

New Guilford Trustees Bring a Variety of Skills and Experiences to the Board

By Tracie Fellers

Three new appointees to Guilford College's Board of Trustees, all distinguished professionals in their fields, begin their terms this month: Harrison Hickman '75, Beth Voltz '91 and Suzanne Whitmeyer, parent of a current Guilford student. Their terms on the board will run through October 2024, after which they are eligible for two additional four-year terms.

Guilford's trustee board has a governing role at the College, with administrative responsibilities delegated to President Jane Fernandes and her team.

"Our newest trustees, Beth, Suzanne and Harrison, are dedicated Guilfordians who are prepared and motivated to provide board leadership for the College at this time," Jane said.

"Beth, a key volunteer for Guilford in the past, has a distinguished career as an attorney and advocate for affordable housing and child welfare. As a parent of a current student, Suzanne brings valuable experience from a number of successful business ventures and has witnessed the impact of the Guilford education. And Harrison, a graduate of the College like Beth, has a national perspective on societal trends and political processes, which will be of value to the board," she said. "Each of these new trustees is arriving at the right moment to be contributing members of a very engaged and focused group of trustees."

Harrison Hickman '75

Harrison, who grew up Wake Forest, N.C., is CEO and founder of Hickman Analytics Inc., one of the nation's top public opinion research consulting firms. He also is a member of Select Litigation LLC, a firm that provides research-based jury selection and other litigation services nationwide.

A Democratic pollster for 40 years, Harrison has worked in campaigns in all 50 states – over 400 in all – and numerous Presidential campaigns. He was named the "Most Valuable Pollster" by *U.S. News & World Report* and "best in the business" by CNN. Harrison served as the principal election night consultant at the CBS election night anchor desk for two decades. He is an industry leader in all aspects of opinion research, message development and testing, and targeting models.

Harrison's parents were public school teachers, and his family tree is well adorned with Quaker ancestors. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from Guilford and played on both the football and golf teams. He went on to earn his M.A. at the University of Nebraska, completed doctoral exams at Tulane University, and received advanced training in statistical and survey research methods at the University of Michigan.



In 1991, the Guilford College Alumni Association honored him with an Alumni Excellence Award.

Beth Voltz '91



Beth, a Raleigh, N.C., native, is a founding member of the law firm Weatherspoon & Voltz LLP. Prior to partnering with Will Weatherspoon, Voltz practiced law for 5 years in the Raleigh office of Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP (now Kilpatrick Townsend LLP), a large international law firm.

She graduated from Guilford with honors with a B.A. in English and Religious Studies and received her J.D. from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law in 1998. She was a member of Guilford's Alumni Board and on the campaign cabinet for the Advancing Excellence Campaign. Her professional affiliations include the following: member of the North Carolina Bar Association (Real Property Section) and trustee of the North Carolina Bar Association Health Benefit Trust (member 2008-present; chair, January 2012-present). She is also a member of the Wake County Bar Association (and serves on the Building Committee).

Beth has been a member of the Board of Directors of SAFEchild, Inc., a Raleigh nonprofit dedicated to child abuse prevention (board president, 2011 – 2012; member, 2007 – 2013; and fundraising chair, 2012 – 2013). She currently is chair of the board of directors for DHIC, Inc. (formerly Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation), a nonprofit dedicated to building high-quality affordable housing in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina.

Among many awards and honors, Beth has been named to North Carolina Super Lawyer's Top 50 Women list in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2019 and 2020.

Suzanne Whitmeyer

Suzanne is a broker for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices York Simpson Underwood Realty in Raleigh and has been active in the Raleigh real estate market for 25 years as a buyer and seller. She has been involved with real estate investment, residential remodeling and was a pioneer in Raleigh's Glenwood South redevelopment with her retail store, Elements, which opened in 1995.

She is principal for Lane Street Ventures LLC, a private company in Raleigh. A former member of the board of directors for Artspace in Raleigh (2008-2013) and board chair in 2012, she graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a B.A. in Business Management, Marketing and minor in Management Information Systems in 1987. Her daughter is a senior at Guilford.

Suzanne is an art collector who has done much of her art shopping in local galleries in North Carolina. She estimates 85 percent of her collection was produced by N.C. artists.

Comments from the Chair

Board of Trustees Chair Ed Winslow described the new trustees as committed and enthusiastic. "We are delighted to welcome Beth, Suzanne, and Harrison as new Guilford trustees. They are deeply committed to the College, and they bring so many fresh leadership attributes and skills," he said.

"Beth and Harrison are Guilford graduates with exceptional records of professional success. They understand Guilford's unique history and values, and the practical liberal arts education that has distinguished Guilford's graduates for so many years. Suzanne is the parent of a Guilford student. She knows firsthand the value of the Guilford Edge, and she has a clear vision of where the Edge can take the College in the future."

"Each of these new trustees appreciates the importance of philanthropy to Guilford's future," Ed said. "I look forward to sharing with them the work that lies ahead."



Guilford's Board of Trustees has regularly scheduled meetings three times a year and will next meet this month.

Tracie is a Visiting Assistant Professor of English, advisor to The Guilfordian and a volunteer writer for the Advancement Division.

Guilford College

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