

Serendipity Planning Committee aims to hold music-filled, inclusive festival

COMMITTEE SEEKS STUDENTS TO BRAINSTORM & PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE FOR THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED SPRING FESTIVAL

By Ellen Nicholas
STAFF WRITER

Serendipity is one of Guilford College's biggest and most highly anticipated events of the year. Students look forward to that spring weekend of carefree fun all year, all the while dreaming about what new and exciting things Serendipity will have to offer this time.

While the festival itself is a hot topic of discussion, the careful, arduous work of the people who plan Serendipity is not as public.

"One of the challenges is (the student body's) perception of Serendipity," said senior Shanon Rule, co-chair of the Serendipity Planning Committee. "It's so huge and everyone cares so much about it ... which puts a lot of pressure to do it and do it right."

The Serendipity Planning Committee is a sub-committee of the Campus Activities Board and has been meeting since the beginning of the semester to plan Serendipity. The committee is trying to bring Guilford together not only in experiencing Serendipity, but in planning it as well.

"We're trying to make the planning process open to the entire community," said Rule. "So whoever wants to have a say in what's going on has a legitimate ability to do so."

Junior and fellow co-chair Grace Chafin agreed, saying, "Anybody can come to any of the meetings."

In addition, Serendipity is going to shift its focus this year.

"This year one of the changes is that we're putting an emphasis on music again because I think it really brings people together as an art form," said Chafin. "So we're having (music) on Thursday with WQFS, Friday with one band, and then Saturday with another headliner, which is

"I'm mostly excited about the music, because I feel that music brings everyone together as a community ... and I think it would be a great way for everyone to communicate, make new friends, and just chill out and have fun."

Alexandria Smith, first-year and committee member

new this year because ... in the years past we usually just did one headliner that everybody voted on."

In past years there has been music all three nights of Serendipity. The difference is that this year the student body will get a chance to vote on more than one band.

Continuing with their efforts to involve the whole

campus, the committee wants to include Guilford bands in the music-centered festivities this year.

"On Saturday we're looking to have music literally all day," said senior and planning committee member Bennett Christian. "And we're going to shout out to Guilford and be like, 'Hey, prepare a set and we're going to have a battle of the bands,' and from there we're going to choose a few bands that seem prepared to play."

"I'm mostly excited about the music, because I feel that music brings everyone together as a community ... and I think it would be a great way for everyone to communicate, make new friends, and just chill out and have fun," said first-year and committee member Alexandria Smith.

Along with the musical focus, the Serendipity Planning Committee is also concentrating on including the entire Guilford community in the event in myriad ways.

"We're getting all the clubs that want to be involved, involved," said Rule. "And we're also trying to reach out to the different residence halls on campus and give them an opportunity to throw an event. ... Also, for the street fair, we're going to be using exclusively Guilford clubs and organizations. ... So we're just excited to see what everyone comes up with and how it all comes together."

Events to look forward to include the traditional kick-off dinner, a street fair and potential events hosted by residence halls

Above all, the planning committee wants input from the student body to make sure that Serendipity is a fun, memorable time for everyone. They encourage anyone to come to their open meetings, which are Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m. upstairs in Founders Hall, and to email any suggestions to serendipity@guilford.edu.

The Greenleaf Review wants YOU to...



Submit:
poetry, prose, artwork

to the Greenleaf Review, the literary
arts magazine at litmag@guilford.edu

ARTWORK BY BECCA NICHOLSON

THARP

Twyla Tharp offers jokes and advice for Bryan Series attendees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there every day," according to Tharp.

One of the main tenets of Tharp's book, "The Creative Habit," is that there are a variety of factors which hold most people back from harnessing their creative potential. Many of these are discussed in the chapter "Rituals of Preparation" and include the self-deprecating statements that many people formulate, including "people will laugh at me" and "this idea will never be as good in reality as it is in my own mind."

Throughout her speech, Tharp mixed a great deal of engaging and thought-provoking advice on how we can best engage our minds creatively with a decent dose of sarcastic and occasionally over-the-top humor.

Tharp described one of the worst experiences that can occur to someone embarking on a creative project — the experience of being caught in a rut — and subsequently asked audience members to "expose themselves" if they felt themselves in a rut by coming onto the stage with her.

One student, named Emma, raised her hand and came up to the stage, only to be asked to kneel face-down for approximately fifteen minutes while Tharp continued her discussion with two different panel members. Once her "rut" was finally addressed, Tharp showed her ability to mix in humor with relevant advice.

"I'm graduating in May and scared to enter the real world," said Emma. "My

parents want me to go to Social Work School, but I'm unsure if that's what I want to do, and I would rather pursue dance."

"Well, it sounds to me like you're not actually in a rut — you're simply conflicted — so I'm not sure why you raised your hand," said Tharp.

"Also, the economy is terrible, so you really don't have anything to lose by becoming a dancer," added Tharp.

In between the moments of humor, there were also pieces of advice for those searching for their inner creativity as well as moments of genuine contemplation on her own career.

Student reaction to Tharp's speech was largely positive. However, there were some who felt let down by Tharp's performance.

"I really don't think that her speech was an adequate representation of what she does," said senior theatre studies major Jacob Kresloff. "It took her at most twenty minutes to plan and was basically her commercial marketing her book."

"What she said about the task of having to sift through a huge amount of research and drudgery when facing a void at the beginning of an artistic endeavor was accurate," said Kresloff. "However, it doesn't compensate for how demeaning she was to some of the students or how she essentially stroked her own ego."

Despite criticism, Tharp defended the altruistic value of her work.

"If my work does not send people out feeling better than they did before, we have failed to do our jobs; if it does, then we have," said Tharp.