

## Guilford's green tours: spotlighting Guilford's sustainability



LAURA BURT/GUILFORDIAN

Guilford farmer **Korey Erb** spends time with an eco-tour group, led by **Bryce Bjornson**. These tours spotlight features in Archdale Hall, the upgraded farm, solar panels, the pulper and more.

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STAFF WRITER

Walking around campus, some may not notice all of the green changes that have been made to make Guilford more sustainable. The college's efforts go further than what may be seen up close.

To make people more aware of Guilford's sustainability mission, "Green Tours," sponsored by the Admission and Sustainability Offices, are now available for all. Sustainability Engagement Consultant Bryce Bjornson '10 leads the tours. The tours explain the school's

progress in becoming a sustainable campus.

"The effort to green Guilford moved along at a slow pace up until President Kent Chabotar signed the Colleges and Universities Presidential Climate Commitment (in 2007)," said Director of Environmental Sustainability David Petree.

"The goal is to reduce green house gases and become carbon neutral," said Petree.

Guilford aims to achieve total carbon neutrality by 2043. The coinciding goal is to reduce Guilford's carbon footprint. Green Tours explain how the school is accomplishing these goals.

The first stop on the tour is Archdale Hall. This building became LEED Silver-certified in 2009.

"The building was constructed with the Triple Bottom Line concept which keeps people, profit and planet in mind, instead of just profit," said Bjornson.

Archdale has a VOL system, which creates higher air quality. The paint used for the interior is eco-friendly and does not contain the normal chemicals which have a funny smell and cause headaches. There is also a special heating system that regulates the temperature so it remains constant instead of varying.

Moreover, all of the water in the building comes from reused rainwater. Bjornson hopes that more buildings on campus will become LEED certified in the near future.

The second stop is Ragan-Brown Field House, where human energy is being transformed into electricity. Exercising on the "Re-Rev" elliptical machines produces energy that is used to create electricity that powers the building. Solar panels on the roof also retain heat energy to power the facility. The athletic fields on campus are also maintained by using water from the lake instead of an outside source.

Next, the tour goes to the cafeteria, where people can learn how much water Guilford conserves. Not having a tray-based system allows for us to reduce water usage because there are no trays to wash.

Guilford also reduces waste when it comes to the actual food.

"The school produces 150 pounds of food waste per day and all of this waste is extracted

by a pulper," said Bjornson.

The pulper is like a large garbage disposal that takes all of the water out of the food. The food is then brought to one of the two earth tubs for compost.

"Some of the best ways we are currently attacking (the problem of carbon neutrality) is with the farm," said Petree. "... It's one of the most exciting initiatives we've got."

The community garden and farm are located behind New Garden Friends School. The community garden has several plots where people can plant their favorite herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Just down the path at the farm, there is a green house where vegetables grow. The farmers are also building a hoop house to allow for more production. Spinach, arugula, tomatoes, kale and Swiss chard are just some of the veggies being grown at the farm.

"5,000 pounds of veggies have been sold to the cafeteria," said Petree.

Meriwether-Godsey is not the only group interested in buying from the farm, though.

"Elizabeth's Pizza is re-doing their menu, and they are interested in buying our produce," said farmer Korey Erb.

The last stop on the tour is Re:Cycles Bike Shop, which encourages people to reduce their carbon footprint by biking instead of driving. Re:Cycles is also a great local resource for tune-ups and other fixes. The shop also does rentals for \$5 a day.

Green tours are offered on the fourth Friday of every month and are limited to seven people. The tours leave from New Garden at 2 p.m.

## RENOVATIONS

### Founders Hall to be renovated Summer 2012

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bottom open work environment. A mini-art gallery is currently in the last parts of the planning phase as well.

Some, like sophomore Peter-Lawrence Terrell, a Founders renovation committee member, are optimistic about the changes. Terrell said that he offers the committee his thoughts on what students would like to see in a student union, contrasted with how Founders is currently used.

"Founders will be more open and inviting to students," said Terrell. "Also, the committee is making sure that students have an input in the renovations, which is something most colleges do not allow."

Founders Hall, which houses the majority of student organization offices, as well as the college's dining facilities, bookstore, and mail services, is the most centrally located building on the Guilford campus.

Discussions about how space is to be divided for those student organizations that require a degree of enclosure, such as WQFS, The Guilfordian and CAB, are nearly finished.

Fetrow said some student organizations, such as Pride, will move out of Founders entirely, as the need for Safe Zone training in a private setting is more necessary than being centrally located.

"We just want to see the renovations actually make a change, instead of just making dated space new," said Fetrow.

Varnell told The Guilfordian that he hopes that as many people will contribute to the planning process as possible.

"Now is a key time for input and many changes are coming out from the open meetings, which is why we have them," said Varnell, who

has been attending meetings with the community and various student organizations following Community Senate to examine and redefine how the space will be used.

Adam Faust, a sophomore and Founders renovation committee member, said that he weighs in when a question posed to the committee elicits a thought that he thinks should be heard.

"So far, I have advocated from an art student's point of view, a tour guide's perspective, and just a regular student's point of view," said Faust. "I am really excited to see the upgraded Founders, and have been pleased with the changes the committee is suggesting."

Faust said the ultimate decision will be up to Chabotar, whom Faust hopes will pay attention to what the Founders renovation committee has to say.

Vice President of Enrollment Services Randy Doss said that he believes the renovations made to Founders Hall will make it a comfortable destination that more students will want to use, which would ultimately help draw in new students with its charm.

"Certainly prospective students will see the commitment we have to community when they see the construction in Founders," said Doss.

Varnell agreed with Doss, telling The Guilfordian that the administration will make renderings of the future plans public once they have been discussed with the community and pending Chabotar's approval.

With the plans nearing final completion, Fetrow shared his excitement.

"You can paint my office chartreuse; I don't care about color. I'm just excited to see students in the building and using it," said Fetrow.

## Muslim Women Film Series

**Beginning February 15th, students in IDS 485: Arab and Islamic Feminisms will present a series of films concerning the lives of Muslim women. The film screenings are free and open to the entire campus community.**

**They Call Me Muslim (2006) – Wednesday, February 15th  
7:00-9:00 p.m. in Founders Gallery.  
27 minutes**

**Women Like Us (2002) – Wednesday, February 29th  
7:00-9:00 p.m. in Founders Gallery.  
60 minutes**

**My Home, Your War (2006) – Wednesday, March 21st  
7:00-9:00 p.m. in Founders Gallery.  
52 minutes**

**That Paradise Will Be Mine (2005) – Wednesday, April 4th  
7:00-9:00 p.m. in Founders Gallery.  
54 minutes**