

BOOKSTORE

E-books and rentable texts part of bookstore upgrade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

35.7 percent of all the required or recommended titles this term. The bookstore only rents texts that are widely used or going into a new edition.

Jim Cope, regional manager of Follett Higher Education Group, said students save between 50 to 55 percent renting books versus buying them.

Cope pointed to the numbers to show how much this program is already saving students.

"(So far) this semester Guilford College bookstore sold 2,124 rental textbooks, saving students over \$68,000 in total," Cope said.

Senior Henry Catania said even with the savings extended by Follett, book publishers are still inflating their products considerably.

"Even with 50 percent savings, the publishers are still pillaging college students," said Catania.

Text Book Manager Betsy Beard said the only student complaint she's been made aware of is connected to the registration form found on the bookstore's website. Beard encouraged students to call her with any questions or concerns.

"Sometimes students get a little confused when entering billing information, but this is easily fixed," said Beard.

E-books are much less popular not only because of the high cost, but also because some vendors don't have the option of allowing students to print pages. Most vendors only allow the reader to view the book for a period of time before the license to read expires.

"This is one of the most incredible times of change we've seen in the book business in a very long time."

Jon Varnell, vice president for administration

Other complaints regarding e-books are linked with the pricing.

Most publishers have not reduced the price of e-books, so there is little incentive to switch from traditional to electronic books.

Sophomore Jeffery Jarvis, a philosophy major, said that

e-books are attractive because they lend themselves to sustainability.

"I like that e-books are seemingly good for the environment, but I want to build a library of books relating to my field of study," said Jarvis.

Follett's e-book options include owning the book for life, as opposed to most outlets which rent books for a period of time and do not give the reader the option to print out e-books. Follett also included the option to print.

Senior Matthew Sinclair, an education studies and psychology double-major, said that students will be more interested in renting texts as opposed to buying.

He pointed to the meager return when selling books back to the college.

"Many students return their books at the end of the semester and we all know that the bookstore doesn't always buy them back at a premium rate," said Sinclair.

Rita Serotkin, dean for continuing education and director of summer school, said rentals may only work for certain classes, but she is for anything that would save students money.

"For some courses, that might be alright," said Serotkin, "But for others, where the basic text is one you may need to go back to as a reference and refresher, buying would be better and make more sense."

Study abroad pairs academic and travel opportunities

By Terah Kelleher
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 8, the 4th annual study abroad fair was held: Inquisitive students moved around tables with looks of excitement at the prospect of studying abroad.

A major theme of the Strategic Long Range Plan (SLRP) Committee at Guilford is the emphasis on experiential learning. A study abroad program is one approach to fulfill that mission. Over a third of the students at Guilford's main campus take advantage of the study abroad programs available.

"Plan ahead with your particular advisor and then come by the study abroad office," said Jim Hood, director of the study abroad program. "The greatest impediment to study abroad is lack of planning. Make sure you check your curricular requirements."

The study abroad programs at Guilford offer a variety of choices that fit each student's needs. A total of 14 Guilford-affiliated program locations are available and organized in a way where a student directly enrolls with the participating foreign university.

There are five Guilford-led programs and they involve a faculty leader choosing a certain number of students for a program. Student's options range from locations such as Ghana, London, Munich, Siena, and Brunnenburg.

In addition, the School for Field Studies (SFS) is a Guilford-affiliated program that engages students in field research in locations such as Australia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico, or the Turks and Caicos Islands. The program encourages collaboration between local community partners and students to address crucial environmental

problems.

Senior and biology major, Riley Ramage, studied abroad in Tanzania and Kenya.

"I think the process was fairly simple," said Ramage. "At the beginning, I was a little confused about all the different things I needed to get done in order to study abroad, but once I went to the study abroad office everyone was very helpful and basically gave me a step-by-step packet of everything I needed to do and get signed."

Internships are another way for students to experience both the world and a potential career at the same time.

Senior and English major Chelsea Rivas, studied abroad in Siena, Italy last spring semester. She interned as an English teacher at the La Scuola Bandini and taught English to 15 and 16 year-olds.

"The experience helped me learn Italian and made me consider teaching English again in other countries," said Rivas.

"I think being able to experience my potential future work environment first-hand was extremely valuable in forming my ideas about what I want to do with my life," said Ramage. "For a long time I've thought doing research in the field would be something I would really enjoy, and I was able to try it out before I made a real commitment."

If accepted to a Guilford-led program, students are also required to take an orientation class.

"The Guilford-led orientation is very extensive and will cover things such as cultural mores and practices," said Hood.

The orientation process includes planning your trip and tips from booking your flight to making the most of your time abroad.

"If you're nervous about travel, there is a faculty leader or on-site person to help you," said Miriam Collins, assistant director for study abroad. "There is always support."

A student participating in either the affiliated or Guilford-led programs is still recognized as a Guilford student. The grades received will be recorded on a Guilford transcript, just as if the student was taking the classes on campus.

Guilford-affiliated programs are usually equal in cost to a full-residential semester at Guilford, and if a student has a scholarship it will continue to apply to their overall semester costs.

The Institute of International Education reported that "the number of Americans studying abroad increased by 8.5 percent to 262,416 in the 2007-2008 academic years."

This latest increase builds on decades of steady growth, with four times as many U.S. students participating in study abroad in 2007-2008 than in 1987-1988."

Annie Irving '08 is a Guilford alum who studied abroad in Scotland. She was present at the study abroad fair as an international officer and study abroad/exchange co-coordinator at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

"Do it," said Irving. "These programs will open horizons and doors for you."

Senior and biology major Elle Stapelton, studied abroad in Costa Rica last spring semester. "It was awesome to be immersed in what you study on a whole different level, 24 hours a day," said Stapelton. "Getting to know the people on an individual basis, for me, demonstrates a level of humanity that transcends culture."



Associate Professor of Political Science **Kyle Dell** talks to junior **Damian Morden-Snipper** about New Zealand's EcoQuest program. The Sept. 8 study abroad fair, hosted in Founders Hall, offered curious students a preview of programs combining academics with travel.