

Choir tours Washington, D.C. for Spring Break

Cathy Jacques

Contributing Writer

"I never thought we'd actually get a choir tour up and running again," said Joanna Kelly, senior and choir president. "I'll never forget how much fun we had."

The Guilford College Choir spent the first four days of Spring Break on tour Washington, D.C. With financial support from President Kent Chabotar, the Office of the Academic Dean, private donors and extensive fundraising by the choir, the group reinstated the annual tradition after a three-year hiatus.

"It was totally worth all the baking, groveling and planning," Kelly said. "Getting the tour restarted was our goal last school year, and it's a great feeling to finally have accomplished it."

Led by Choir Director Wendy Looker, 30 singers from the Guilford College Choir and Chamber Singers performed in D.C. at the United Methodist Church, Sandy Springs (a Quaker high school in Maryland) and at Friends Meeting Washington.

Looker said she

"was amazed at how well the choirs performed in D.C. The level of confidence was through the roof. The students took great pride in showing their parents, high school students, alumni and the general public what music making at Guilford is all about."

The choir tour is both fun for students and good for Guilford College. According to Kelly, "it's good for recruiting prospective students for the admissions office and good for promoting alumni relations."

Plus, Looker has "never met a singer who doesn't have fond memories of a choir tour."

The Guilford College Choir has been preparing all semester for this tour. "We couldn't have done it without the help of the amazing [Chair of Guilford's Music department] Tim Lindeman," Kelly said.

"While the Choir Tour is an opportunity for us to connect with alumni and future students, my goal is to provide meaningful (and fun) experiences for our current singers. Touring is a great way to experience the art of teamwork and to participate

in changing the world through art," Looker said.

Looker is largely responsible for revamping interest in the Guilford College Choir. "We'd be nowhere without Wendy. She has really whipped us into shape during her three years at Guilford," Kelly said.

"I would love to take the choir to New York next spring," Looker said. "But we may have to wait another year to make that happen."

If you'd like to hear the program sung on the choir tour, in addition to some new pieces, the final choir concert will be on Sunday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Guilford College United Methodist Church. Admission is free.☞

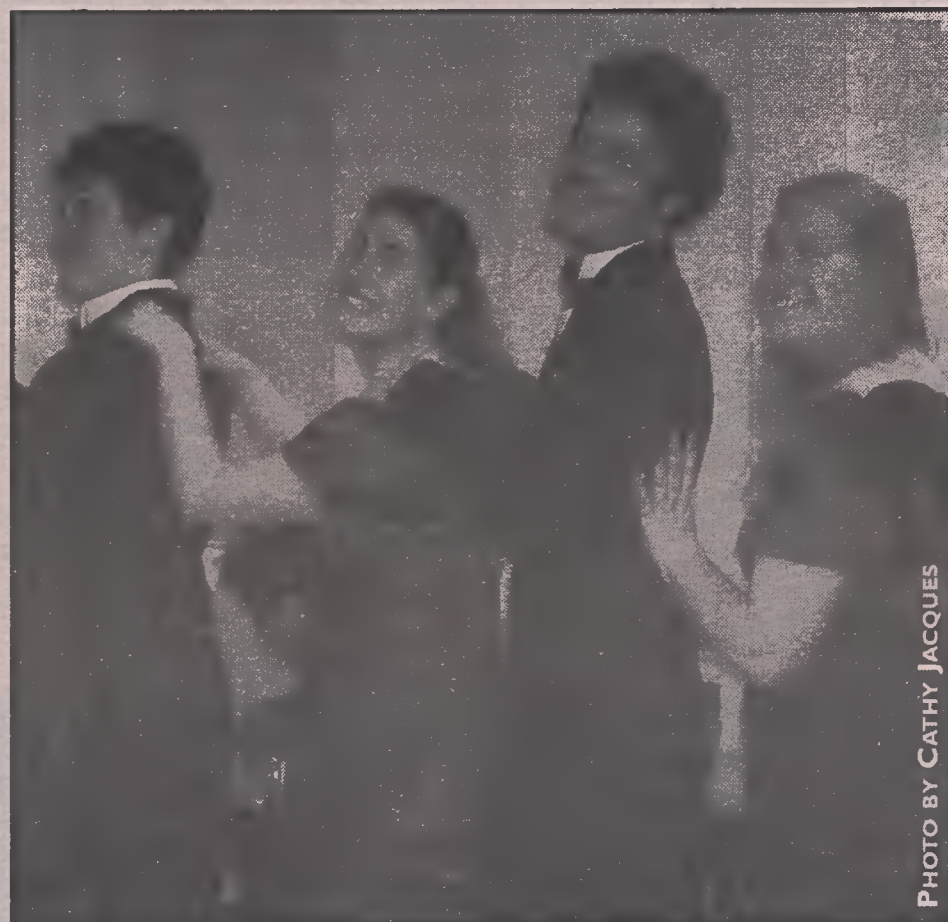


PHOTO BY CATHY JACQUES

Singers help each other relax before a concert.



PHOTO BY CATHY JACQUES

Danny Ore and Sam Huff enjoying the warm-up.

High-altitude skiing in peaks outside Salt Lake City

Alice Simpkins

Contributing Writer

At the start of Spring Break, I flew into Salt Lake City, Utah, with my family and senior Braden Douglas.

We spent the week at a winter lodge on the outskirts of the city and kept ourselves busy with skiing and shopping.

During our stay, we drove straight to the Eastern mountain ranges to enjoy the wonderful

scenery and excellent skiing opportunities.

I skied at two local resorts: Park City and Deer Valley.

Park City was founded 135 years ago after army soldiers discovered silver in the mountain.

Since then, it has been a haven for saloons, silver mines and skiers. In 2002, the Eagle Race Area at Park City Mountain hosted four Winter Olympic events in skiing and snowboarding.

Deer Valley Resort celebrated

its 25th anniversary this winter, and I enjoyed seeing the view from the 21 different chairlifts. It was absolutely amazing, and the views were breathtaking from the 10,000-foot mountain peaks.



Park Valley

I particularly liked the backcountry trails at Park City where I got to see the rustic scenery as pictured in "Brokeback Mountain." There were over 60 trails to choose from, and I followed as many of them as I could. I yard-sailed once, and lost all my gear near this peak pictured.



PHOTOS BY ALICE SIMPKINS

Deer Valley

This mountain range had nice, smooth and well-groomed trails. It was for skiers only - no snowboarders allowed! The only problem here was the wind chill. On the day we visited the resort, it was really cold on the chair lifts with temperatures reaching 10-15F.



Salt Lake City

On Thursday, I went shopping downtown with my mother. I enjoyed the mountainous scenery behind the city.