

Guilford holds second to last anti-racism forum

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Staff Writer

James Shields presented the history of race and racism at Guilford, bringing up forgotten facts in the history of Guilford in the second-to-last anti-racism forum of the academic year, entitled "Racism and Resistance," on April 12 at 7 p.m.

"As a historian, it's impossible to move forward without looking at history and learning from it," said Shields, Coordinator of Volunteer Training.

Shields did extensive research into the history of Guilford to find answers to questions about the history of

racism at Guilford. Based on the findings, Shields was able to ask questions such as, "Why was it okay to bring Africans from overseas, Hispanic- and Asian-Americans, but not African Americans to Guilford?" and "What influence or lack of influence did Quaker values have on integration?"

These are the questions that he presented during the forum.

After exploring *Guilfordians* from the 1940s through today, Shields found that the question of how to stick with Quaker values such as equality has been a concern of students repeatedly through history.

"We have a letter from the Board of Trustees to the administration and faculty telling them not to talk about race," said Shields.

In 1821 Levi Coffin, a Quaker from New Garden Meeting, started a school for slaves in what is now the New Garden cemetery before it was illegal to educate slaves. However, the administration did not integrate African Americans into Guilford until 1968.

Thirty years later, racial equality was again a big topic on campus.

The audience reacted strongly to a story Shields told from 1998, when slanderous posters were placed in

Founders hall. Molly Martin, LaShaira Fulwood and Tanya Fousek were running for Senate and Budget Committee. Martin is white, but had an African American on her ticket, and Fulwood and Fousek are African American.

Regardless of intent, campus members recognized those actions as racial hate crimes.

However, in some instances the faculty and administrators were not as accommodating to ethnic diversity as the students.

Minnette Coleman will perform her one-woman show "Hand Me Downs" in Sternberger Auditorium at 7

p.m. on April 24.

In it Coleman references her difficulties with a white institution that she was a part of - Guilford. This is her first time performing it at the college.

"It is a play about the Civil Rights movement and how it parallels her experiences at Guilford," said Judy Harvey, Director of Multicultural Education.

The play is being performed during African American Alumni weekend with hopes that there will be other people willing to share their perspectives on past racism at Guilford.

"I think it's going to be really powerful," said Harvey.

Guilford, A&T sponsor Hip Hop Conference

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first co-programming effort that has happened between Guilford and A&T," said Rebecca Saunders, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership. "Hopefully, this will be a worthwhile and enlightening experience for the students for both campuses. Perhaps this will foster more opportunities for cooperative programming in the future."

The concert is at 8:00 p.m. on April 17, in the Corbett Center on A&T campus.

Doors open at 6:00, but early arrival is recommended.

Tickets are \$10, with Union is providing shuttles to and from the event.

Discussion of Quakerism at Guilford

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cessful because it really was a community forum."

In opening, the entire room fell into silence in the Quaker tradition. After introductions, a question-answer session ensued.

The Speakers and Programs Committee first decided to have a forum on Guilford's identity as a Quaker institution in August 2002. Two years later it was the April 5 discussion that quenched that need.

"The discussion was particularly important in light of the numerous changes involving Guilford - such as a new president, intent to enlarge the student population, and intent to enlarge educational resources," said Dotson.

"It's fortuitous that this QLSP-generated discussion came at a time when SLP is asking the college to consider its identity more broadly," said Scott Pierce Coleman, Director of QLSP.

The Strategic Long-Range Planning (SLP) Committee released a second draft of its initiative for Guilford as an educational institution on April 1.

As the panelists debated the future emphasis of Quakerism at Guilford, the audience asked how to keep the

Quaker tradition alive - concerns formed perhaps by the changes associated with SLP.

Issues addressed ranged from the crisis in valuable Quaker leaders, to Quaker decision-making, to Guilford plans to remain Quaker-affiliated.

In that Guilford never has been declared a "Quaker school," recent changes actually show new initiative in keeping its Quaker identity. This can be seen in the newly instated sign at Guilford's main entrance, "Founded in 1837 by the Society of Friends."

The discussion led to a debate on whether Guilford should be considered a religious school and the negative connotations that might have for prospective students.

The conclusion of the panel discus-

sion was followed by questions about the role of non-Quaker students at a Quaker institution.

"The non-Quakers at a Quaker school are the best defenders of (Quaker) core values, and Quakers are the best critics," said Farquar.

The fundamental values of Quakerism nurture the decision-making of Guilford in silence, peace, integrity, community, and equality, said Kathy Coe, Guilford trustee and Quaker minister. These values are important to the way Guilford operates as a Quaker school.

"The process of being student-orientated is the process of a Quaker school," said Adrienne Israel, Academic Dean, the only non-Quaker on the panel.

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