

Ellis-Lamkins encourages Guilford students to be Green For All

By Chassidy Crump
STAFF WRITER

"If you know a young child, someone with asthma, an older person with trouble breathing, or a person who lives in an area with poor air quality, you probably know someone who will be sick within the next year or two," said CEO of Green For All Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins.

On April 5, Ellis-Lamkins came to Guilford to speak about Green for All, a national organization dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans through a green energy economy. She was the last speaker in the Center for Principled Problem Solving series on sustainable economic development.

According to the company website, Green for All works with business, government, and grassroots communities to create and implement programs to increase quality jobs and opportunities within the green industry.

Ellis-Lamkins said she grew up in a community with the worst air quality in California, populated primarily by single moms and people of color. Her environmentalism began when a doctor told her single mom that the family should move because of Ellis-Lamkins' asthma — not a feasible option at the time.

"It wasn't helpful to tell us that what we were doing was wrong without having a solution," said Ellis-Lamkins.

As a result, Ellis-Lamkins wanted to create more practical ways for people to be environmentally friendly that would "meet them where they are."

"Too often economics is an afterthought for many engaged in social change efforts," said Director of the Center for Principled Problem Solving Mark Justad in an email interview. "This is unfortunate because without sustainable economic models our efforts for change can lack staying power."

Green For All seeks to bridge the gap between economic and environmental efforts, in order to make sustainability more practical for more people.

"We aim, in partnership with our allies, to build a green economy and sustain an infrastructure that closes the gaps in income, wealth, health, security, and opportunity across the U.S.," according to the Green for All website.

An important aspect of these goals is spreading awareness of green jobs, which are the fastest-growing jobs in the economy, according to Ellis-Lamkins.

She explained how many people were left out of the hi-tech movement because they were unaware; she wants to prevent this from happening again with the green industry.

"The reality is that by the time most people pay attention to the green economy, it will have passed them by," said Ellis-Lamkins.

Lamkins encouraged the students to consider a green job

after graduation.

"Yes, I most certainly am interested (in a green job)," said sophomore Will Singley in an email interview. "That is going to be my first priority upon leaving college or grad school."

Lamkins paused to ask the audience what industries were growing in the economy; after a long pause, a few people threw out suggestions: waste, biofuels, transportation, construction. Ellis-Lamkins added that water was the most important industry.

According to theGrio, an NBC site focused on the African American community, Ellis-Lamkins has already made progress.

Green For All has succeeded in getting legislation passed through Obama's Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with \$500 million reserved for green-jobs, among other accomplishments.

Ellis Lamkins' latest pursuit is Green The Block, a partnership with Hip Hop Caucus and Green for all, according to the Green The Block webpage. Green The Block is a national campaign targeted towards helping low-income communities, particularly those of color, to change the environment and economy through green jobs and initiatives.

"We want you to take the inspiration and turn it into something that transforms people's lives," said Ellis-Lamkins.

Guilford initiative puts local youth into motion

By Claire Wardlaw
STAFF WRITER

With a popular culture swarming with tween superstars like Justin Bieber, Rebecca Black, and Jayden Smith it's hard to deny that many youth today will jump at any opportunity to perform. A fledgling student and faculty initiative, the Guilford Afterschool Arts Program, seeks to celebrate this reality and inspire disadvantaged youth in the Greensboro community to start moving.

GAAP was a shared initiative for Theatre Studies professors Jack Zerbe and David Hammond, James Shields from The Bonner Center for Community Learning, AmeriCorps, and CPPS. Targeting a variety of ages from Glen Haven and Avalon Trace, GAAP is meant to provide an imaginative outlet for adolescents from areas without such resources readily available.

GAAP's first task was enticing Guilford student applicants that wanted to contribute their own unique aptitude to the program's curriculum.

"The Guilford students have made remarkable discoveries and prompted some amazing creativity among the participants," said Hammond, in an email interview. "The program draws in its participants with such focuses as African drumming, music, hip-hop, slam poetry, and dance — all of which came from suggestions made by the Glen Haven youth — despite the general neglect of society to recognize this age group's artistic potential."

"We became interested in middle school students when we learned that

this age group is historically 'underserved' in arts education in the public schools," said Hammond.

Yet, as this is the first year of the program, it was a challenge for the collaborators to predict the best way to execute the program without any idea of what to expect.

"It's basically like we're asking, 'how do we make fun a program?'" said junior Arthur Wood, an Art and Religious Studies double major and student collaborator in GAAP.

Wood recounted stories exhibiting the eccentricities of the children he's worked with, most of which highlighted their instinctive imagination.

"They are screaming individuals," Wood said. "I guess we're trying to get them to want to show who and what they are."

Yet, the ultimate objective of the program is to bring all of the lessons and experiences shared throughout this year into a final, comprehensive performance at Guilford College. This will include a compilation of the various art styles and improvisational activities that have been the concentration of the program.

"The instructors — Josh Rodriguez, Helen Gushue, Ene Ekoja, Sarah-Jaana Nodell, Arthur Wood, and Jodie Geddes — have done an incredible job making something from nothing and have worked hard to collaborate in solving a problem that they have had little tools or training to solve," said Mary Pearl Monnes, the AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer who in part designed GAAP, in an email interview.

GAAP's final performance will be on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m.

WGSS CONFERENCE

Guilford College will host the second annual Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Conference.

*

Come Tuesday April 26 from 1- 5 p.m. to the Frank Family Science Center (off of New Garden Rd).

*

The conference will begin with a keynote presentation by Robin James, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at UNC-Charlotte, titled: "Critiquing Controlling Images: Black Feminism In Popular Music."

*

The program includes a range of student work comprised of poetry, art, and academic research. Faculty, staff, & students are all encouraged to participate.

To submit, email earlyhe@guilford.edu.

