



ERIC CAMPBELL/GUILFORDIAN

The Greensboro College Gospel Choir delivers a performance Jan. 18 at Greensboro College honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Students gather for MLK vigil and performance

By Skylar Larsen
STAFF WRITER

Icy bullets of water stung the skin as they pelted down from the dark clouds. The chilly wind was steadfast against the flames that wavered unsteadily on white candlesticks despite the participants' attempts to keep them going.

On Jan. 21, faculty, students, and members of the Greensboro community left the warmth of their residences to huddle together outside Dana Auditorium and light a candle in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"The candlelight vigil is to pay homage to Dr. King, to pay our respects," explained Jada Drew, Africana Community coordinator and Multicultural Leadership Scholars coordinator, shortly before the vigil began. "He was taken away before his time. So it's a time to pay respect to his life and the things that he did, and also to pay respect to those who lost their lives during that time."

The Martin Luther King Candlelight Vigil, sponsored by The Africana Community, was held for Guilford College's annual Martin

Luther King Celebration. Over the week-long event, students assembled to learn about the impact that King had on society through his work with the Civil Rights Movement.

Christina Somerville, junior, expressed her connection to King.

"What he (King) stood for was a way of life that we should live throughout the day. So for me, service and giving back to the community as well as love and compassion is not just a one-day-of-the-year thing."

The bitter cold of the night was soon forgotten as strangers gathered together to celebrate King's life through song, led by the Guilford Gospel Group, Greensboro College Gospel Choir, and the New Light Missionary Baptist Women's Choir.

Following the music, Rev. Cardes H. Brown spoke, stressing the importance of remembering what King gave up to mold the nation that we have today.

The MLK Candlelight Vigil was started to inspire a community effort in honoring King here at Guilford, so that students may take a moment to remember him and the effect that his involvement in the civil rights movement

Study Abroad Stories

Siena: A Local Rivalry

By Izzy Hayton
GUEST WRITER

It was at one of the first orientation sessions that someone told our group of 12 about contrade.

"The city is divided into 17 sections, each a contrada — plural, contrade," said Robert Williams, professor of economics at Guilford and faculty leader of the first Guilford-Siena study abroad program. "Learn your host parents' contrade. It'll be important."

A little medieval town in the foothills of Tuscany, Siena has, for nearly 500 years, held what is locally known as "Il Palio." It is, at first glance, an unremarkable custom — a very old, but very simple horse race.

Every year, jockeys from 10 of the contrade pick their race-horse from a lottery and are given 24 hours before the race begins. The horses are usually brought into their contrada's church and blessed by a priest.

The jockeys aren't forgotten, and they're blessed too, but they are considered less important. For instance, if a rider falls off his horse in the race and the horse goes on to win, that horse's contrada is still awarded the victory.

OK — so, a very interesting local horse race.

But, as it turns out, the Sieneese are as dedicated to Il Palio as North Carolina natives are to college basketball. Imagine the big Duke-Carolina game is on and the room is divided between Duke fans and UNC fans, all of them screaming.

Now put those screaming fans in the center of a city square (the Piazza) and imagine 10 horses running circles around them.

Then multiply the chaos by five, because even that image doesn't take into account that not two, but 10 sworn enemies are all screaming for their different teams.

It makes you wonder about married couples that come from different contrade. Another difference between college basketball and Il Palio is that when a baby is born in Siena, they are registered with a contrada for the rest of their life, and their loyalty is predetermined.

So what happens when the mother and the father of the child are from different areas? I asked Patricia Ramspeck, director of the Leonardo da Vinci Scoula, where I am studying, and she shrugged.

"Sometimes they flip a coin," she told me, "or sometimes they make a deal — the first child is one contrada, the second is another. It is usually a very big argument for parents."

I was wrong. This is anything but unremarkable.

Local Siena channels often show recaps of the past Palio. In 2007, the Leocorno contrada — the Unicorn — won. In 2008, the Istrice, or Crested Porcupine. 2009 featured the ferocious Civetta contrada, otherwise known as the Little Owl.

Despite the names of the winners for the past three years, the contrade are definitely intense. The Scoula, or the school, our group is attending is in the Dragon contrada (Drago), and the other participating contrada

include the Panther, the Eagle, and the She-Wolf, respectively Pantera, Aquila, and Lupa.

Encouraged by Williams and Ramspeck, I looked up the contrada I'm living in. Maybe I'd be the panther, or some other equally awe-inspiring mascot. When I looked it up on the map, my street was right on the border between two sections. I zoomed in, closer and closer, until I could finally read the fearsome name of my contrada: Il Giraffa.

In other words, the Giraffe.



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Students choose officer of the year

By Kara Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Public Safety conjures images in students' minds of menacing golf carts and approaching trouble. But Public Safety Supervisor Brad Young is trying to move away from that scary image.

Young, who works the third shift from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., has worked as a Public Safety officer at Guilford for five years. Before beginning part-time work at Guilford, he worked for seven years at Elon University.

This year, students chose him as Officer of the Year, which is an award decided entirely by students, according to Director of Public Safety Ron Stowe.

A former aspiring teacher, Young views his job as more of an extension of the education system than a form of law enforcement.

"After two years in college I kind of messed up, so I can relate to the kids," said Young about his decision to leave Pembroke State University, thus giving up his childhood dream of teaching.

After leaving Pembroke, Young pursued a career as a police officer. A bad back injury ended that pursuit, which led him to Public Safety.

First-year Marissa Bowers was pleasantly surprised by her first encounter with Young.

"I expected him to be mean about letting me into my building one night," said Bowers. "He just laughed and said everyone did it. He's a lot cooler than I thought he would be."

"Brad has always treated us with respect," said junior Andrew Slater. "He's not here to keep everyone from having a good time, he just honestly wants people to be safe."

That is exactly the kind of relationship Young wants to have with the students.

"I tell them (the students) that I'm kind of like their dad," said Young. "I definitely think of them as my kids."

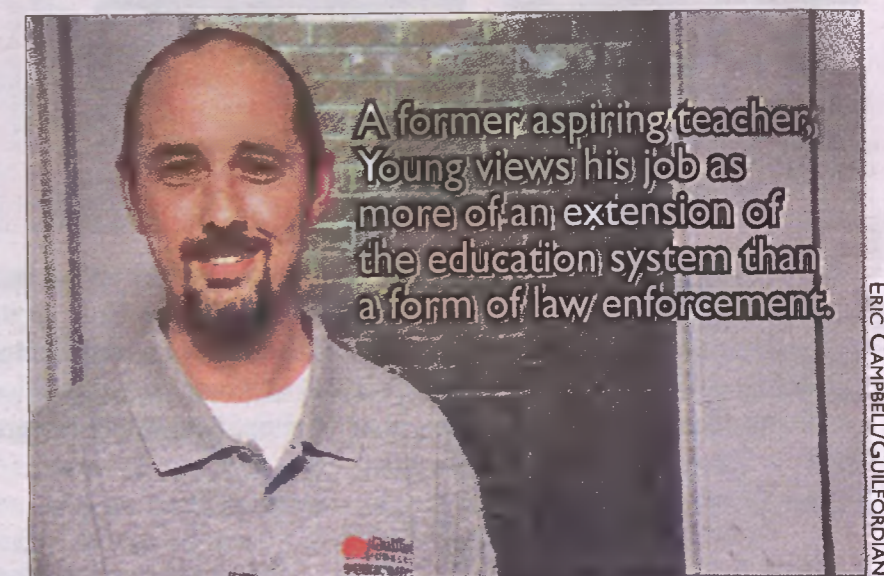
Young's fatherly approach toward students is probably a result of his two children — a son and a daughter.

A desire to keep his daughter out of day care prompted him to take the job at Elon, where he was able to work three

weekend shifts.

Outside of his work at Guilford, Young spends his days sleeping, watching college sports and being with his children. On the night of our interview, he was eagerly checking the scores of a game.

If Young could give any advice to students, it would be for them to "find a job they love and they'll never do a day of work." That is what Young says he's found with Guilford.



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