

Beardtoberfest 2011: a hair-raising event

By Catherine Schurz
STAFF WRITER

Hairy chins and fancy staches can only mean one thing: Beardtoberfest 2011!

On Oct. 14, the Blind Tiger bar and concert venue on Spring Garden Street hosted a good time for a good cause. Organized by the Beard and Moustache Club of North Carolina, 100 percent of proceeds from the event went to the Down Syndrome Network of Greater Greensboro.

"We want to transform the way people see beards," said Michael Duez, a member of the Beard and Moustache Club. "We want people to see a man with a beard and say, 'Hey, that guy is about helping people in the community.'"

The evening consisted of a heated competition for best facial hair in four categories, as well as performances by three bands, The Quiet Brace, Another Roadside Attraction, and Future Ghosts.

The night began with an introduction to the Down Syndrome Network and their mission, an expression of gratitude for the audience's attendance, and thanks to the Beard and Moustache Club for their organized support.

Then the moustache madness ensued with both natural and styled moustache battles. Men with what looked like caterpillars beneath their noses took the stage and the crowd roared in anticipation. Based on a score card assessing density, length, color, and overall look, the judges thoughtfully determined a winner.

The crowd also assessed the contestants with their fine-toothed comb and audience response was measured and considered when awarding the honor of "best moustache."

Next, the styled mustache category drew curlicues, ringlets, and lots of hair gel to the stage. A winner was selected and each of the moustache extraordinaires received a t-shirt as a prize.

Corporate and freestyle beards, otherwise known on the streets as "groomed" and "wild" beards, were up next for

evaluation. No beard was left unstroked.

Each competitor stepped forward, groping their chin-hair with mesmerizing technique. In the end, the mighty shrills from the beard-enthusiast cheerleading section chose the victors.

And then, at last, the highly-anticipated headliner beard contests were underway, and the best beards of the night were about to face the steepest critique.



Southern Belle beard contest winner **Meghan Spivey '11** (center) wore a complete pirate ensemble to secure her place as first in the competition and in the hearts of the audience.

First the Southern Belle contestants entered the arena, strutting proudly with the strapped, glued, and fastened hair dangling from their chins. A row of bearded ladies stood before the audience, caressing their faux facial hair and smiling with pride.

It was a Guilford alumna who won the viewers' vote in

the end. Meghan Spivey '11 curtsied in her pirate ensemble as her jet black beard and moustache combo flowed from her face. A clear first-place winner, Spivey surely did not walk home empty-handed.

While the Belles exited the stage, the Full Beards marched on. Locks of gray, red, black, and brown captivated the room and the MC introduced the eight men one by one.

One man boasted that he hadn't shaved in 14 years and another did a jig with a tobacco pipe in hand, undoubtedly appealing to the Irish audience in the bar that night.

Then the champion stepped forth and displayed his flawless facial hair for the crowd.

With a quick flick or slow stroke of his mighty beard, he instantaneously proved to be the superior beard owner. The density was solid, the length impressive, and the color a fiery red. The others, though true competitors, were no match for the hair of this man.

His name? Chris Kelly. Former Guilford student Kelly showed Greensboro what sustainable hygiene looks like through the grace of a billowing beard and moustache magic. Kelly, the official Full Beard Natural contest winner of 2011, has been bearded for six and a half years with no intention of shaving in the near future.

"The winner had obviously been working on his beard," said Beardtoberfest Judge Cara Craig '06, stylist at Figaro Salon.

"I think it's pretty cool how much Guilford College representation is here tonight," said senior Elisa Valbuena-Pfau. "And that so many Guilford alumni are directly involved in helping this cause."

At the end of the night, the long-awaited donation total was revealed. The extraordinary event raised the extraordinary gift of more than \$550 for the Down Syndrome Network of Greater Greensboro.

Mesmerized by moustaches? Bewitched by beards? Read the full version of this article at Guilfordian.com

Students put down roots during agriculture-focused alternative fall break program

By Colleen Gonzalez
STAFF WRITER

Fall break is a chance for students to unwind from school chaos and forget all the stress the semester has brought. Some decide to travel home while others go to foreign places. However, there are the select few who decide to stay behind.

"Rooting Ourselves in Greensboro is a week-long program that not only involves volunteering at various places throughout Greensboro, but also having fun doing activities," said co-coordinator and Early College student Patrice Brown in an email interview.

"We wanted students to be able to become more active members in their community by getting to know new people as well as learning about some volunteer locations in Greensboro," said student coordinator Carla Restina in an email interview.

The program was started last year by two Principled Problem Solving scholars and a Guilford alum as a Principled Problem Solving project supervised by Project and Communication Manager Kim Yarbry. It also gives Guilford students a chance to give back to the community that has become a second home to them.

"I did ROIG last year as a freshman," said sophomore student coordinator Mandy Lu in an email interview. "I've always enjoyed doing service and that's why I decided to do it last year."

While some students decided to participate for fun, others did it as part of a community service requirement.

"I needed 40 hours this semester to

fulfill Early College community service requirements," said Brown. "I participated in it last year and had a blast, so I knew it was worth doing again, especially since I was asked to be a co-coordinator."

The week consisted of six-hour volunteer jobs done at various places near Guilford and in the Greensboro area. Such sites include the Guilford farm, Timberlake Farm, the Edible



Early College students **Gregory Foreman, Jr.** and **Melissa Nance** volunteer at the Guilford garden. They were among the many students to participate in Rooting Ourselves in Greensboro.

Schoolyard at the Greensboro Children's Museum and the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library.

"We did many activities, but they were mostly centered on sustainable agriculture or food justice," said junior Taylor Seitz in an email interview.

Activities consisted of building a fence

around a new plot of land for the Guilford farm and pulling weeds and gardening at the library and Timberlake Farm. Despite being on break from classes, the participants learned more about nature and how important of a role our surroundings play here in Greensboro.

"Students staying in Greensboro got to learn about their surrounding environment and what kinds of resources are available to

them," said Restina. "A lot of our work was centered on bonding with nature as well as creating a sense of community through connecting with other students." Despite the volunteer work that is done throughout the week, those who decide to participate in ROIG were treated to some good old-fashioned fun.

"We do a lot of community building activities like game night, bowling night, movie night and the general get-together at dinner time," said Lu.

Another added bonus to participating was that all meals, transportation, activities and water bottles were free.

Rooting Ourselves in Greensboro was not only an active way to spend your break at Guilford, but it offered students an opportunity to learn new skills, develop an understanding of their surroundings and communicate with both students and staff alike.

"I gained a greater appreciation for sustainable agriculture and food justice," said Seitz. "I learned to think about where food comes from and why ... and I honed my field and garden skills."

"I had a great time having new experiences and learning about the city I live in now," said Lu. "It also enabled me to get to know quite a few people on campus."

There are still places in Greensboro that have yet to be explored, and these places may very well be the next steps ROIG makes. Even in its infancy, ROIG is an opportunity worth taking. Community is a core value at Guilford, and a program such as ROIG emphasizes community between students and Guilford as well as the connection between Guilford and Greensboro.

"I was very excited to be a part of this, and I'm so glad that I got the opportunity to enhance my leadership skills and provide a service-learning opportunity for my peers," said Restina. "I feel like I learned a lot about the environment and history of Greensboro. In a sense, 'Rooting Ourselves' is a great pun."