

BUDGET

Budget crisis and financial deficit make their way to campus

Extra Information:

In-state enrollment is ahead of last year's for traditional first-year students. Enrollment from several out-of-state markets, particularly the Northeast, is behind.

The College anticipates \$1.1 million in instructional cost savings for FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14.

A campaign is launched to raise \$1 million for student financial aid in next two academic years.

Labor and operating budget reductions totaling \$2 million over next two years have been developed by the senior staff.

The current \$3 million Founders Hall project, funded by a gift from McMichael Family Foundation and other gifts.

A one-time reduction in contributions to retirement benefits may occur.

To partly offset sacrifices, Guilford plans to take part of projected surplus for current FY 2011-12 and award all full-time and part-time employees one-time bonuses.

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said Bursavich.

Recognizing the impact the financial aid cuts would have on students, Guilford devised a plan to raise over \$1 million within the next two academic years to replace it.

Administrators have had to lay off some staff and may have to lay off more during the two-year period.

Sophomore Eddie Praley, a business major, recently shared his thoughts about the budget cuts.

"I haven't seen any dramatic effects besides paying an arm and a leg for tuition," said Praley.

Some like senior Taylor Teodosio, a business major, question how administrators could remodel Founders Hall while letting go of staff.

The money for the renovation was provided by a \$3 million gift from private donors and was thus outside the regular budget stream.

Tom Palombo, athletic director and head men's basketball coach, said that his

department is dealing with the budget cuts by making economical equipment and travel purchases and buying items in bulk.

"We are trying our best to have the least direct impact on the students," Palombo said.

Even though the worse case scenario seems daunting, Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter shares some words of encouragement on this issue.

"My constant mantra is that 'we've been through worse,'" said Carter in an email interview.

"The Civil War; two different times when the Board of Trustees voted to close the school; the Great Depression; first-year enrollments in the 230s (not that long ago!). We've always managed to make it through."

Whether students will be able to see the changes made and the effect that the budget had on campus is currently indeterminable.

At the end of the day, administrators assure the community they are making their decisions carefully and keeping the students in mind.

"It is all about the students," said Bursavich.

Fullbright program honors Guilford's Jeremy Rinker

BY NATALIE SUTTON
STAFF WRITER

Dinner is served! And it's a big ol' slice of Indian culture.

Jeremy Rinker, visiting assistant peace and conflict studies professor, will venture to Banaras, India in the spring to teach and conduct research at Banaras Hindu University.

This life-changing opportunity is funded by a grant from the U.S. government exchange program, the Fulbright Program. Rinker is one of 1,100 professors accepted into this highly competitive program.

During the four to six months he is abroad, Rinker will learn more about the relationship between religion, marginalized groups and communal tensions in the area.

"Banaras is a very holy city for Hindus," said Rinker. "Part of my research while I'm there is going to be around religion in a place that's thought of as a Hindu city, but is actually 20-25% Muslim ... (and) looking at how (Banaras) has maintained a relative zone of peace between these Hindus and Muslims, when other cities with similar demographics haven't."

Rinker's former student Ben Heide '12, thinks that Rinker's work while abroad could help create more peaceful ways of dealing with conflict in that area.

"In India, you have direct conflict between Hindus and Muslims," said Heide. "Peace between these two cultures is really important, and the more you understand why the other person is doing something, the better you can approach them. So his work is very much needed."

Another of Rinker's students, senior Abdulrahman Al-Turki, thinks Rinker's extensive knowledge and passion for this part of the world will be an important part of the journey.

"(Rinker) is very familiar with and has a great deal of interest in the region," said Al-Turki. "I think he is a great teacher and a very active learner."

Fellow Peace and Conflict Studies Professor Amal Khoury is excited for how this experience will enhance the Peace and Conflict Studies program and Guilford as a whole.

"I am sure that (Rinker) can bring a lot back to

Guilford — both to the larger Guilford community as well as to his classes — from his experience in India next semester," Khoury said in an email interview. "(He) will incorporate aspects of his experience into his courses, share his research and cultural experiences with the Guilford community, and will definitely make new connections that will benefit Guilford."

Rinker's classes will focus on religion and conflict. He also plans to lead conflict resolution trainings and workshops.

"I'm hoping these workshops will kind of legitimize the work of peace and conflict studies, where in a traditional education system ... it is not always seen as a core discipline," Rinker said.

This will be his fifth time to India and second time to Banaras.

In the spring, he plans to work with a number of nonprofit organizations and nongovernmental organizations to better understand how globalization has affected marginalized communities, and the role of religion in keeping a relative peace.

"I use the term 'relative peace' because it isn't as if Banaras has been immune from bomb blasts and communal violence ... but they haven't risen to the level of being a trigger event for larger communal disorder and riots," said Rinker. "In other parts of India, when these things happen, it tends to have more shock waves of repercussion. That's what I'm interested in. Why is it that Banaras has been a relative zone of peace and those ripples of communal violence haven't happened?"

Rinker hopes that his experience and abroad experiences like this can help lead to a more cross-culturally understanding society.

"I think bringing back the geographical literacy that our students — and Americans in general lack — is a really positive outcome if we can get people to realize that people's lives in different parts of the world are a whole lot different than ours," Rinker said. "That's part of what liberal arts education is about I guess, but I'm not sure that Guilford, or anywhere else in this country, does that very well. ... A lot of people don't ever really think outside the box of the United States."

While some Americans might feel trapped in this so-called box, Rinker is certainly not one of them.

Andrea Tantaros



Thursday, September 13, 2012

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Bryan Jr. Auditorium

Frank Family Science Center

