

## In defense of the Chick-fil-A boycott



By Kylie Gilliams  
STAFF WRITER

Chick-fil-A, with its delicious waffle fries, classic chicken sandwiches, and iconic advertising campaign, is a favorite destination for many college students. Recently, however, students across the United States have asked that Chick-fil-A be removed from their college campuses as part of a larger boycott.

Last month, the restaurant chain came under fire for sponsoring a conference opposing marriage equality as well as for ongoing ties to anti-gay groups such as Focus on the Family. While the corporation insists that they do not discriminate against LGBT people, the paper trail says otherwise. And for an institution so value-driven, it makes

no sense for them to contribute to a cause they claim to not believe in.

I fully respect Chick-fil-A's right to run their business based on their values. However, there's a thick line between holding beliefs and acting on them, especially when those actions include working to take civil rights away from an already stigmatized group of people.

This transition from belief to action lies at the heart of the Chick-fil-A boycott, led by members and allies of LGBT communities.

It's an extreme oversimplification to say that the uproar caused by the news of Chick-fil-A's funding choices has to do with their Christian roots. This isn't about religion. Homophobia transcends all creeds, races, and nationalities. It's as broad and diverse as the standard of the queer community — the rainbow flag.

Reducing the argument down to Chick-fil-A's Christian roots also ignores the fact that there are plenty of deeply devoted queer and allied Christians. Not all Christians are homophobic, and not everyone

against gay rights is Christian.

All too often, homosexuality and Christianity are seen as irreconcilable opposing forces. This simply isn't true; and this notion harms all involved, especially LGBT people who must constantly reconcile and defend their sexuality and faith.

I may not be Christian, but that doesn't mean I automatically disagree with most of Chick-fil-A's practices. Any business driven by a code of ethics should be greatly respected, along with their choice to close on Sundays.

However, just as they act in accordance with their beliefs, so do I. And I refuse to patronize an establishment that so boldly supports organizations actively trying to control one of the most basic rights: who a person can love.

The loss of my business won't make much of an impact. But maybe yours will. If we all stand unified against oppression and injustice in all forms, maybe, just maybe, we will finally begin to see some real change.

## Summer classes: friend or foe?



By Ryan Gordy  
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It is now that time of the year — the sun is staying out longer, the weather is getting warmer, and most are thinking about Serendipity and summer. Summer is about sun block, flip flops, the beach, and class.

Wait, class? Yes, at Guilford the summer is the time for students to continue taking classes if they choose to do so.

"I feel that I have had very positive experiences with the summer session and I'd recommend them to people, provided they know what they're getting into," junior Benjamin Sepsenwol said in an e-mail interview.

Just what are students putting themselves through when they decide to take summer classes? Having taken four of them last summer and survived, they are not as bad as they seem.

"I took a fiction writing class this summer, and we spent a lot of time writing outside and sharing our work," said junior Devinne Melecki. "The whole experience was awesome, and I felt like we really developed a classroom community, while also embracing the summer."

Everyone I interviewed commented on the positive community of their classes. That community is one of the key elements of summer classes. This is in alignment with Guilford's core values and brings out the best performances in students.

Assistant Professor of English Traci Connor believes that community is what drives the energy of her creative writing summer class.

"The experience is more intense, but that is the best kind, the immersion into the material every day is really great for a community of students," Connor said.

This outlook is echoed by Associate Professor of English Heather Hayton for the demanding five-week session.

"I regularly teach Queer Studies in the first summer session because the intensity of the subject is rewarded by the deep community developed as 18 people spend so much time with each other in five weeks," Hayton said.

As every college student does, I complain about homework. However, in the summer, homework isn't much different than a regular semester. The five week classes are more intensive because they condense 15 weeks of work into five, and some teachers do not find it necessary to change their classes at all.

"For my classes, there is no difference between summer and regular semester classes," said Binford Professor of Biology Frank Keegan.

However, students do not feel that the workload over the summer is overbearing.

"I would say I probably ended up doing the same amount of work I do during the school year, but it felt more leisurely in the summer," said Melecki.

It is also common for CCE students to take classes during the summer.

"I'm a CCE student, and juggling family, work and school is constant," said senior Brian Smith. "If a class is offered in the summer, I'd prefer to take it then, at its most direct and concentrated dosage."

Even tedious work in the summer can have benefits. Students can find their favorite classes in the summer.

"Taking Introduction to Creative Writing with Traci Connor was the best decision I have ever made," said senior Austin Shriner. "It's the best class I've taken at Guilford. I wish other people could take it."

Unfortunately, there are some drawbacks in taking summer classes, because ... it is summer.

"During the summer semester, the campus is a ghost town," said Sepsenwol. "Hardly anyone is there compared to a normal semester. Also, with having no cafeteria available, everyone on campus has to fend for themselves."

These are the only negatives I can find with my experience spending summer at Guilford because I am not a chef. And since there are not a lot of people on campus, it gives you the opportunity to explore Greensboro.

"Tell everyone to get off campus," said Shriner. "I can't stress that enough. Don't go to the Quaker Village, either. Get on a bus and ride it somewhere you haven't been before."

## BURSTING THE BUBBLE

### Revealing Bodies Revealed



Emily Cooper  
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The Bodies Revealed Exhibition is a traveling exhibition of 14 bodies, broken down to show the inner workings of the human body. The exhibition is currently at the Natural Science Center of Greensboro.

There is no doubt that this is a fascinating exhibit. It gives visitors a visual of how our bodies work. Learning about anatomy in a classroom or even with plastic diagrams is one thing. But seeing the real human body broken down in such a manner is something that up until now, few people had the opportunity to see.

The masterminds behind the Bodies Revealed Exhibit are Premier Exhibitions, Inc.

What's worth noting about the Bodies Revealed Exhibition, however, is that in 2004, the current Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, put the company under investigation regarding the means by which they were obtaining the bodies used in their original exhibit "Bodies ... the Exhibition" in New York City.

The information that was brought to light through that investigation is sickening.

The cadavers in the exhibit were unclaimed bodies received from the Chinese Bureau of Police. Premier was unable to definitively verify that the bodies on exhibit were not those of incarcerated Chinese prisoners.

The company also said they could not independently verify that body parts in the exhibits were not those of people who had been executed, tortured, or otherwise mistreated.

It is appalling that Premier Exhibitions thought it was okay to put bodies on display of people who did not give their consent.

Just because a person's body is unclaimed does not make them less of a person. They were still once someone's child, someone's friend, someone's loved one.

Every person deserves the right to at least have a funeral, a remembrance, a moment of silence — something that acknowledged that a human life has been lost. Or in the case of the pregnant woman and fetus that are displayed: two lives lost.

It is heartbreaking to think once these people died, their bodies became objects. After they died they were no longer humans, but literal plastic dolls.

According to the Bodies Revealed Exhibition website, the polymer preserve takes all the liquid out of your body and replaces it with a plastic liquid, hardening the corpse forever.

Premier Exhibitions took the most private thing a person has — their body — and turned it into a profit.

Putting people on display for the world to see without consent is just wrong. Dismembering another human without their consent and parading them around for a profit is dehumanizing.

The bodies of these people were merely an exhibition generating massive amounts of money for a company.

The Bodies Revealed Exhibition does not display the same cadavers as the original exhibit. The company may have cleaned up their act. However, wrongdoings of the past should not be overlooked.

The exhibits are as popular as ever, and Premier Exhibitions is still making money. Their actions do not mirror those of an organization that wants to educate.

It seems clear that Premier Exhibitions is taking advantage of the museums that display their exhibits. At the Natural Science Center of Greensboro, the regular rate for admission is \$8 for non-members and free for members. The Bodies Revealed exhibit is \$20 for members and \$21 for non-members.

Why are we paying so much more than the regular price to see this exhibit?

Today, it seems as though even the quest for knowledge is tainted by the greed of commercialism.