

Lack of faculty diversity unacceptable



By Victor Lopez
STAFF WRITER

The Guilford faculty handbook lays out procedures for hiring non-white candidates during the job-search process, showing that the policy is making the correct steps to diversify the faculty. However, the reality of faculty diversity, as demonstrated in data provided by the Office of Institutional Research Assessment, is very different from the progressive goals.

Unlike larger colleges, Guilford doesn't have a department set up that is solely responsible for recruiting a racially diverse faculty. The faculty handbook says that we take a vigorous approach towards inviting professors of color to Guilford. Yet, looking at how many departments here do not have a professor of color

makes me question how vigorous our approach really is.

Recruiting lies on the shoulders of busy search committees and department heads, some of whom appear to have forgotten that the diversity of the Guilford faculty should be made paramount during the hiring process. The priority to fill the position in a timely manner may outweigh the priority of finding a successful non-white candidate.

This can be made more difficult because in certain fields of study there are fewer non-white job candidates than there are in others. The size of the pool of non-white applicants varies according to academic discipline, and sometimes it is more difficult for certain departments to recruit faculty of color than it is for others.

Guilford's faculty needs to be as diverse as the students. Simply inviting racially diverse applicants without such diversity being reflected in the actual faculty hints at a process that might unconsciously privilege white candidates.

At Guilford we see some diverse

faces in some of our classrooms, yet there are departments without any professors of color — that is a reprehensible example of selective hiring.

In order to teach diversity, we must have a diverse faculty who will teach history and other subjects from many different cultural perspectives.

Having diverse professors from many culturally different backgrounds is central to our education. Face-to-face interaction with faculty members who come from different cultural, economic, and racial backgrounds will challenge some of our unexamined notions of how the world operates.

A racially diverse mix of professors is an educational benefit that serves our entire academic community and will help prepare Guilford students to develop informed, constructive leadership roles in the world.

We claim diversity as one of our core values and weave it into the marketing of our college, but some of our actions on campus are a long way from promoting it.

Rebuilding Haiti, one broadcast at a time



By Liz Farquhar
STAFF WRITER

The international community has provided Haiti with as much humanitarian aid as possible in the past weeks following the devastating earthquake that took place a month ago, but there is plenty of aid that the outside community cannot offer.

The Haitian people should be admired for their strength. The entire country is desolate and the bulk of media focus has, understandably, been on the destruction of the country and the international aid that it has received, but the survivors have also been helping themselves in ways that the international community cannot.

The citizens of Haiti have used the radio to band together and have provided a fundamental foundation of support and comfort for each other.

"One of the most important functions of radio is in building connections between people within a community. It's a way to spread information and spread comfort," WQFS advisor Jonathan Hatch said. "I think that in a situation like Haiti right now ... radio can bring people together, bring people hope, and remind people that life will get better again."

According to slate.com, the radio stations have been communicating important information to the pub-

lic. The news director of Radio Metropole, Wendell Theodore, has been broadcasting aid distribution sites and the names of people still unaccounted for. He has been broadcasting all of this information from under a tree in what once was the radio station's yard.

Theodore's house was also destroyed in the earthquake, but it seems he has not given up hope for himself or his fellow Haitians.

This is just one example of how the people have relied on each other, and on the radio, for support.

The radio stations in Haiti have long operated through hardship with the dictatorships that have been such a prevalent force, but when the earthquake reduced most buildings to rubble and left many Haitians homeless, new challenges presented themselves to the radio stations.

Because of low literacy rates and a lack of newspaper availability, the radio has always played an important role in Haiti. This past month, the radio has embraced a new level of significance.

"People come here to send messages to their relatives that they are OK or to have people call to say that they are OK," director of Port-au-Prince's RFM radio Rotchild Francois said in an interview with Slate. "We do that every day."

In the United States, the radio may seem like nothing more than air space filled with music, commercials and bad talk shows, but the United States has a completely different political climate than Haiti. The radio in Haiti has provided the population with educational opportunities and enabled them to exercise freedom of speech through any venue.

Many Haitian citizens have lost their safety and shelter, but they are still fighting to regain their security through any means, whether it is through the radio or just through communication with one another.

BLACK AFTER OBAMA

Our reactionary society and the fall of Haiti



By Grady Gamble
GUEST WRITER

In reaction to the recent crippling 7.0 earthquake, the world has begun a global mission to help relieve the peoples of our first black republic. Understanding the catastrophe, many of us have offered our food, water, clothing, households, and other resources. These survival efforts, while extremely considerate and necessary, will arrive far too late to revive 8,300,000 resilient yet devastated Haitians.

Today, we live in a reactionary society where we wait for some sort of natural disaster to happen before we lend our helping hand. A similar example was seen during Hurricane Katrina when the people of New Orleans sat helplessly in their homes as the levees, which government officials were well aware needed to be repaired, crumbled to the ground.

For years, we have been aware of Haiti's vulnerability and simply turned the other cheek. Now, in the wake of a natural disaster, it seems as if Haiti can't get enough attention.

Before this earthquake hit Haiti, the home of the only successful slave revolt in the Americas, the Haitian peoples were in a state of extreme poverty. In 2008, the World Bank reported that Haiti was one of the five poorest countries in the world, and the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Over 80 percent of the Haitian population lives under the poverty line, and the unemployment rate is estimated to be nearly 90 percent.

Additionally, less than 45 percent have access to potable water, the life expectancy is only 53 years, 76 percent of children under the age of five are underweight or suffer from stunted growth, and 63 percent of all Haitians are malnourished.

The primary cause of the first black republic's desolation is rooted in greed and power. After gaining its independence from French colonists in 1804, the Haitian economy was crippled by an international boycott. Many European nations believed that a free-black nation was a bad precedent to set for other slave communities. In 1838, while attempting to be recognized by France and the European nations, the Haitian government was forced to pay a debt of 150 million francs plus interest for the lands of former-slave owners which were acquired in the revolution.

On top of these major setbacks for the Haitian economy, from 1915-1938, the U.S. Marines occupied the lands, controlled the revenue and banks, and completely disrespected the 1804 Haitian Constitution, which said that no foreigners could own land in Haiti.

The United States further contributed to the oppression of the Haitian people by giving comfortable aid packages to oppressive rulers, which, in turn, secured the United States' military dominance in that region. The behavior of the global community and of Haitian rulers has, in many ways, stripped Haiti of its wealth and enabled the country to maintain its misery.

Our approach to providing aid and assistance needs to widen and change. Our global mission should not only be to relieve Haiti from the damages caused by the earthquake, but, like President Obama said, to "act on behalf of our common humanity." Acting on behalf of our common humanity means empowering the Haitian community to achieve greatness that extends beyond providing immediate relief, and aiming to get the first black republic back on its feet, restoring true strength and justice to Haiti.