

GUILFORD COLLEGE

BACCALAUREATE

Friday, May 8, 2026
11 AM

Dana Auditorium

Baccalaureate is an interfaith gathering to mark the end of your time at Guilford, giving time for reflection on our spiritual journey together as a community and celebrating graduates who are taking their light out into the world.

Guilford College is a multifaith campus community, with students, staff, and faculty representing a plurality of religious and spiritual experiences and perspectives, including people of conscience and others who do not identify with a particular religious tradition. We celebrate our religious diversity and see it as an asset to the mission of the College and an outgrowth of Quaker commitments.

The Friends Center is tasked with the responsibilities of nurturing the spiritual vitality of the College, holding up the living tradition of Quakerism, and strengthening multifaith collaboration on campus. The Friends Center staff would like to acknowledge the hard work and support of our colleagues in the Interfaith Leadership Council. Thank you for strengthening our interfaith ministry and programming on campus.

For more about the Friends Center, visit <https://friends-center.org>.



Founded in 1837 by members of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, to provide a place for Quaker families to send their children for a Quaker education, New Garden Boarding School expanded and became Guilford College in 1888. It is the oldest co-educational college in the South and the fourth-oldest degree-granting institution in North Carolina.

The Quaker testimonies of

- Direct and Immediate Access to God/Truth
- Integrity
- Simplicity
- Equality
- Peace

are alive and well today, manifested in the College's Core Values and the Center for Principled Problem Solving, which is dedicated to making sure the Core Values of Guilford are integrated into the College's pedagogy.

BACCALAUREATE

Friday, May 8, 2026 ▪ 11 AM

Musical Prelude

Shemar Roberts '26 ▪ *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
Luke Trainor '26 ▪ *La Catedral, Movement 2* - Agustin Barrios

Welcome

C. Wess Daniels ▪ *William R. Rogers Director of Friends Center*

Student Readings and Reflections

Ella Barton-Biegelsen '26
Connor Moran '26
Alba Y. Argueta Garcia '26

Musical Performance

Liz Nicholson '12, Areli Patterson '26 and Destini Nyorkor '26
Net of Remembrance - Ahley Blakely
Peace, Salaam, Shalom - Emma's Revolution

Student Readings and Reflections

Bec Cormack '26
Melah Melton '26

Staff and Faculty Reflections

Amber Slade-Gordon ▪ *Associate Director of CAPE*
Anne Glenn ▪ *Charles A. Dana Professor of Chemistry*

Introduction of Silence

William Beardsley '26

Open Worship

*We will gather in silence for a period of expectant waiting.
Quakers believe that we all have access to the Inward Light; anyone so led may share
a message out of the silence, being sure to pause between messages.*

Benediction

C. Wess Daniels

Please join us for a Community Lunch following Baccalaureate.

*The Alumni and Friends of Guilford College has sponsored lunch for seniors and their families.
Faculty and staff will have lunch sponsored by the President's Office.*

Alba Y. Argueta Garcia (she/her) is a triple major in Accounting, Business Administration, and Education Studies. Originally from Honduras, she moved with her family to Winston-Salem, NC, at the age of two. Alba is passionate about people, service, and personal growth, and enjoys shopping, being involved in her church community, and trying new food places. She will graduate with her MBA from Guilford in August.

Ella Barton-Biegelsen (she/they) majored in Environmental Studies with a minor in Religious Studies. She treasures her time at Guilford, most of all her opportunities to study abroad in Kyoto, Japan, and study away in Ashland, OR.

William Beardsley (he/him) is a History and Religious Studies double major and a Quaker Leadership Scholar (QLSP) and Ethical Leadership Fellow (ELF) from Media, PA. At Guilford, he served as an RA and worked in the College's archives and special collections. Following graduation, he will attend Villanova University for Public History, where he plans to continue telling stories of Americans who have been intentionally hidden from our narrative and identity.

Bec Cormack (they/them) is a Music - Recording Track major and Business minor and has studied classical guitar. They have been General Manager of WQFS since 2023 and have competed on the triathlon and swim teams since their second year. Following graduation, Bec will work for the Eastern Festival of Music as an assistant stage manager, then move to Portland, OR, to complete a year of service with Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS).

Melah Melton (she/her) is a Criminal Justice major and a Philosophy and Ethical Leadership minor on the pre-law track. She worked as an Admission tour guide for three years and is a QLSP and Lettie Pate Whitehead scholar. Melah was VP of the Pre-law Society and on the board of GSBA. She will return to Albemarle, NC, and work for a law firm while studying to take the LSAT and apply to law school in 2027.

Connor Moran (he/him) is a Religious Studies major, with minors in Philosophy and CTIS. He was a member of the Honors Program, ELF, leader with Cru, and a member of Guilford Student Body Association (GSBA), Res-Ed, and Admission. After Guilford, he eagerly awaits marrying his fiancée, Abby, before settling down in Greensboro, where he will serve as a pastoral resident at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Destini Nyorkor (she/her), from Columbia, MD, is a first-gen student and will graduate as a Psychology major and Music minor. She is a Bonner and QLSP Scholar, and an officer for the College Choir. After Guilford, she plans a year of service with QVS in Boston.

Areli Patterson (she/her), from Lincolnton, NC, is a Biology major. She was a leader in various organizations on campus including Voices of Victory, Black Student Union. Areli was an RA and an ACD, Peer Mentor for three years, and is a QLSP and Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholar. Areli plans to go back to school to become a Physician Assistant.

Shemar Roberts (he/him) started as a transfer in spring of 2024. He has goals of being a music therapist and making a positive difference in the world.

Luke Trainor (he/him) is a Music major.

Anne Glenn (she/her) is Charles A. Dana Professor of Chemistry and Coordinator of the Health Sciences major. She has led study abroad programs to Japan and England, where students engaged in research in sustainable chemistry, and shadowing doctors in Spain. Anne earned a B.S. in Chemistry from NCSU and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Texas A&M. The Winston-Salem native is married to Rob Whitnell, a Chemistry professor at Guilford. They enjoy traveling, watching bad reality TV and hanging out with their cats.

Liz Nicholson '12 (she/her) is the Director of QLSP. A native of Richmond, IN, is a facilitator, Friend, musician, and activist. At Guilford, she studied Psychology and Music and dedicated early post-grad years to transformative work with QVS, then earned her Master's in Peace and Social Transformation from Earlham School of Religion.

Amber C. Slade-Gordon (LCMHCA) (she/her) is Associate Dir. of Career, Academic and Personal Exploration (CAPE). She joined Guilford in 2016 as an intern in the Career Development Center and became full-time as Assistant Dir. for Internships. Amber provides academic and career advising, leads programming and career development initiatives, and teaches first, junior, and senior year seminars, as well as career readiness courses. She has worked with student groups such as BSU, Voices of Victory, and MLSP. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from NC A&T and an M.A. in Career Counseling & Placement from NCCU. Amber is married to a Guilford alum and a proud mom of three.