

New "Freshman Common Hour" provokes mixed reactions

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Staff Writer

This year all freshman IDS 101 students are required to participate in a weekly lab called "The Freshman Common Hour." Each Tuesday from 12:10 to 1:25 pm, regardless of which IDS cluster they are in, all freshman meet in Dana auditorium for a presentation. Afterwards, they separate into smaller groups led by faculty and student facilitators to discuss the topics presented.

The purpose of the lab is to provide an opportunity for all new students to receive information on the liberal arts, the Quaker heritage of Guilford, and ways to maximize the benefits of the community. Weekly sessions cover such topics as study skills, time management, creating community, relationships, sexuality and spirituality. Speakers who have volunteered for the program include Guilford president Bill Rogers and minister Max Carter; who will present "Quakerism and the Liberal Arts," and Jack Zerbe and Carol and John Stoneburner, who will present "Men and Women's Roles in the 1990's."

A number of professors and faculty discussed the need for a freshman common hour last December. However, it was Richard Ford, head of Residential Life, who carried the idea forward and added the concept of having small meeting groups and facilitators to discuss the issues.

"We wanted to have a lab which continued freshman orientation, addressed important issues of student life, and gave a broader view of what it means to be a student at a Quaker school— things the academic IDS course has not been adequately able to achieve," said Ford.

Ford hopes these varied topics show students the different layers of learning, and also the people and resources that can be helpful during their years at Guilford.

"This lab is an attempt to further enrich students' personal learning by discussing issues of life concerning sexuality, religion, relationships, etc. Hopefully students will

understand these issues have legitimacy and need to be explored," said Ford.

The lab is very non-demanding, and all that is required of students are weekly readings in the lab text, *Becoming a Master Student*, as well as discussion of the covered topics. Students are graded by their individual IDS professors, based on their attendance.

The program is a good experience not only for students, but also for staff facilitators who normally don't have an opportunity to interact with students in a positive way.

Dick Dyer, head of Judicial Affairs, is "excited" about working with the IDS students.

"This program is a way for me to see students on a different level and hopefully get them started in the right direction," said Dyer.

Jan Prillaman, a Student Development secretary, is also enjoying the lab.

"It's nice being involved with a large group of students, helping them share their feelings and experiences," said Prillaman.

The role of the facilitator is to lead discussions and help reinforce and process the information presented. They are more than just an instructor, however; they are also a friend.

"I want students to know that they can be in touch with me for absolutely anything," said Dyer.

So far, student reaction to the IDS lab has been mixed.

"I think the presentations are boring. The majority of the students are talking and not even paying attention. I try, but it's hard. The lab is a great idea, but it's not practical with such a large group," said Chris Ward.

Nathan Ives feels "The information being put forth is important, but there are too many people in Dana. They should do away with the lecture and have the facilitator present the information. I think we would learn a lot more."

Amy Reed said "The basic idea is good, but I think they should make the discussion groups smaller."

Ford says he is aware of student concerns, and agrees that the large number of students is a problem. However, because the program is of such a large magnitude; there are not enough facilitators or spaces available to reduce the groups further.

Because this is the first year such an extensive IDS lab has been tried, there are obviously things that need to be worked out. Still,

Ford remains highly optimistic.

"This is a program that could eventually be great," said Ford.

Student input is being taken very seriously, and the IDS staff is trying to make the necessary changes.

The entire IDS program, including the Freshman Common Hour, is being reevaluated at the end of the year.

Off-Campus Education moves

Lara Ramsey
Features Editor

Study Abroad, Internships & Service-Learning and Student Employment are Guilford programs which appear together in this article because, as of this fall, they are operating under the same roof.

Beneath the roof is a small white house, now called the Off-Campus Education House, formerly known as Interlink. This house is located to the right (south) of Dana Auditorium. Internships & Service-Learning and Student Employment occupies the first floor; Study Abroad is on the second.

Study Abroad Director Martha Cooley or Administrative Assistant Miriam Collins can help you find your way to Mona Lisa, Margaret Thatcher, Marlena Dietrich and more. Guilford sponsors abroad programs in Paris, London, Munich, Guadalajara, China and Japan. Italy and Kenya are on the horizon as abroad programs which may materialize within a few years.

The range of potential study sites is vast. If there is a place where you want experiential learning and which isn't already a part of Guilford's programming, Jim Keith, who directs both internships and service-learning and student employment, can help. He helped junior Jessica Page, who at this moment is in Jamaica, and he helped senior Kathryn Lee, who is presently in South Dakota. Both students are working through The Partnership for Service-Learning. In this program, participants study the history, politics, and sociology of the culture where they're involved as well as working with community services.

Admittedly, South Dakota is not abroad. Neither is one of the most recent and flourishing internship programs, located in Wash-

ington D.C. There are five Guilford students in D.C. this fall; senior Greta Billinger, senior Alex Bond, senior Andrew Stewart, junior Natalie Peacock, and senior Katya Newton. The Internship & Service-Learning department has details on over 1,000 internship opportunities that are local, in-state, national, and international.

"It's never too early to investigate the resources in this house," said Keith, "My experience with students is that it's very easy to wait too long. If a student wants to zero in on an excellent and unusual summer job, they need to start investigating no later than the November before that summer."

The Student Employment office coordinates with the Financial Aid office to organize the work-study system. Work-study jobs are only partially paid for by the department, and otherwise operate on college or federal funding. This enables the departments to hire more help that they could normally afford, thus creating more on-campus jobs for those students who need that option.

Any student may register with the Student Employment Services—almost 300 are registered now. Student Employment Services puts out a newsletter every other week called Options which lists on and off-campus, full and part-time job opportunities. The newsletter happens to be produced by work-study students.

"We had more students who didn't get work-study come to this office for jobs on campus than any year before," said Keith. He then mentioned some on-campus departments which frequently hire: Marriott Food Service, Maintenance, the library, the P.E. center, and the Development Office (alumni phone-a-thon).

So our community of American youth has lived to see the day when dreams of employment and travel really do come true thanks to sources inside the white house. It takes a short walk and a small effort to make a world of difference.

Abroad application deadlines are as follows: for spring 1991, Paris (Oct. 1) and China (Oct. 1); for fall 1991, London (Nov. 1), Guadalajara (Feb. 1), Munich (Feb. 1), Japan (March 1), China (March 1).

All applications may be picked up on the second floor of the the Off-Campus Education House.

GUILFORD PARIS SEMESTER Spring 1991

Interested students are invited to an
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
at 4:30 pm on Thursday September 20th
in the Off-Campus House (south of Dana)

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