

## GUILFORD NAMED *to* SERVICE HONOR ROLL



*Volunteers pack ingredients for 10,000 meals during a Stop Hunger Now event in October.*

For the sixth straight year, Guilford was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

Guilford has been named to the Honor Roll each year since it was established in 2006.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized colleges and universities for their impact on issues from literacy and neighborhood revitalization to support for at-risk youth.

Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Students at Guilford contribute an estimated 60,000 hours of service each year at more than a dozen dedicated sites, including the Greensboro Housing Coalition's Project Home, the Pathways temporary family housing shelter and the African Services Coalition.

The College also is one of the charter members of the Bonner Scholars Program, which now operates at 25 colleges nationwide. Every year, 60 students — chosen on the basis of high financial need and demonstrated commitment to service — receive scholarship funds in exchange for performing 140 hours of community service each semester, plus two additional summer service requirements.

Other students perform service in exchange for work-study funds through the Community Scholars program.



## POPLAR PREDATES AMERICAN REVOLUTION

For many years, it could only be estimated. But now the age of the Underground Railroad Tree is known — 310 years, give or take a decade.

Paul Knapp, a geography professor at UNCG, and his graduate students took two core samples and used them to date the huge tulip poplar tree in the Guilford Woods that has been known for decades as the Underground Railroad Tree.

"The sample we collected dated to A.D. 1778 and we estimated that there were at least another 75 years of growth beyond what we could sample," Paul said. "A conservative age estimate would be approximately 310 years old, but an age approaching 350 years is possible.

"We did not detect any rot in our sample, suggesting that the tree is structurally sound. The most recent ring widths showed no growth decline and the tree appeared visually healthy."

Gwen Gosney Erickson, interim director of Hege Library, offered a disclaimer of sorts.

"There are sections of the Guilford College Woods which have remained old growth and resulted in some trees of notable size," Gwen said. "This tulip poplar is often featured on historical walking tours and has become known as the 'Underground Railroad Tree.'"

"Due to their present size and age, these trees were likely silent witnesses in the forest in the first half of the 19th century when enslaved African Americans and others using the woods as a protective cover passed by and so provide a nice sense of continuity.

"However, there is no documentation that any particular tree held significance. Presumably these trees that are now notable would have been much smaller in their youth, and therefore not used as a landmark as they are today."

Kyle, a political science faculty member and a coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program, said that having the tree on our campus provides a valuable touchstone for his students who want to understand the College's past.

"When my students bear witness to the tree and even touch it," he said, "they become a part of the tree's history in ways that connect them deeply to the core values and experiences of Guilford."