

## Award-winning journalist Steve Sapienza visits, presents on crisis reporting

BY HAEJIN SONG  
STAFF WRITER

"What's my beat?" asked Emmy Award-winning journalist and documentary producer Steve Sapienza. "My beat is human security."

Sapienza visited Guilford on Sept. 26 and 27 through the school's connection with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. Last year, along with Wake Forest University and High Point University, Guilford College joined the Pulitzer Center's Campus Consortium, a program that brings top journalists to the Triad to discuss and raise awareness of underreported global topics.

A former senior producer for "Foreign Exchange with Fareed Zakaria" and recipient of a CINE Golden Eagle and a News & Documentary Emmy, Sapienza spoke to the Journalism class about his approach to video journalism, placing emphasis on avoiding typical news structure and finding a compelling human character on whom to focus.

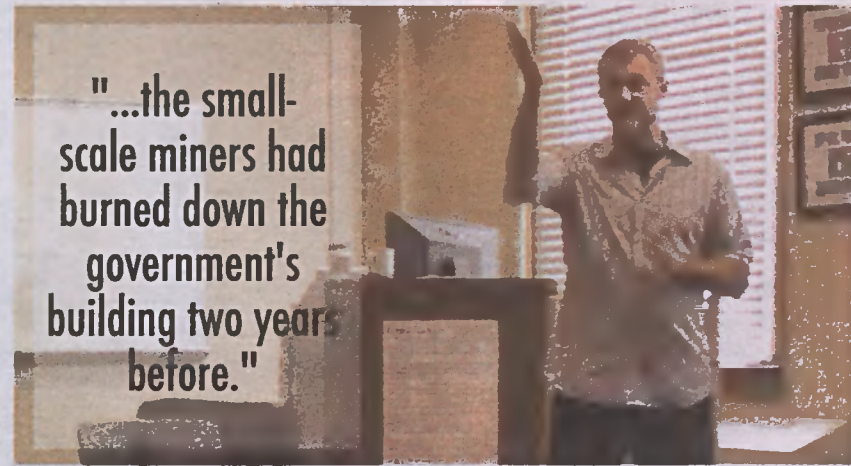
"(Sapienza) wants to, in a very non-liche way, make the world a better place through his reporting," said senior Josh Ballard, journalism class student. "He seemed like he wanted students to do the same, or at least take a good look at the world around them and try to make a difference."

The following day, Sapienza spoke during a reception and gave an evening presentation in the East Gallery of Founders Hall. He primarily discussed specific issues with Peru's gold mining.

With gold in high demand and gold prices rising up to \$1,800 per ounce, many Peruvians have turned to small-scale gold mining in the Peruvian Amazon. However, it's

not all smiles and profits for those involved in and affected by the activity.

"To produce an ounce of gold, it takes two ounces of mercury," said Sapienza. "In Madre de Dios, they are extracting 25 tons of gold a year which means 50 tons of mercury is coming into contact with the environment."



Journalist **Steve Sapienza** speaks at an informal gathering on Sept. 27. His talks covered issues such as Peruvian gold mining.

Thousands of miners use mercury to extract gold from the soil. When they have an amalgam of gold and mercury, they take it to gold shops where shop owners cook off the mercury and release mercury vapors into the atmosphere. This harms not only the environment but also the health of many locals.

"I talked to these miners who mix mercury and gold with their bare hands and feet," said Sapienza. "When I asked

them if they were worried about their health, they said that it was only bad for pregnant women."

Local governors have attempted to shut down illegal mining businesses and enact stricter laws. Rather than complying with the authorities, miners have revolted, taken over towns, and terrorized townspeople.

"I met the local governor in this big, new, beautiful building that was built to welcome tourists," said Sapienza. "It turns out that the local governor and government had to move into that building because the small-scale miners had burned down the government's building two years before."

Sapienza has documented a wide range of other human security stories, including labor in the Thai shrimp industry and child soldiers in Sierra Leone. Many of his stories have been featured on PBS NewsHour and have garnered public attention.

"Steve has had some incredible experiences covering important news in many countries," said Ty Buckner, associate vice president for communications and marketing. "A lot of his work deals with social justice issues, which made his reporting particularly interesting. I'm looking forward to seeing more of Steve's work on television and online in the future."

Sapienza is currently working on a documentary called "Easy Like Water," which is about the impact of climate change in Bangladesh.

"If I've done my job correctly, it's going to be quite clear what the audience needs to do," Sapienza said. "You don't need to tell them exactly what to do. You just need to show them the problem and most will figure out what they have to do in order to help change the situation."

## Outdoors Club hikes, climbs, camps and more

BY BRITTANY MUNDGCH  
STAFF WRITER

Wouldn't it be nice to do something on a Friday afternoon instead of your usual routine? Could you picture yourself skiing down mountains in Boone, N.C., and enjoying a relaxing night in a log cabin?

Would you be more interested if you could participate in these activities for free?

The Outdoors Club is a great way to enjoy yourself, meet new friends and expand your horizons, all while not having to worry if your wallet can afford it.

"We are able to fund all trips from the money we receive from Senate," said junior Steven Johnson, Outdoors Club president. "I run the meetings as well as book camp sites, help organize transportation, buy the food for the trips and make sure everyone has equipment."

If you want to know what trip is happening next or have a great idea for a trip in mind, make your way upstairs to Founders any Tuesday night at 7 p.m. You

will have a chance to sign up for the email list, suggest ideas for trips, and find out what events are coming up.

"It's a great way for students with common interest to come together," said junior Jordan Adams, Outdoors Club secretary. "You're guaranteed to have a good time since everything is already paid for and the equipment is supplied."

The Outdoors Club has already been on the move and just experienced two great trips that were deemed a success. The students had fun camping out on the beach for a weekend as well as visiting Raven Rock State Park along the Cape Fear River.

Rock climbing is another prominent club activity that is held every Friday afternoon at Tumblebee Ultimate Gym.

"I've been rock climbing every Friday so far, and I love it," said first-year Nina Troy. "It's a great way to unwind after a tough week."

The club also hopes to sponsor backpacking trips, day hikes, survival and outdoor lessons and a fun-filled weekend of skiing in the mountains of Boone, N.C.

The club aims to hold the Boone ski trip during the spring. Students will ski and hike all weekend long, and these rigorous activities will be followed by relaxation in a cabin with two hot tubs.

"The Outdoors Club has enabled me to make new friends and explore the natural beauty of North Carolina," said junior Fharyshia Omans, Outdoors Club treasurer. "It provides a very nice short-term vacation from the stress of classes and homework."

While providing many trips and activities, the club also volunteers to give back to the community. Volunteer acts consist of sponsoring service projects such as woods clean-ups and campus clean-ups.

The Outdoors Club is excited for this year and hopes to attract new members.

"I really hope people can get more involved in the Outdoors Club," said Adams. "There's no experience required to become a member — everyone is welcome."

For more photos from the Outdoors Club, visit  
[WWW.GUILFORDIAN.COM](http://WWW.GUILFORDIAN.COM)



Outdoors Club members take a moment to enjoy the sunset over the water during the beachside camping trip.

## STOP HUNGER NOW



## PACKING PARTY

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, volunteers assembled 10,000 hunger packets to ship overseas for those suffering from hunger crises. The packets included protein-filled, highly nutritious meals, which are shipped by the Stop Hunger Now organization.