

RecycleMania contest continues at Guilford

By Sage Donpineo
STAFF WRITER

In February 2001, members of Ohio University and Miami University started a contest to see who could recycle the most as a way to increase recycling in the residence and dining halls. This eight-week competition was dubbed "RecycleMania."

Ten years later, the contest membership has grown from two universities to 630 colleges and universities from the United States to the United Kingdom and Qatar. This year, the contest started on Feb. 6 and will end on Apr. 2 — eight short weeks to determine who will step up their game to become the new RecycleMania champion.

What is the prize, you might wonder? The answer is bragging rights and good, old-fashioned pride in your school's commitment to the environment.

"This contest not only is a good-natured competition, but also gives us incredible insight into how our progress has been and gives us a chance to compare (our progress) to the years before, as well as other schools," said Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Jim Dees.

Guilford has been a part of RecycleMania since 2008. This year, Guilford is entered in the Gorilla Classic, the Per Capita Classic and the Waste Minimization categories, according to Dees.

Guilford's continued participation in RecycleMania is especially fitting, as the theme for the 2010-2011 academic year is sustainability. The college has already shown its commitment to the environment by installing 200 solar panels this summer, installing two Earth Tubs for composting

and making Archdale Hall LEED silver certified.

"We are already seeing benefits," said Dees. "The second year we participated in RecycleMania, we added the first Earth Tub. This year, we added the second Earth Tub, and we're composting 100 percent of the food out of the cafeteria. When we're not composting, one full dumpster weighed six tons. When we are [composting], it weighs 1,800 pounds."

The contest has had a huge impact on the Guilford campus, not only physically (the solar panels) but also in the way Guilford views the environment.

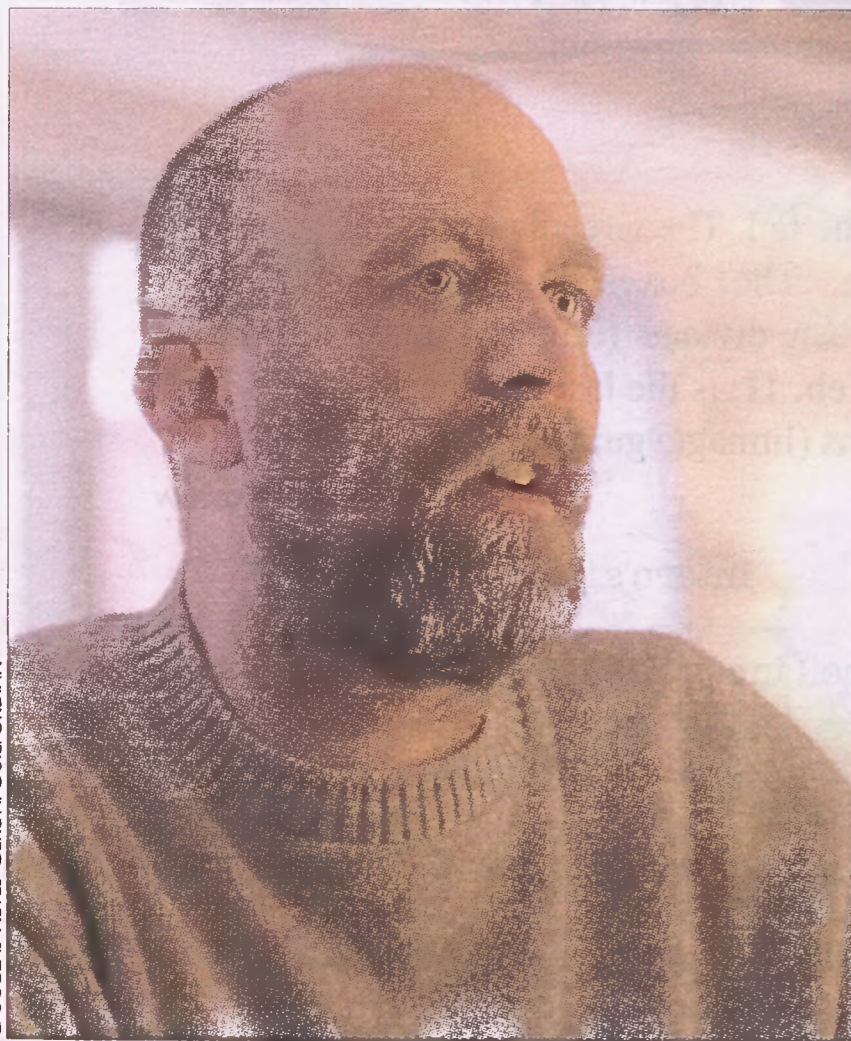
"A big part of RecycleMania is yourself," said Dave Dobson, associate professor of geology. "People need to decide how they want to live their lives and how much impact they want to have on the environment. We need to be stepping up to our environmental rhetoric and keep living up to our principles."

One of the events Dees is planning as part of RecycleMania is a trash audit.

"When the weather gets nicer, I'd like to go around and collect all the trash from the outside public trash cans, then spread it out on a tarp, look at it (and) weigh it," said Dees. "I want people to think about how much they throw in the trash ... if we give people a dose of reality, then maybe we can hit that social change."

Sophomore Ashley Maciag is highly supportive of the audit.

"I think that this would be a real eye-opener for Guilford college students," said Maciag. "If we published this information weekly, we may be able to reduce the amount of trash we throw away. It could also help influence people to recycle more."



DOUGLAS REYES-CERON/GUILFORDIAN

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator **Jim Dees** explains the merits of RecycleMania, an eight-week international recycling contest.

Gender-blind housing option for Bryan Hall

By Emily Cooper
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Campus Life recently posted housing information online for the 2011-2012 academic year. The latest addition: gender-blind housing in Bryan Hall.

According to the college website, "Coed groups must be in equal pairings, meaning each room within a suite must be single sex, but the suite itself may be coed."

This means bathrooms will be unisex in coed suites next year.

This may not faze older students who are currently living in on-campus apartments, but to students living in the dorms, it is a new option.

"Guilford College has never had gender-blind housing," said Associate Dean for Campus Life Jennifer Agor.

A new idea such as gender-blind housing generates concerns about how Guilford's image will be affected.

"I can understand that advertising Guilford with a gender-blind housing option may be tough for our admissions representatives because some may view this as a housing free-for-all," said senior Brian Daniel. "However, this is an important issue surrounding higher education."

Appealing to parents and prospective students is important to the college, and gender-blind housing may or may not affect the appeal.

"Gender-blind housing seems to be a reasonable option," said David Turner, parent of sophomore Karen Turner. "Friendships are generally gender-blind, and rooming with a friend would probably enhance the college experience."

On the other hand, some parents may not approve of the new coed suite option.

"Most students feel as if college is their time to learn how to be adults on their own, and this is true in many ways," said Susie Whalen, mother of sophomore Daniel Whalen. "However, coed suites have the potential to create unexpected situations that the students may not consider, but parents would. Possible examples could be

privacy concerns, indiscretion, modesty, respect, violence, etc."

Prospective student Amanda Wimer said she would be comfortable living in gender-blind housing and that it did not affect her image of Guilford College.

"Gender-blind housing shows others that at Guilford, everyone is equal and it doesn't matter what gender you are," said Wimer.

From an administrative perspective, gender-blind housing could bring unnecessary hassle for the Office of Campus Life.

"I do worry about people wanting to live with their boyfriend or girlfriend and that's really why they want gender-blind housing, and then when they break up, there are issues with that," said Agor.

The new policy also raises questions about how it will affect the Guilford community. Guilford's student body is diverse; therefore, it is important to consider all of the community's interests, especially the minority groups on campus.

"What happens when the student wants to be known as a different gender pronoun than their biological sex?" said senior Caiden Hogan. "Do they need to switch rooms? Will they have that option? These are important questions to ask because the transgender population is so small on campus."

"It is important to have an option available for transgender individuals because it does happen," said Hogan. "Diversity is an important value at Guilford, and it has been consistent for the entire four years that I have been here."

Guilford has often been criticized by students for changing its image.

"Guilford College stands as a beacon for free thought and open acceptance," said sophomore Austen Applegate. "By taking the step for gender-blind housing, Guilford is assuring that it will continue to be a place where everyone is a valuable part of the community."

"Perhaps if Guilford makes this progressive and needed change, other schools will follow suit," said Daniel.

COMMUNITY SENATE UPDATE

UPCOMING

(Feb. 16 meeting)

Mandatory meal plan discussion: concerns and solutions

CAB reform policy

IN PROGRESS

Community Center Renovation Proposal Approved

ACCOMPLISHED

Contact:
senate@guilford.edu or
Senate President
Dana Hamdan
hamdands@guilford.edu
Community Senate meets every
Wednesday from 7-8 p.m.,
Boren lounge, Founders Hall

YOUR IDEAS AND INPUT