



VIEWPOINT



David Hood '84 has been re-elected president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a certified public accountant in Raleigh, N.C. He and his wife, Pam, have two daughters, Morgan, 8, and Kathryn, 5. David earned a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Guilford. As a soccer player, he was an Academic All-American, recipient of the Nereus C. English Athletic Leadership Award and an NAIA District Player of the Year.

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By David Hood '84

This has been an exciting year for Guilford College.

In the past 12 months, we reached and surpassed a seemingly unattainable goal of \$50 million in the **Our Time in History** capital campaign. We saluted Don McNemar as he concluded six years of service as president. We rejoiced in the prospect of future leadership in the hands of Kent Chabotar, Guilford’s eighth president. Overall enrollment increased for the second straight year, and our adult education program continued to grow rapidly. What a great time to be involved with our alma mater.

For me, Guilford is a family affair. My aunt, **Hazel Key '44 Schoonmaker** started the tradition. My sister **Kate '76** and brother **Jim '79** also graduated from the college (two other siblings missed the boat). Kate and Jim work at Guilford in the library and the classroom, respective-

ly, and my mother lives just two miles down the road from the college. It is natural for me to feel connected to the college through family. However, I found my initial reconnection after graduation through the sport of soccer, which I thoroughly enjoyed during my four years as a student. I got reconnected by being nominated to the college’s Sports Hall of Fame, an honor indeed.

Coming back to campus for the Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 1996 brought back the fond memories of Guilford. I started attending college gatherings in the Raleigh area, where I live, and at one of those gatherings someone asked if I would like to be on the alumni board. I agreed to serve, and after the first couple of meetings I began to get involved — dare I say, inspired. I have now been president of the alumni board for almost a year. My dear wife reminded me how much Guilford is a

part of our lives when she observed, “our children see Guilford shirts, Guilford hats, Guilford sweatshirts, Guilford umbrellas—they probably don’t even know I went to Carolina.”

My Guilford education means so much to me. The professors really wanted to help me learn and grow. They not only taught me skills, but also how to learn, to challenge myself and continue learning. The small class size required group participation from all students, a skill I now use in board-room presentations. A seemingly trivial item such as calling Guilford professors by their first names instead of their titles helps me to feel as comfortable talking to a CEO as a member of our maintenance crew today.

As a certified public accountant for Ernst & Young — one of the Big 5 accounting firms — I have seen my industry tremble in the wake of the Enron debacle. We accountants who used to linger in the shadows have been thrust into the spotlight. Integrity and values, like those taught and learned at Guilford, are more critically important to success in my chosen profession now than ever before.

I have been a member of the alumni board for four years. As president, I have spoken about our plan to reconnect with college alumni by increasing the number and frequency of alumni gatherings, combining homecoming, reunion and family weekends and making the alumni directory available on the Internet. We have solicited your feedback through our alumni survey

and are truly committed to doing the best job we can of representing your interests in the life of the college.

The Guilford connection came to me via sports and family. How will it come to you? I strongly encourage you to get reconnected. If sports and family don’t connect you to the college the way they did for me, there are many other ways of getting involved:

- Attend Family/Homecoming/ Reunion Weekend September 20-22;
- Attend an alumni gathering in your area;
- Volunteer for a phonathon;
- Call one of your fellow alumni out of the blue;
- Recommend Guilford to a sophomore or junior in high school (or his/her parents);
- Call Leslie Carter, director of alumni and family relations, at 336-316-2333 or e-mail lcarter@guilford.edu;
- Volunteer to serve on the alumni board.

This is an extremely important time in the life of OUR college and a great time to be involved. We need your participation both personally and financially (**Our Time in History** continues through Dec. 31 of this year).

Please let me know if there is any way I can help you get re-connected with Guilford. It has certainly been a rewarding experience for me. I can be reached by email at DavidHood1@cs.com.

Get involved. You’ll be glad you did.



Letters to the Editor

The Guilford College experience extends beyond the campus and actively involves a community of alumni, families and friends. The college desires to give its various constituencies a voice, especially when the opinion of one represents a broader group. We welcome letters to the editor on topics relevant to the college that are important to you.

When you submit a letter for publication, please sign (unless you are using e-mail or computer fax) and include your address and daytime telephone number. If you are submitting a written letter, please print your name as you wish it to appear. If you are an alumni of Guilford, please indicate your year of graduation.

Letters should typically address a single idea and not exceed 150 words. We reserve the right to edit for brevity, grammar and clarity.

Deadline for letters for the Fall 2002 issue is July 30.

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