

ABROAD

Study abroad program faces additions, improvements thanks to SLRP II

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Creating more international awareness in students is a key feature of the second Strategic Long-Range Plan (SLRP II), according to former Director of Study Abroad Jim Hood. This includes expanding Guilford's Study Abroad program options as well as the number of international students on campus. Another improvement which Daniel Diaz, project assistant for Study Abroad, hopes to see is an increase in the number of programs Guilford offers.

"I would like to see the study abroad office grow in terms of staff and in terms of program options ... especially in South and Central America, Africa, and South Asia," Diaz said. "These are under-represented locations generally in study abroad, and I'd like to see our office be part of the group of study abroad offices reaching out to those destinations and to those cultures and people."

According to Hood, offering a short term in January or May could increase the number and variety of programs available at Guilford.

"Some of the short-term options will be 'study away' options," Hood said. "These may be study trips run by faculty that don't involve traveling to another country, because there are plenty of interesting things to study here in the U.S."

The short term, set to roll out in 2013, could be a solution to many of the problems students face in planning a trip abroad. One of these problems is that for some students, spending an entire semester away from Guilford is impractical.

Student-athletes are obligated to be at

Guilford during the season their sport is played, and CCE students are often unable to study abroad because of work commitments. The short term is easier to schedule around and may make it possible for more students to go abroad.

"I hope ... with a January term that we will begin to organize enough short trips that the adult population will start to go (abroad) as well," said Jack Zerbe, director of Study Abroad.

It can also be challenging to fulfill graduation requirements at a different campus. Students should ensure that the classes

they take while abroad apply to their major, minor, or general education requirements, so they can have a great trip and still graduate on time.

"Because I started planning during my first year, I was able to arrange my schedule around studying abroad," said senior Nicole Guilfoyle, who studied abroad in Hiraokata, Japan. "But, that might not happen in other programs or for other majors, like the sciences."

"In my experience, the best way to make sure you graduate in four years is to take courses for your major while you're at

Guilford and then fulfill your general education requirements while abroad," Sanders said. "In Munich, I could fulfill requirements for my German and international studies majors, but people might have problems with other majors."

Some students feel that they cannot study abroad due to the cost. The short-term option will cost less than a full semester, and the Study Abroad office is exploring other options, such as scholarships, to lower the cost.

"Guilford is on the right track by trying to make study abroad more affordable," said senior Rebecca Sutton, who studied abroad in Montpellier, France. "My financial aid didn't apply to my semester in France, so the cost was more than twice as much as going on a Guilford-led program."

There is a distinction between Guilford-led programs, which are led by Guilford faculty and cost about the same as a semester at Guilford; Guilford-affiliated programs, which are hosted through other colleges or universities and may incur surcharges; and outside programs, which are not associated with Guilford at all and thus cost more.

Currently, Guilford students can study at over 70 locations around the world through 22 different programs, including trips led by faculty members to London, Munich, Sienna, and other locations. As many as 100 students have gone abroad in previous years. Unfortunately, the numbers were down to 88 last year, in part due to a canceled trip to Mexico. Nevertheless, SLRP II and the improvements to the Study Abroad program will be beneficial for students — at home and abroad.



Exploring culture outside of the classroom is a key aspect of studying abroad. Here, **Jake Kresloff, Melissa McCourt, Keita Tsutsumi, Maddie Lambelet, and Sam Allen** (L-R) take a break from studying at Brunnenberg, Italy, to visit Venice..

REBECCA GIBLIN/GUILFORDIAN

Beyond "Green and Beyond"

GRAPHIC BY JOY DAVON

David Petree heads sustainability movement on campus

By Victor Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Super-sized Post-It notes with items to be taken care of in the name of sustainability riddle the office walls of Guilford College's new director of environmental sustainability, David Petree.

"My team and I stay pretty busy around here," Petree said. "Making sure this campus is environmentally sustainable is a challenge that I welcome."

Petree is no stranger to North Carolina or Guilford. A native of Rural Hall, N.C., Petree started working at the college fourteen years ago, but is new to the position of director of environmental sustainability.

When asked what being the Director of Environmental Sustainability means, Petree looked around at all of his to-do lists and smiled.

"My task is to lead the sustainability effort and I'm working with great people on the task," said Petree. "Kent Chabotar and Jon Varnell have really made sure that we are

able to make the grounds look as good as possible."

Already, Guilford has taken significant strides to be a good steward of the resources we use as a college community. Petree proudly invited me to his laptop to see the sustainability section of the Guilford website.

"Right here, right now, we're getting sustainability done," reads the web page. "Our students, faculty and staff are making a real difference, with large and small sustainability projects that are showing concrete, measurable results. We're lowering our carbon footprint, saving money, and creating lasting social change."

Petree said that he and his team are constantly looking for new ways to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions for the college. He even works to make his home sustainable. Petree and his wife have an extensive garden and rain water collection system, along with wood-burning heat and high-efficiency window units.

"We didn't use a drop of city water the entire summer," said Petree. "And it was a long, dry, hot summer."

Petree admitted that when he first came to Guilford there

were limited resources for bettering the grounds and making the college sustainable.

"It really wasn't until Kent Chabotar came as president that we were provided the resources to actually make a concerted effort on grounds and facilities with regards to sustainability," said Petree.

Petree is excited to meet the challenge of keeping the college "green" as technologies become available and useful to the college.

"As a college we are making big strides and developing the college into an environmental friendly place to be," said Petree.

Just how is Guilford getting sustainability done? Petree said the sustainability team has saved greenhouse gas emissions and made the college "green" in a variety of ways, including:

- A production garden: Where many vegetables are grown on our own grounds. The project has been in progress for about three years and is now beginning to yield vegetables for the campus.
- Re:cycles Bike Shop: Offers tune ups and general maintenance to those who have bikes. Students get a reduced price for maintenance and can rent a bike for five dollars a day.
- RecycleMania: A program that has been going on for three years. The friendly competition between colleges shows how much the schools actually recycle.
- Green Dining Program: A series of changes implemented to create and foster a more sustainable dining program. These include a more efficient automatic dishwasher, an organic-waste capture system, biodegradable napkins, eliminating trays, and the purchasing of more local and organic foods. Guilford also collects used cooking oil for conversion to biodiesel.

There are many more ways the college is promoting sustainability. Visit www.guilford.edu and click on "Green at Guilford" to see how the college is working for the environment.