

Love poetry reading draws big student turnout

Genevieve Holmes
Staff Writer

"Love and be loved by me"--"Annabel Lee," Edgar Allan Poe

On Feb. 9, over 150 students and faculty members gathered in the Founders Gallery for a reading of love



MAGGIE BAMBERG/GUILFORDIAN
Junior Heather Wunner

poetry. The number of readers nearly matched the number of people in the room, as many filtered in throughout the event.

Refreshments were served, including home-made deserts. The podium stood in the company of a lamp - the only light in the room. Its warm glow made the atmosphere romantic.

Last semester there were two poetry readings. At the first, faculty members alone read poetry on any theme, and about 30 people attended. Word spread throughout campus, multiplying attendance for the second one: a student and faculty reading focusing on politics and war.

During the Feb. 9 reading, Academic Skills Center Director Sue Keith

began by introducing the love theme, in honor of Valentine's Day. Next, Academic Skills Center tutor Doug Smith stepped up to the podium and read the poem "Quarantine" by Edwin Bowen.

The readings ranged from the love and devotion of God in Psalm 23 to the love of child and wife in Henry Taylor's "At the Swings."

Of course, the passions of two lovers entered the reading as well, in such poems as e. e. cummings' "Somewhere I have traveled," and John Donne's "Holy Sonnet Number 14."

Unusual poems made their way into the reading, too. First-year Henry Vogt read "The Memory of Burning in New Harmony, Indiana," by George Looney, which discussed a monk's vow of celibacy.

One of the biggest hits in the evening was first-year Maria Walsh-Cole's enthusiastic reading of "A Finger,

Two Dots, Then Me" by Derrick C. Brown. It spoke of life and love after death and memories from a fond lifetime.

Persons interested in reading had a choice of signing up before the event, or waiting until the end to read.

Junior Heather Wunner's poem didn't even include words. She sat on a chair and played her guitar. The piece was about a composer loving a student who left him.

One of the most memorable poems was English professor Carolyn Beard Whitlow's reading of "Remember," by Christina Georgina Rossetti. It gave the advice: "Better by far you should forget and smile / Than that you should remember and be sad," when a loved one dies.

People stood in the hall just to hear the words of famous and unknown writers. The compelling evening

provided an atmosphere of camaraderie between students and faculty as they all contemplated the spectrum of emotions that love can create. ☼



MAGGIE BAMBERG/GUILFORDIAN
English lecturer David Bowen

Foreign Languages department hosts Mardi Gras party

Kaitlyn Moore
Staff Writer

"It was vivacious. There were floats, parades, scantily clad people. Instead of throwing candy and beads, they were throwing condoms from the floats," said Steffany Drozo, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages, of the 1993 Mardi Gras in Barcelona, Spain. "We've actually kept it quite tame in the Boren Lounge."

The Mardi Gras party, thrown by the Foreign Languages department on Feb. 8, avoided those "carnal" implications of Carnival. Rather than drunken debauchery, students milled around wearing masks and beads, listening to music, and gobbling fried pastries.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages Maria Bobroff started Guilford's Mardi Gras party to bring students together during the gloomy winter, and make them aware of French traditions.

Mardi Gras, also known as Carnivale, is the "Fat Tuesday" before the Catholic Church's Ash Wednesday. Celebrants

give up rich foods, meat, or alcohol during Lent, so Mardi Gras is a fling to use up these ingredients.

Carnival began in European countries with a long Catholic history such as Spain, Italy, and France, and then spread through their colonial rule. Cities worldwide now celebrate with hordes of people in the street, music, dancing, and parades.

Bobroff says that French children celebrate Mardi Gras by eating crêpes and beignets, and by throwing flour and eggs at their friends and teachers.

"At the end of the school day all of the teachers, myself included, huddled in the teacher's lounge, afraid to walk outside for fear of being pelted by raw eggs," Bobroff said in an email. "We kept peering out the window to see how many children were still waiting for us, and more importantly, how their ammunition was holding up."

Associate Professor of Spanish Sylvia Trelles and Associate Professor of Foreign Languages & Division Director Dave Limburg brought their knowledge of Europe, South America, and the

Caribbean to this celebration.

Trelles presented the Spanish tradition of carrying a sardine in a small casket, followed by a trail of mourning women.



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Mardi Gras in New Orleans

Limburg and Vice President for Finance & Administration Jerry Bobroff volunteered to have their ties cut as a German prank that pokes fun at academics.

One part of the French tradition is King Cake, a cake with a small baby baked inside. Whoever finds the trinket is King or Queen of Mardi Gras. Early College student Trae Middlebrooks was crowned king.

Middlebrooks, asked if he expected any special treatment from the crowd as the reigning king of Mardi Gras, said: "Well, of course. I couldn't stay the whole time because I had to class, but that doesn't mean I'm ceding my throne. Maybe some food."

Expected attendance was 100 students, and almost twice that number attended. Most traditional students came after dinner, with CCE students arriving after 8 p.m. The food was gone by 7:45.

It was easier to obtain beads in the Lounge than in New Orleans, with 170 strands distributed without any nudity. ☼