven MacKenzie in response to how he should get the most out of his initial year. "Relationships are the key to success, and there are a lot of people in the world with information."

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Robert G. Williams, Voehringer professor of economics

munity, Williams provided the first-years with what would be his next step if he were a first-year.

"Get to know one faculty member per semester," said Williams.

Williams also emphasized the importance of communicating with professors. "When you are at an impasse, go to office hours," said Williams.

Sophomore Shanon Rule agreed with William's advice.

When you form a relationship with a faculty member, it makes the exchange of knowledge smoother," said Rule while

Senate positions still open

STAFF REPORT

This year's Community Senate elections that were to be held on Sept. 8 were cancelled. While many students expressed interest in Senate, those who petitioned for a senator position ran unopposed.

"This year there was no fall election for senators or representatives because of a fundamental change in the way Community Senate governs themselves," said Community Senate vice-president junior Trevor Corning.

Corning said that the cancellation of the election reflects a major change in Senate's electoral process.

"The lack of an election this year is a result of systemic changes and a governing body holding themselves to a higher standard," said Corning. "The past election process had sometimes resulted in uncommitted Senators, and even Senators that were unaware they were nominated in the first place."

In order to avoid this issue, this year, "any interested candidates were required to not only petition the elections committee, but also the petition required 20 signatures of peers in order to even be put on the ballot," said Community Senate secretary Hannah Kennedy, a junior.

"It was one of the many goals of the By-laws committee last year to ensure that all representatives were accountable to not only Senate but also to their constituents," added Kennedy.

According to the Senate by-laws, which govern the procedures, there was

no reason to have an election because each candidate would essentially need one vote to be elected.

The by-laws can be found on the Community Senate Web site - www.guilford.edu/senate.

In the case of positions that remain open, the by-laws explain that the Executive Council has the authority to nominate students to Senate if no interest is initially expressed for a specific position.

"We have the power to nominate candidates but we make sure that they are interested in the position," said Corning.

Many positions are still open including sophomore, junior, senior, day and transfer student representatives, Business Manager, Service Coordinating Council, Milner Hall, Shore Hall, South Apartments, and alternate housing representatives, as well as Religious, Awareness, Publications and Athletic clubs representatives.

"I am really excited to start the year off on Senate. I know we are looking for a few more spots to be filled and all are always welcome to the meetings" said first-year Samantha Huff, who obtained the position of one of the three first-year representatives.

This year there are three first-year representatives because the first-year class is larger than ever; however, Corning said that any position is able to be co-chaired.

All members of the community are welcome to weekly Senate meetings at 7:00 pm in the Founders Gallery.

VIGIL

Candlelight vigil for Sept. 11 victims

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Organizations (GCRO) delivered the opening address for the vigil. Then followed a moment of silence in memory of the Sept. 11 casualties and the innumerable others who have been affected by those events in the time since the attacks.

The silence was deep, broken only by the brassy hum of cicadas and the notes of a piano emanating from inside Founders.

Carter then prayed for Andrew Russoli, a casualty of the war in Iraq, and others held in the light other soldiers serving abroad.

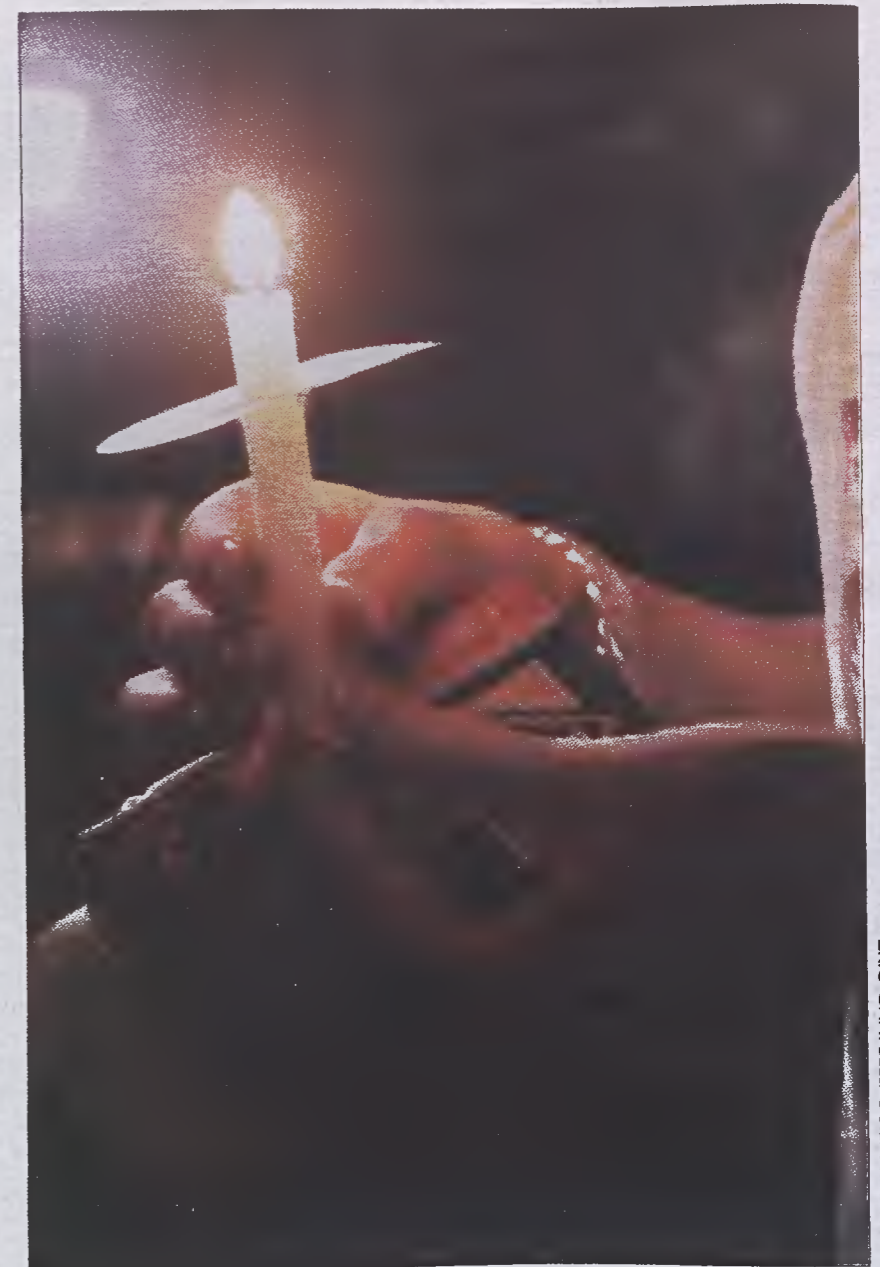
Sophomore Sarah Bentley prayed for her grandfather who has suffered psychologically from having known many victims in the towers.

They lit candles, small beads of orange light that stood in contrast to the violet-white of the lamps in the quad.

They walked in slow procession around the quad from Founders to Hege-Cox to Duke and King, then back to Founders, in a manner reminiscent of pilgrims.

Senior Varner sang "Amazing Grace," the words ringing through the night air.

Von Bodungen closed with the opening lines from the prayer of Saint Francis as a benediction, exhorting those present to go forth and be instruments of peace in the world.



Brittany Varner, senior, participates in the Sept. 11 vigil. Varner gave the opening address for the event.

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