

VIOLENCE

Investigating on-campus violence at Guilford

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that it's an impossible space for P-Safe to completely patrol. You need to know when to turn around and walk away."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, between the years of 2007 and 2009, the Guilford campus experienced one reported robbery, four reported forcible sex offenses, and 49 reported burglaries. Compared to most other schools, particularly large institutions, Guilford is a safe campus.

However, according to Director of Public Safety Ron Stowe, it is still important for students to realize that Guilford is not a closed campus.

"The Guilford woods are both a blessing and a curse," said Stowe. "It's a beautiful place for people to meditate, go running, or whatever. It's the 'whatever' that we worry about."

Director of Student Judicial Affairs Sandy Bowles stressed the importance of student awareness on campus.

"I think this community needs to find a balance between shutting down and not paying attention at all," said Bowles. "We all get lulled into complacency, and that's when these kinds of issues happen."

According to Student Success Counselor Meagan Jolliffe, it is also important to not stay in the Guilford bubble for fear's sake.

"Closing the bubble is not a way to deal with this," said Jolliffe. "We'd be missing out on a lot and not fixing the problem. Shutting down is not a way to be safe."

On Sunday, April 17, Guilford's Sexual Assault Awareness Support and Advocacy Group (SAASA) hosted Take Back the Night to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Although the t-shirts strung between the trees outside

King Hall demonstrated a different method of raising awareness about campus violence, it was nevertheless equally poignant.

"SAASA started because of a lack of communication between administrators and students, and students to students," said senior and SAASA co-president Mary Hackett. "We are trying to bridge the gap about sexual



Callboxes placed around campus are a method of student security.

awareness on campus."

Guilford students, faculty, and staff gathered in front of Founders Hall to hear speakers including Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Julie Winterich and sexual assault survivor Elaine Oberto.

"We lose the spotlight when we blame women for being alone, drinking or wearing short skirts," said Winterich. "We have the right to walk in the night ... to drink, to not worry about friends at a party."

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, every two minutes someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.

"Rape is often called the 'act of silence' because it goes unreported, but it goes beyond that," said Oberto. "People just don't talk about it."

According to Stowe, safety awareness and community dialogue are the common denominator when addressing the possibility of on-campus violence.

"Take this with you: we want you to be safe and we want to do all we can do," said Stowe. "However, we can't protect you from everything; there is also a level of personal responsibility involved."

The Office of Public Safety recommends that students save Public Safety's number in their cell phones in case of emergency and to not wander around the woods alone.

The sophomore who was assaulted echoed this advice.

"The attack could have been worse; it could have happened to someone who was smaller than me," said the student. "Enjoy the woods, but be safe and be smart."

Stowe also stressed the importance of following your gut instinct in potentially dangerous situations.

"Humans are the only animal that will have that gut feeling, but then ignore it," said Stowe. "We need to be aware of these feelings and follow them."

WEBSITE

GuilfordNet aimed to streamline student access

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Bolgiano. "At least the school website doesn't change as often as Facebook."

The website was also designed as part of an integrated marketing plan to recruit new students. According to Buckner, college websites are critical to student recruitment.

"We wanted the material on the website to reflect who we are to the world, or essentially what makes Guilford Guilford," said Buckner. "This is about showing off what Guilford is, especially to people who are not familiar with us at all."

Some students have mentioned that the website does not accurately reflect Guilford's demographics.

"The website reflects a diversity that's disproportionate to the actual campus," said Seitz. "I'm not exactly complaining, however. I love diversity and people from different cultures."

Another innovative addition is the GuilfordNet, which is geared more towards current students and faculty. Anyone with a Guilford username can log into this section of the website.

Many sections of the old website which were password protected are now consolidated on the GuilfordNet, along with the Buzz, the Student Handbook, important contact information, and other resources.

With the website still in construction, developers are planning to work with individual faculty members to personalize their web pages. There is a tip list available on the new home page of the website to guide students and staff throughout the transition.

"We realize there are some corrections and modifications that need to be made and the web team is addressing those immediate issues," said Buckner in an email interview. "There are sections of the site that will be more fully developed over the summer and into the fall."

Some faculty members have stressed the importance of tailoring the academic department pages to match the individual departments.

"We are a herd of cats around here and everyone has a strong opinion and a fierce interest in attracting and retaining the best students, as well as keeping our alums involved in the life of the community," said Visiting Instructor of Art Maia Derry in an email interview. "But those opinions, that interest, and the energy fueling them are precisely what makes this place such a great college."

With even more improvements and additions looming in the horizon, the Office of Advancement will continue to work on perfecting the website and intranet system throughout the following months.

COMMUNITY SENATE UPDATE

WORK OVER THE SUMMER

Experiential Learning
Students & Service Learning

LEADERSHIP

If you are interested in a steering committee position, applications are at the info desk, we ask to have them returned there by April 27.

ACCOMPLISHED LAST SENATE MEETING

Approval of Budget Recommendations
Approval of Social Honor Code foundational document

YOUR IDEAS & INPUT

Contact:
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