

Members of the Young Alumni Leadership Program joined President Chabotar for a year-end dinner at the Greensboro Country Club in April. L-R: Christin Gulick '04, Amy Wallas '04, Ivan Mihailov '04, Ricky Gandhi '04, Melissa Robshaw '04, Lindsey Gallagher '04, Kathryn Holmes '04, Elena Nechiporenko '04, Amy Allgire '04 and Kelly Keegan '04.

## YALP



BOB CAVIN

## Alumni Exchange Seeks to Share Information, Ideas and Contacts

A task force led by **Brennan Keene '91** is developing the "Guilford Alumni Exchange," which will facilitate the sharing of information, ideas and contacts and help alumni find employment, especially in jobs creating social change. The initiative builds on a report about alumni networking by **Dana Powell '96**.

The goals of the task force are to create business contacts and cross-marketing opportunities within the alumni

community as well as connections to jobs and internships. "These are lofty goals that will require a lot of work, and the task force decided at its last meeting to start with a solid foundation and build toward the goals over time," Keene said.

The task force plans two approaches. The first is to use the existing database of alumni information to develop a searchable database available to all

alumni. The second is to identify and cultivate key contact people who will serve as resources for alumni.

The contact people may also provide career advice and referrals for alumni and serve as resources for the Career and Community Learning Center, which is helping develop the network.

If you are interested in helping build the Alumni Exchange, call 336-316-2321 or e-mail [alumni@guilford.edu](mailto:alumni@guilford.edu).

## Nominations for Alumni Board Membership Solicited

The Alumni Board's Nominations and Awards Committee is accepting nominations for board membership. A nominee should have demonstrated involvement, support and commitment to Guilford and the Alumni Association.

A new member begins a three-year term with the board retreat and agrees to:

- Attend and participate in all scheduled board meetings. The fall meeting will be during Homecoming Weekend, the winter meeting in mid-January and the board retreat in June.
- Serve actively on board and association committees. Committee meetings

are held in conjunction with board meetings and at other times. E-mail communication is broadly used by the board and is essential.

- Contribute financially to the Guilford Fund. Board members are expected to set an example of leadership by being a current donor. We are proud of the board's 100-percent participation in the fund.
- Represent the college and Alumni Association in your community. This may involve talking with prospective students, meeting with other alumni, attending local alumni events and more.

- Assist the college and Alumni Association in identifying, cultivating and involving alumni in areas such as student recruitment, mentoring and internships, leadership and financial support.

- Work closely with staff toward fulfilling the objectives of the association.

Nominations for the board, including self-nominations, may be submitted by mailing a letter of recommendation or by filling out the form on the Alumni Relations Web page, [www.guilford.edu/alumni](http://www.guilford.edu/alumni).

For more information, call 336-316-2321 or e-mail [alumni@guilford.edu](mailto:alumni@guilford.edu).

## Karrie Opaleski Joins Alumni Relations Staff as Assistant Director

Karrie Manson Opaleski '82 was appointed to the position of assistant director of alumni relations in May, joining Jonna A. Yarbrough in a new job-sharing arrangement. In part-time roles, Opaleski will focus on alumni stewardship while Yarbrough will concentrate on events planning. Yarbrough was full-time assistant director during the 2003-04 academic year.



"Karrie has a passion for Guilford and an enthusiasm for alumni relations," said Jerry Harrelson '72, director of alumni relations. "She is a second-generation graduate, following her father, Joseph Fletcher Manson '52, and brings superb communications skills to our operation. She has served on the Alumni Board and most recently volunteered in our Office of Admission with prospective students and their parents."

"Jonna has a wealth of event management experience," Harrelson added. "Her knowledge in the realm of event planning brings a very high level of expertise to our office as we design and implement homecoming and many other

events for our alumni."

Opaleski will continue the development of regional alumni councils and other stewardship efforts to foster relationships and improving levels of participation by alumni. In addition to homecoming, Yarbrough will help plan reunions, gatherings and Alumni Board retreats and lead the design and development of an emerging alumni communications plan.

Opaleski, a resident of Greensboro, earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies at Guilford and a master's degree in counseling and student personnel services and a gerontology certification at Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey). She was a staff therapist with the Penn Council for Relationships in Philadelphia, Pa., and in private practice with McKenna and Associates. She attends New Garden Friends Meeting and is an executive board member at Sternberger Elementary School.

Yarbrough, who is also a resident of Greensboro, left her full-time position at Guilford in March to work part time with Sterling Events Company.

## Two-Way Communications Being Enhanced

The Alumni Association's Communications and Outreach Committee is keenly interested in ensuring that sharing of alumni news is not limited to outbound communications from the college.

Two-way communication was enhanced when the *Alumni Beacon* was launched in February. This monthly e-newsletter is available to alumni and other interested persons, and if you haven't received your copy it's because we don't know how to reach you. Please visit [www.guilford.edu/alumni](http://www.guilford.edu/alumni) and subscribe by completing the online form.

We need help with class notes. By the time you read this article, you've probably already checked the notes in the back of the magazine. At an alumni gathering, one of the first things you want to know is, "What have you heard from (fill in a name)?"

Being graduates of a Quaker institution, we tend to be too modest and not talk about ourselves. But your classmates

and friends want to hear from you, and the Alumni Association wants to facilitate that process. New baby? New job? New hobby? New spouse? The process for submitting your news is really easy. The alumni Web page has an online form for updating your information and contributing a class note right away – before you forget about it.

Over the next few months the Alumni Association will collect feedback through informal surveys that will enable it to compile a database of issues that are important to the alumni community. It takes only a couple of minutes to complete each survey, and at the conclusion you can view a summary to see how your responses stack up against those of other alumni.

The *Beacon*, class notes and surveys are important ways we are enhancing two-way communication, and we thank you in advance for your participation.

— Steve Taylor '75

## Gabriel, French Named to Alumni Board

Shawan Gabriel '00 and Kristi Ballard '95 French have been named to three-year terms on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Gabriel, a resident of High Point, N.C., is program director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Piedmont and is completing a master of public administration degree at High Point University. He majored in political science at Guilford and served as Community Senate president in 1999-00. He is married to the former Keisha Scales '01, and they have a daughter, Saniya Margaret.

French lives in Charlotte, N.C., and is coordinator of human resources for Carolina's Healthcare System's New Graduate Center for Nursing and Allied Health. Previously, she was director of admissions for Southern College in Orlando, Fla. She is married to Tracey French '93.

The Alumni Board has 39 members, including five life members. Serving her first term as president is Esther Hall '74 of Raleigh, N.C.

## Order Your Guilford License Tags and Graduate Walk Bricks

The Alumni Office is accepting reservations

for Guilford license tags and graduate walk bricks. For more information, visit the Alumni Relations page on the Web site at [www.guilford.edu/alumni](http://www.guilford.edu/alumni).



Subscribe to the *Alumni Beacon*: [www.guilford.edu/alumni](http://www.guilford.edu/alumni).