

Guilford Day School Challenger

Volume 6
Issue 3



Director's Corner

A year to celebrate...a year of reflection...



Laura Mlatac
Head of School

Happy Summer! We hope this edition of the Challenger finds everyone relaxing...however you define relaxation...it is our wish for you and your family. Because of your continuous support, the School has progressed this school year in a manner in which many of us have to pinch ourselves to believe it is all true.

As I reflect back on this past school year, I become overjoyed with the progress of the school and students and ecstatic about the promises of tomorrow. We spent many occasions this school year honoring accomplishments of today, while focusing on the history of Guilford Day and reflecting on the founding mission and vision that has driven the school's success.

One of the most memorable moments of every school year is graduation where we are able to honor all our graduates as well as present a few additional awards, one being the Founders' Award. Rita Ledford and Ginger Parnell founded Guilford Day School, soon to be Noble Academy, in 1987 for the purpose of providing students with learning disabilities and/or attention deficits the opportunity to achieve their goals and attain their dreams. A quote I shared at graduation this year was from Frank A. Clark- "If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere." It is a joy to watch our students embrace life's obstacles and learn how to explore, understand, and achieve their goals and dreams. I truly appreciate your continued support and belief in Guilford Day School, soon to be Noble Academy. We are all learning dreams do come true....thank you for sharing the vision with us!

Upcoming Events

Summer Programs
June 21 - August 6
Fundraiser at REFS Restaurant
Tuesday, July 27
New Student Orientation
Monday, August 23, 4:30 p.m.
Meet Your Teachers
Monday, August 23, drop in from 5 - 7 p.m.
First Day of School
Wednesday, August 25

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Board of Trustees

Linda Hale, Board of Trustees Chair

What a memorable year for Guilford Day School, soon to be Noble Academy!

After careful consideration and input by the School community, the Board of Trustees of unanimously approved the School's new name "Noble Academy." Additionally, as part of our rebranding projects, we adopted a new logo, tagline, school colors with a similar color palette and kept our beloved mascot the "Knight." At the same time, the Board of Trustees approved moving forward with a \$2.5 million dollar capital campaign to expand both the facilities and program. Our goal is to further the mission of the School by improving our programs and becoming a greater resource for our community.

Congratulations to our graduating senior class and to their families! During their journey our seniors have been brave, loyal, caring, generous, determined and dedicated. A student at graduation best summed up his experience at Guilford Day by stating that the School had prepared him "to succeed not just in the classes but in life." All schools try to achieve this important goal and we are proud to have achieved it with our students. Our graduates are wonderful examples of what the School offers and we wish them continued success in the future.

The Board of Trustees would like to give a special thanks to Laura Mlatac, our Head of School, for her engaging enthusiasm in working with our students, staff, families and greater school community. We have been able to achieve a tremendous amount over the past year, and it has been due to her determination, concern for our students and her uncompromising vision for the School. We would also like to thank the staff for their hard work for preparing our students successfully so they can move on to their next educational opportunities. Many thanks as well to our PFA President, Mary Horan, who has been instrumental in working with our parents, and we are thrilled she will continue to be the PFA President next year.

A huge thank you to our departing board members, John Teague and Larry Coble. They have served many years and have always been very supportive of the School. Phil Warrick will also be leaving the Board after two years as Vice Chair and five years as Board Chair, but will continue to Chair the Expansion Committee over the for next year. Phil has made significant contributions to our school and we are pleased he is remaining to lead us through our expansion projects.

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Trustees, Lynn Black, Michele Shutter, Larry Moore, Rob Duetsch and Eric Gal. Billy Carr, who has served as a Trustee in the past, will return to the Board next year. When we return to school for the 2010-2011 school year, there will be much work for us to accomplish as we begin the new year as Noble Academy. In the meantime, we wish everyone a wonderful summer!



Guilford Day School art students displayed their work at an Art Show at Lyndon Street Artworks in downtown Greensboro this spring.



Intermediate students show off their Earth Day crafts. The entire school was involved in an Earth Day learning celebration.

NOBLE ACADEMY

FIGHTING WITH COURAGE EVERY DAY,
OVERCOMING BATTLES IN EVERY WAY,
WE PROUDLY LIFT OUR SONG TO THEE
OUR BELOVED NOBLE ACADEMY.

KNOWLEDGE AND POWER WE HAVE SOUGHT,
WITH VALUABLE WEAPONS WE HAVE FOUGHT;
YOU SHOWED US HOW TO WIN THE FIGHTS,
AND HOW TO BE THE NOBLE KNIGHTS.

WITH BANNER WAVING BLUE AND WHITE,
FROM YOU WE GATHER ALL OUR MIGHT.
WE MAY STUMBLE, BUT NEVER FALL,
EVER STANDING BRAVE AND TALL.

YOU HAVE TAUGHT US HOW TO STAND IN PRIDE,
OUR CONFIDENCE YOU HAVE SUPPLIED.
IN ONE HAND A SHIELD, THE OTHER A LANCE
WE NOW GO FORWARD WITH A FIGHTING CHANCE.

WE OWE SO MUCH TO YOU, OUR SCHOOL,
WHERE NOW AND FOREVER, THE KNIGHTS RULE!
THANK YOU FOR OUR VICTORY,
OUR BELOVED NOBLE ACADEMY.

written by the Class of 2010

Guilford Day School Gets a New Look and...Name!?! The Rebranding Process

Integrity...determination...spirit...dedication...loyalty...achievement...all of these words describe the heart and soul of a Guilford Day School student, the heart and soul of a Knight.



Cheerleaders perform brand new Noble Knights cheers.

At the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, the administration along with the Board of Trustees decided that Guilford Day School needed a facelift. We hired North Star Marketing to lead us through a rebranding process. As expansion looms in our near future, an updated look for the school would help broaden awareness of our “hidden treasure” within the community. North Star’s process did not begin with just coming up with a new logo and website, but with a focus group to help them learn more about our school and what is most important to its stakeholders. The focus group consisted of alumni, current parents, past parents, current board members, past board members, and staff members. Not only did North Star learn a lot about our school during this focus group, but the administration and Board did as

well. We heard our stakeholders say loud and clear that they valued the small class sizes, the intimate environment, the individual attention, the tight relationships among staff, students, and families, and the clear levels of expertise and understanding shown by the staff of each student’s learning differences. We also heard about the frustration of not being well known in the community, the frustration of being the “other GDS”. Greensboro Day School is a large, well-established, and well known educational institution in Greensboro. Our missions are different and we are not trying to compete with each other. Having the same initials as Greensboro Day School means we are often confused, and we have to clear up that confusion before enlightening someone what wonderful things we do here at Guilford Day School. The frustration was expressed by nearly every member of the focus group, and with that in mind, the decision was made to change the name of Guilford Day School. That decision was a surprise to everyone involved, but one soon to be embraced as the right decision.

At that point in the process, an online survey was made available to all members of the Guilford Day School community. The survey asked questions about the brand, the new name, the colors, the mascot, and the new tagline. The object was to find out what was so important about Guilford Day School to the stakeholders. The answers to the survey reflected many of the sentiments expressed in the focus group.

But one thing that stood out above all the rest was the sacredness of the Knight. Across the board, people felt that the Knight is such a fitting symbol for a Guilford Day School student. Students at our school embody so many knightly characteristics. With the love of the Knight in mind, the creative geniuses at North Star Marketing recommended that we keep the Knight as our mascot and started thinking of a new name for our school that would give an idea of some of the qualities our students possess. And thus they arrived at our new name...Noble Academy.



First through fifth grade students perform at the White Tent Event.



The White Tent Event - What a celebration!

Many of our students arrive at our school after going through much educational heartache. A Noble Academy student learns how to use his strengths and weaknesses to the best of his ability so that he can come to school with his head held high each day. It is not an easy road, but through hard work, determination, and the support of his teachers and family, he is able to prevail. We are not changing our identity. We are still a safe haven for students with learning differences and attention disorders to find the best education possible. We have not changed our mission statement or our core

values. We hope to carry the momentum of all the excitement surrounding the name change through our expansion project so that we become the community's number one resource regarding learning differences.

We wanted to try to include as many people as possible in spreading this exciting news. The White Tent Event was held on Monday, May 24 and was open to anyone with a connection to Guilford Day School. Dinner was provided to the variety of stakeholders attending the event. Primary and Intermediate students gave a musical performance, the cheerleaders performed brand new Noble Academy cheers, and the Class of 2010 recited a poem that they wrote, which is also featured in this newsletter. Many people were in attendance to see the unveiling of the new Noble Academy logo and tagline: "Explore. Understand. Achieve." The plans for expansion were also unveiled that night. You can read more about the expansion plans on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. Despite the impending rain, there was a great turnout for the White Tent Event. Everyone in attendance was clearly very excited to be a part of these changes. We hope you share in our excitement. Please check our website this summer to find out when the new website will be unveiled!



Board members Susan Boyd, Phil Warrick, and Dave Shives discuss the expansion project.

[Click here to read the official press release regarding the name change and expansion.](#)



NOBLE ACADEMY

EXPLORE ♦ UNDERSTAND ♦ ACHIEVE

Expansion Project

Michell Kirkpatrick, Board of Trustees



Architect's renderings of the expansion:

(on left) the "E" shaped building on the left is the current main building. The parking lot will be reworked and the new building will stand where the current mobile unit and log cabin are. There will be an added parking lot, which will have an entrance on Piermont Road.

(on right): The view of the new building. The current building will receive a facelift to match the style of the new building.

As a parent of two students who attend the school as well as a Board of Trustees member on the Expansion Committee, I can not say enough about the positive improvements that will come from the plans for expansion set forth by the Board of Trustees. Serving grades K-12, we are now close to capacity at around 150 students. Although our name change will help us overcome being Greensboro's "best kept secret", there is already no lack of interest in Guilford Day School, soon to be Noble Academy. In order to better serve our current students as well as serve more students, an expansion is necessary.

The \$2.5 million expansion will be built on the existing campus, creating space for approximately 50 more students. With an emphasis on the arts and sciences, the facilities will feature a new stage designed to accommodate drama and musical performances, state of the art technology and science labs, and available space to host more professional development opportunities for the local community. I am very excited about this facility's ability to provide more educational opportunities for our students as well as being a better resource for information on learning differences for many other families in our community.

We the parents of these exceptionally bright kids, know all too well the frustrations associated with educators who are not trained to understand our children's unique educational needs. Our new facility will allow us more space for conferences, speakers, and other professional development opportunities, to help arm parents and educators with information and tools to help them be more effective in their school's environments. We will also have room to expand our community programs.

Our current students will also benefit from the expansion. Within our small school community, we are proud to have so many amazingly talented artists and actors. The art department will be housed in the new facility, gaining more space and a new darkroom. The drama department has outgrown its space over the past 8 years. Our students will be able to develop their acting talents on a brand new stage. Our science department will also be gaining new labs in the new building.

Technology will also hold a starring role. The plans for the new building include

continued on next page

research labs and SMART Boards in every classroom. We also plan to expand our curriculum to offer a wider variety of classes, including music and life skills.

Our wonderful and caring teaching staff will also benefit from these new programs. Committees are being formed to establish relationships with our local professionals to bring information and understanding to our teachers and others on new and positive approaches to helping our children and others learn and understand more effectively.

When will all this happen? The Board of Trustees has approved a capital campaign for 2.5 million dollars and they are busy raising that money. There will be giving opportunities for all of us to participate in, at any level we are able to. The Board has said we are debt free, and they want to do this expansion without incurring any debt. There are exceptionally wonderful people in our community, who believe in what Guilford Day School, soon to be Noble Academy, has done, can do, and will do for its students now and in the future. To Those individuals that have already contributed to the capital campaign show me that their hopes and beliefs are not just words, but a commitment that stands with the school now and into its future. The capital campaign will continue with a little over half still to raise. So I guess the answer to “when will it all happen”? is: we will break ground when we have commitments and funds.

This is an exciting time for Guilford Day School, soon to be Noble Academy, a school to be proud of. For many of us parents and our children it has been a long frustrating journey. It is time for this expansion, and I sincerely hope everyone tries in some way to help this school expand and move forward.

Best Practices for Working with Students with Learning Differences

On April 16, Guilford Day School was proud to collaborate with other schools across the state who share a similar mission. We sponsored a workshop entitled “Best Practices for Students with Learning Disabilities”. The workshop was designed for independent and public school teachers, administrators, and technology specialists concerned with learning more about best practices for students who

struggle with learning differences. Along with Guilford Day School, The Hill Center and The Piedmont School also specialize in working with students with learning disabilities and attention disorders. There is a recognized need for a venue for educators concerned about students who learn differently to come together to interact and learn from each other. This workshop provided a forum for networking, sharing, and developing strategies that could be implemented in any school setting, from general education to a more specialized one. A variety of innovative technology practices were discussed, meeting the needs of “techies” and “non-techies” alike. Presenters from Guilford Day School included Hallie Rojas, “A Day in an Algebraic Thinking Classroom”, Matt Zigler “Using Free Technology to Improve School Communication” and in collaboration with Vicki Payne, “Online Learning is Easier Than You Think”, Laura Mlatac and Clare Abel, “Best Practices for Writing Instruction”, and JoAnn Caligiuri, who contributed to the counselor panel on transitioning to college. Around 125 participants attended the workshop, which was held at The Hill Center in Durham. Attendees included public and private school educators from across the state. The workshop was a success and plans are already being made to hold another one of these collaborative workshops.



Matt Zigler giving his presentation on how schools can use Google's free applications to improve communication.

CLASS OF 2010

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2010, the final graduating class of Guilford Day School!

2010 Senior Internships

by Susan Hughes, senior advisor

Every year, our seniors embark on a three-week internship in the career field of their choosing. As always, the 2010 Senior Internship program was a great success. All the seniors had a wonderful experience getting their feet wet in a field of career interest for them. Leslie Young returned to Gateway Education Center, where her advisee group did their service project last year. She worked in a classroom as well as with the Speech Pathologist. Ryan Taube revisited the Greensboro Montessori School where he was enrolled through the 7th grade, to see if he might be interested in teaching in the future. Chelsea Dye learned all aspects of veterinary medicine while interning at the Americana Animal Hospital. Charlie Allen learned his way around the pathology labs and microscopes at Moses Cone and Wesley Long Hospitals interning under the Director of Pathology there. Ben Breitenstein became a temporary “computer geek” at Box Builders, reprogramming and trouble-shooting their in-house computer system. Matt Finch became a “jack of all trades” at the YMCA, working under several different supervisors. After concluding their internships, the seniors make a presentation about their experience. Listening to the presentations, one can easily understand what a wonderful learning experience each student had, whether it helped encourage or discourage pursuit of that career.

Commencement 2010

by Clare Abel, Academic Dean

Charlie Allen, Ben Breitenstein, Chelsea Dye, Matt Finch, Ryan Taube, and Leslie Young have the distinction of being the last graduating class under the name of Guilford Day School. The six proud graduates received their diplomas from their parents. Family, friends, high school classmates, Guilford Day School staff and Board of Trustees members celebrated with the graduates at a seated dinner and ceremony June 10, 2010 at Embassy Suites

Two of the graduates, Chelsea Dye and Ryan Taube delivered “Senior Reflections” to their fellow graduates and guests. Chelsea spoke about what Guilford Day School has meant to her the past two years. Chelsea commented about how her self-esteem was at an all time low in the fall of 2008 when she arrived at GDS. She spoke about the confidence that her counselor and teachers helped instill in her and how each time she encountered a problem, someone was on hand to guide her in the right direction. Chelsea values the support she received from her friends and teachers and knows that her life would be very different if she had not transferred to Guilford Day School. Ryan’s speech centered on the steady academic gains he made since he arrived in eighth grade. Much of his success, he attributes to the cross country training he endured while in high school. His coach trained with him during the summers and helped him see that a more balanced life of academics, sports, and other extracurricular activities relieved much of the stress he experienced with his school work prior to coming to Guilford Day School. Ryan feels he is ready to become a college student thanks to the study skills he developed the last five years at Guilford Day School.



Proud graduates Charlie Allen, Ben Breitenstein, Chelsea Dye, Matt Finch, Ryan Taube, and Leslie Young show off their diplomas

Doug Long, athletic director, awarded Matt Finch the Athlete of the Year Award. Matt played soccer, ran cross country, played basketball, and played tennis for Guilford Day School.

Charlie Allen received the Longevity and Academic Excellence Award. Charlie came to Guilford Day School as a sixth grader in the fall of 2003. Charlie received the Syngenta Science Award earlier this year and was a member of the tennis team as well as one of the senior leaders of last fall's fundraiser, Walk 'N Wag.

Chelsea Dye was honored with the Founders' Award which is given to the graduating senior who makes the most progress academically and socially as well as improving leadership qualities during his/her years at Guilford Day School.

Ryan Taube received the Student of the Year Award. Not only did Ryan succeed as a cross country runner, he assisted the drama teacher daily with her intermediate drama students and excelled academically in all his classes during his high school years.

Each graduate was honored by a senior high school faculty member who "knighted" the Lords and Ladies and sent them confidently on their way to new challenges. Next year, the class of 2011 will graduate under the new name of Noble Academy; nevertheless, the dignified ceremony will remain the same-a truly memorable evening!

We are so proud of each and every one of our graduates and wish you the best of luck with all of your post-graduate plans. Please keep in touch!



2010 Graduates' Post-Graduate Plans

Charlie Allen	High Point University
Ben Breitenstein	Craven County CC to transfer to NC State
Chelsea Dye	GTCC
Matt Finch	GTCC or Davidson County CC
Ryan Taube	UNC Greensboro
Leslie Young	Forsyth Tech CC or GTCC

Alumni Spotlight

John Warrick, class of 2004

Thursday, June 3 was a monumental day for the high school drama class, marking the first time that this class had performed an original play. What made this play even more special is that it was written by a Guilford Day School alumnus: John Warrick, class of 2004. The drama department at Guilford Day School began in time for John's junior year. He was active in drama during his last two years here, then went on to major in Performing Arts at Lees McCrae College in Banner Elk, NC. John wrote *The Irish Call* specifically for Sonja Kelley's high school drama class this year. Sonja wanted her students to perform a challenging piece and asked John to write a drama. The play is about a tight Irish-English immigrant family struggling to find a way to live with dignity while mourning the death of their patriarch. John found it a struggle to write for so many actors (nine), but rose to the challenge as he completed his fifth project. This play was inspired by the recent death of one of John's mentors from his Boy Scout troop. He drew on this experience to help him feel what his characters would be feeling and to write the eulogy in the play. John was able to talk to each actor personally about what he expected in terms of characterization, and the students were able to ask him questions about their characters. According to Sonja, "It is not often an actor gets to meet the playwright, let alone talk with him or her. It is an experience they will recall and appreciate as they grow older. I was really blessed to be able to say to a former student, "Hey, can you write a serious piece with two females and seven males?" and have it come to life." John describes seeing his plays being performed as "gut-wrenching", but was delighted at the new choices the actors made regarding their characters. He plans to expand this play into a larger work while also working with Sonja to get it ready for state competition in the fall. John currently lives in Greensboro and is "preparing for various auditions with local choral and theatre companies, striving to gain some income. Three major goals are to continue my education in Playwriting at the graduate level, getting my works published, and also be an opera singer." To read the full interview with John, please [click here](#) or visit the [Challenger](#) page on our website.

Knights in DC

Patty Kiley

The seventh, eighth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students took a three-day, two-night field trip to our Nation's capital in April. These grades were included on the trip because it ties into their social studies curriculum. The social studies department hopes to take this trip every other year to give all students an opportunity to go to Washington DC. The students remained in their Junior and Senior High teams during the trip, so that the activities could be tailored to each age group.

The activities for all students included: the Natural Science Museum, the National Air and Space Museum, the Holocaust Museum, the Capital Building tour, the Arlington Cemetery, and a walk through the Mall. The Junior High students also got to experience a nighttime ghost walk while the Senior High students saw the play *Little Shop of Horrors* at Ford's Theatre and also went to the American History Museum.

The students, teachers, and parent chaperones all found the trip to be a most learned, worthwhile, and memorable event, as a trip to our Nation's capital definitely should be. The next trip is planned for the spring of 2012. Please [click here](#) to read a lighthearted account of the trip.



Matt Finch, Rob Stockard, Ben Breitenstein, Keith Isley, Dalton Collins, and Senior High teacher Adam Barrett in front of Ford's Theatre

Knights Athletics

Varsity Tennis

Coach Sterling Miller

The 2010 Varsity Tennis team consisted of seniors Charlie Allen, Ryan Taube and Matt Finch, sophomore Hayden Boyles, and freshmen Adrian Serpe and Michael Branson. The season was somewhat abbreviated because of inclement weather, but the matches we did play resulted in many of the players achieving personal bests. Sportsmanship was always a hallmark for our players, and they made their coach and their school proud with their hard work.



Tenth grader Hayden Boyles is ready to finish off his opponent



Sixth grader Paxton Gravely looks for a way around a tall defender

Junior Varsity Basketball

Coach Doug Long

The JV Basketball teams had a great year in 2010. Our 5th and 6th grade team showed great progress throughout the year. Each game was a hard-fought battle in which all of our athletes put forth utmost effort. Sixth graders Paxton Gravely, Maddie Shutter and Ben Rakestraw provided strong leadership. All in all, this was a rebuilding year for our 5th and 6th grade team, but one in which we saw tremendous growth and progress. Our 7th and 8th grade team had a tremendous undefeated championship season in 2010! Led by eighth grader Holt Brockman and seventh grader Owen Tomaszewski, our Knights dominated opponents throughout the year, rarely having a team come within 20 points. Anchored by our big men Kevin Williams, Jake Tysinger and Barnes Trevathan, our defense was outstanding all year long. A team cannot win without depth and the Knights had plenty; everyone on the roster had a valuable contribution to the season. In the championship game against B'nai

Shalom, Owen led the Knights with 22 points and the entire team played shutdown defense, earning a 44-21 victory. It is important to mention that the 7th graders on this squad have not lost a game in two years, as they were undefeated as 5th and 6th grade champions last year. We are very proud of the hard work and teamwork this group has displayed. They all are champions in the true sense of the word.

Junior Varsity Cross Country

Coach Erin Sheaks

Cross country, the final sport of the year for grades five through eight, is also the most unique. While the cross country team members do a lot for each other in terms of support and motivation, running is truly an individual sport. It takes a lot of determination to get out there and run one and a half miles. Sixteen dedicated athletes participated in JV cross country this spring. They came to every practice ready to run and desperate to improve their times. The team finished third at the conference meet, helping Guilford Day to a second place overall finish in the ISL Commissioner's Cup, which is a compilation of all the sports for the year. Seventh grader Owen Tomaszewski, eighth grader Holt Brockman, and sixth grader Adam Jones led the team with their fleet feet.



Seventh grader Jackson Fields and eighth grader Antonio Giaimo push hard towards the finish

Guilford Day School

Mission Statement

We offer students with learning differences a comprehensive educational experience in a supportive environment where they can reach their highest potential

www.guilfordday.org



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