



On a chilly November night ghost hunter **John Zaffis** (above), led students on a tour of Guilford's haunted campus.

DANA HAMDAN/CONTRIBUTED

BATHANTI

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Bathanti's direct, staccato-like delivery gave the poems the feel of a Faulknerian monologue in stereo – complete with bizarre, dysfunctional, and quintessentially southern characters.

"I hope these aren't too depressing, folks," he said after reading "Dogs at Salisbury," which told the ominous tale of Luther the bounty hunter, who roamed swamps looking for escapees with his "catamites and his pack of chain-gang bloodhounds."

With no glass of water to refresh his vocal cords, Bathanti became hoarse by the middle of "Dogs of Salisbury," which while probably unintentional, complemented the narrative's macabre tone.

As his hoarseness increased, so too did the sense that at any second, the pack of ghoulish bloodhounds described would burst through the door, come to claim us for their master, sitting "wordlessly" atop a "sore old gelding."

Luckily, we were spared, and the poem culminated instead in a great phlegmy cough from Bathanti, which gave Luther's tale a sense of grim finality.

"Well, that was some cough," he said with a laugh while surveying the audience. Hopefully, he could tell that we were far from being depressed.

Other poems included, "Freedom Drive," "Crying," "The South," "Teaching an

Inmate to Read," "Donuts," and "Women's Prison." "Women's Prison," which recounts a monthly visit between children and their mothers in a Raleigh prison, was particularly moving.

"They know to smile at the twirling jagged grandeur Surrounding the massive compound Concertina, plaited with silver scraps of dew and dawn light"

After the reading, Bathanti held an open discussion in which students, mainly from Carolyn Beard Whitlow's poetry workshop, asked questions about his craft and some of his influences. He mentioned James Joyce, William Faulkner, Samuel Beckett, Flannery O'Connor, and poet Robert Lowell as some of his favorites.

"Just be really hard-headed and spit in the eye of anyone who tells you you can't do it," he offered as general words of encouragement to the aspiring writers in the crowd.

"I really liked his command of vocabulary, he used really sensory, intense words, like 'excelsior,'" said Lehn Robinson, a senior English major in Beard-Whitlow's class. "Where, sir, did you learn to use a word like excelsior?" Robinson asked aloud while leaving the reading.

One student, Joanna Bernstein, was awarded a copy of his book "East Liberty" simply for being from Pittsburgh. All in all, it was an enriching and entertaining experience for all in attendance.

Could Guilford truly be haunted?

John Zaffis, the "Godfather of Ghost Hunting," thinks so. And the spirits are in places where you might not expect them.

By Paddy Lehane
STAFF WRITER

Dana Auditorium has always lurked on its lonesome on the far side of campus. But after Nov. 8, the building became even more eerie.

Some might even say hauntingly so.

The "Godfather of Ghost Hunting," John Zaffis, came to Guilford to hunt the ghosts that may or may not be haunting our college. The event was sponsored by CAB for a nominal fee of \$2,000.

Following a presentation detailing his past experiences, Zaffis invited the crowd of about 30 to go ghost hunting in several buildings across Guilford.

Using a K2 meter, Zaffis is not only able to detect the presence of spirits but also ask them yes-or-no questions.

A K2 meter detects electromagnetic waves in the air. Some believe that spirits and ghosts are made up of this kind of detectable energy.

The first stop was Archdale Hall. According to Zaffis and his K2 meter, Archdale is indeed graced with the presence of a spirit.

The spirit played coy and didn't answer the yes-or-no questions asked by some eager students. When asked if it wanted the gang of ghost hunters to leave, the K2 meter lit up once, meaning yes.

This prompted shrieks and a mad-dash for the door, almost knocking over a poor member of the faculty unlucky enough to be working late that night.

Zaffis led the tour on to Founders, an alleged hotbed of ghost activity. Zaffis was somewhat impressed

by the readings on the meter.

The unique activity was indicative of ghost activity or, as Zaffis stated, a dying battery.

The troupe returned to Dana, where the most famous Guilford ghost allegedly resides. Some Guilford students have claimed to have had an encounter with the spirit.

Following a trip to the Hess last summer, senior Kyle West and Courtney Hutchison, a junior, had a close encounter with the spirit haunting Dana.

"There was a big storm coming in and suddenly a strong wind picked up," said an excited West, "There was a plastic Teeter bag on the ground that filled with air and started floating."

"I said, 'What's up ghost,' and the bag started moving and going around towards the Moon Room," Hutchison said.

Shortly thereafter, the piano in the Moon Room began to play.

"It sounded like a little girl learning how to play the piano," West said. "When we started walking away, the piano stopped. We looked in and there was no one in there."

"It was a really intimidating experience," Hutchison said. And also, according to the witnesses, a



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An old piano in Founders was checked for spirit presence with a K2 meter.

sober one.

In Dana, the gang of ghost hunters continued to prod the ghosts for information. Zaffis could feel the energy, and many students claimed to feel the whole-body chill that indicates of a spirit's presence.

The ghost revealed some information, but was either tired or flustered, and it again told the crowd to leave.

While many students were clearly thrilled with the tour and its findings, others were a bit skeptical.

"It was cool, but I wasn't totally convinced," said sophomore Bryan Smith.

Others found the bombardment of questions from a large group of people disheartening.

"I don't know if I believe in all this, but I'd be more respectful about it," said senior Brennan Aberle. "And I didn't have to see "The Sixth Sense" to know that."

Second annual Shopping for Change

Friday, Nov. 30 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Fair trade and artisan direct items will be available for purchase in Sternberger.

Co-sponsored by Leadership for Social Change, Greenleaf and Community Learning

Contact jstmary@guilford.edu with questions.