



## VIEWPOINT



**Ellen P. Hamrick '78** is an attorney in Richmond, Va., where she lives with her husband, Spence '80, son, Spencer, 13, and daughter, Abigail, 11. She was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2000, was named chair of the presidential search committee in September 2001 and has been a member of the Alumni Board and Board of Visitors.

As a student at Guilford she majored in political science, was a Dana Scholar, vice president of Community Senate and a dorm coordinator and counselor. She graduated from UNC Chapel Hill law school.

Hamrick's family ties to Guilford run deep, as her father, Henry Pollock '48, her mother, Betty Jean Thompson Pollock '48, and her brother, Dan '77, are alumni, as are many of her aunts and uncles.

*"...as this search process unfolded I was quickly and continuously reminded of how special a place my alma mater has always been and will continue to be."*

Guilford College is in search of a new president, and as a member of the Board of Trustees, I have been asked to lead the selection process as chair of the presidential search committee. The committee, consisting of 13 women and men, has been charged with presenting three to five final candidates to the trustees by March 23. There is a lot of work to be done between now and then.

### **The Search Process**

The board has retained the services of R. H. Perry & Associates, an experienced search counsel to higher education headquartered in Washington, D.C. They have helped organize our search process, develop a position description (in higher education it is called an executive search profile) and solicit and collect completed applications for committee review. Their guidance throughout the process will be invaluable to the committee members.

It is evident that the principals in this firm have many contacts in the small, liberal arts college community throughout the United States. Hopefully, those contacts, as well as the many leads given to search counsel by friends of the college, will produce several viable candidates for the position. Candidate confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process. Only the identities and qualifications of the candidates invited to interview on Guilford's campus will be made public.

The information technology staff at the college has developed a presidential search page on the college's Web site.

You can view that information, which will be updated as needed, at [www.guilford.edu/president/](http://www.guilford.edu/president/).

### **The Candidate Profile**

One could become a very nervous person if he or she dwells too long on the amount of responsibility that rests on the shoulders of the search committee. Guilford, like many other small colleges, has had to face enrollment, physical plant and fiscal challenges in the past few years and will continue to do so in future years. Thankfully, the college has an exceptional team of executives and faculty who are up to speed on these challenges and are finding creative ways to meet them.

William A. Weary of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, who spoke to the trustees about the search process in September, reported that one out of every two to three private colleges and universities could be out of business within the next 10 years. For me, this statistic means that the next presidential appointment at Guilford will be a key one. I truly believe that the college's many special offerings require that it be one of the survivors. I also believe the other members of the search committee share this view and have made a similar commitment to help find the person who will ably lead Guilford well into the 21st century.

The executive search profile is the product of input from many parts of the college community and the hard work of trustees **Martha Summerville '76** and Alan Hunt, faculty member

Richie Zweigenhaft and our search counsel. During the drafting process it became clear that, this time around, the college community would be very open to considering candidates who are not Quakers but who understand and are committed to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends and embody those principles and practices in their actions. The acceptance of applications from non-Quakers is specifically stated in the search profile.

In addition, the wording of the search profile has opened this search to nontraditional candidates (people who have not had a career in education) who understand and appreciate the nature of the academic world and the special issues associated with higher education. For example, Guilford's next president could be a female, non-Quaker, who has successfully served as an executive in a Fortune 500 company for 20 years during which time she took a three-year sabbatical to serve in the Peace Corps and actively served as a trustee of a liberal arts university for 10 years. Imagine that.

### **A Special Community**

I am one of the newer members of the Board of Trustees. In the chaos of maintaining some semblance of a law practice, raising two children and relocating out of state, I must admit that I had not maintained close contact with Guilford for several years. But as this search process unfolded, I was quickly and continuously reminded of how special a place my alma mater has always been and will continue to be.

I was reminded of the strong sense of loyalty and undying love that community

members have for the institution in the fact that every person I approached about serving on the committee agreed to actively participate in what guarantees to be a time-consuming and intense decision-making process. They will each spend untold hours in search of Guilford's next president. Knowing this, they each communicated to me their desire to be an integral part of this momentous process. In addition, many people who care deeply about Guilford met with search counsel early in the process to talk about the college and its strengths and weaknesses. These people were open, honest and constructive in their comments, resulting in a search profile that clearly outlines where Guilford has been, where it is going and who is needed to take it there.

The search profile drafting process reminded me of the inclusiveness for which Guilford has always strived. Comments on the profile were sought from all parts of the community and many, including me, availed themselves of the opportunity to weigh in on the position description. Thoughtful consideration was given to every comment. Our search counsel noted that this welcoming of and respect for all perspectives is not typical of many organizations. While the process works well for us sometimes and not so well other times, the fact that we try makes Guilford a special place to work, teach, study and lead.

The search has begun in earnest and only time will reveal the level of its success. However, I can promise you one thing now — that the trustees and the presidential search committee will do their best to find a very special person for Guilford's next president. That's exactly what the college needs and deserves.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Editor:**

**Having just returned from Alumni Weekend only last night, I would like to make some comments on curriculum, regarding the need for all Guilford students of all majors, to acquire a very broad education, especially in science.**

**While science is in greatest need, I am quick to list the other important requirements also: English, sociology, history, philosophy and economics. The existing 'pick and choose' system leaves critical voids in the student's knowledge.**

**There should be at least a year of science for the non-science major that would include studies in biology, physics and chemistry. To be more specific, these courses should familiarize the student with the general laws of motion, the effects of temperature and pressure, changes in states of matter, solubility, principles of hydraulics/buoyancy, principles of optics, wave propagation, atomic structure, nuclear energy, elementary chemical reactions, acoustics, light propagation and biology.**

**Every student should learn the basic arithmetic of fractions/decimal equivalents, proportionality, and simple algebra. All this should emphasize a general understanding of science and math. Every aspect of this general course should be directed toward not intimidating non-science majors. Grading should be compassionate and lenient.**

**Just as in the old core curriculum, a major in any one of these various subjects would exempt that student from taking a general curriculum course whenever that course was duplicated by his major.**

**Frank Laraway '56  
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation '60  
University of Michigan '63  
Fairhope, Ala.**

### **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 alumnus 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.**

**Deadlines for letters for the Summer 2002 issue is March 30.**

**Send letters by e-mail or mail to: Ty\_Buckner@guilford.edu  
Fax to: 336-316-2939; or mail to Guilford College Magazine, College Relations, Guilford College, 5800 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, N.C. 27410.**