

If you see ghosts throughout campus, who you gonna call?

BY DANIEL GASKIN
STAFF WRITER

The moon was full last Friday as I walked to Dana Auditorium. The mood was eerie, and the fact that I was going to hear a legitimate ghost story from a Public Safety officer made it all the more strange.

I met with Officer Mike Lane at Dana to hear his story of a supernatural incident he had witnessed a few years ago, and it was startling to say the least.

"I prefer to call them 'spirits.' I have experienced ghosts here in Dana. One in particular is Lucas, a Revolutionary war-era ghost who I have talked to in the past. He is perturbed by students who are not respectful of this place."

Frank Massey, IFP gifts discernment coordinator

"I came in to close Dana around 2:00 a.m." said Lane. "When I got to room 114, I heard three lines of a harmonica being played. It stopped when I knocked on the door. I opened the door to find nothing in there except a piano and

a dark room."

Even stranger than that, Lane came back the following Monday with a colleague to check out the same room that had the harmonica playing.

"We came into the same room around the same time to check it out again," he said. "We found nothing, but when I closed the door, a light fixture fell at my feet, nearly striking me, and missed me by that much," he added as he gestured a few inches.

I was deeply unsettled by this news, as Lane does not seem to be the type to fabricate such a story. So, I widened my look for the supernatural and found one person who knew something about spirits that dwell here.

Initiative on Faith and Practice Gifts Discernment Coordinator Frank Massey has a profound belief in the ghosts that live here and has even talked to them on occasion.

"I prefer to call them 'spirits,'" said Massey. "I have experienced ghosts here in Dana. One in particular is Lucas, a Revolutionary war-era ghost who I have talked to in the past. He is perturbed by students who are not respectful of this place."

I must say I was stunned at Massey's nonchalance at discussing the concrete existence of ghosts so easily and unremarkably. But, I looked into his eyes and saw that he was a quite sane individual.

"Some of these spirits are waiting to communicate with



people who pass through here," said Massey. "Some of the spirits are guarding something that existed before Dana. I don't know for certain, but I think they are guarding a thin spot where communication between realms is easier."

I recorded this conversation. When I left Massey, I listened back to the recording and what I heard shook me. The room was silent when we spoke — only a hint of music played in the background because we were in Dana, but there was a whistling recorded on my device. It would come and go throughout our 20-minute talk, but I assure you, there was no such sound when I was in the room.

After being scared out of mind at that creepy whistling, I wanted to get an idea of the places that house spirits here, so I contacted Director of the Friends Center and Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter via email.

"The three places supposedly haunted are Dana (reputedly haunted by 'Lucas,' a Revolutionary War soldier); Mary Hobbs Hall (NOT a student who died in the Hobbs fire — nobody died in that fire!); and the former WQFS station in Founders," said Carter.

I searched Hobbs for anything strange, but I found nothing except a group of girls wondering why I was in a girl's dormitory. In Dana, I tried calling out to Lucas to see if he answered, but besides looking quite strange, I again found nothing worthy of reporting. I do not know what I would have done if I did, but these stories are something that a true skeptic like me has found troubling.

HUG embraces Hispanic heritage and youth leaders

HISPANOS UNIDOS DE
GUILFORD GIVES BACK

BY TAYLOR HALLETT
STAFF WRITER

Hispanos Unidos de Guilford is showing local Latino youth to a path of leadership. On Nov. 10, the annual on-campus conference "Soy un Líder" will invite Latino youth from nearby high schools to participate in group activities.

"They come here, and for the first time they get a clear message that they can go to college," said Latino Community Program Director Jorge Zeballos, HUG faculty advisor. "They don't get that kind of support, unfortunately, in the schools they are in."

Even with all the enthusiasm Zeballos has about Soy un Líder ("I am a Leader"), it is his lack of direct involvement with its organization that he finds to be the most rewarding component.

"It is a project that is organized, planned and put together by students with my support and supervision," Zeballos said. "They do all the logistical work and organizing work. It is a way for them to give back to their community."

HUG is an on-campus organization that gives a space for the college's Hispanic and Latino students to celebrate their heritage. HUG also offers events that celebrate Hispanic culture which are open to the rest



Hispanos Unidos de Guilford sponsors several events throughout the year, such as sugar skull decorating, as seen above. Its most famous event is "Soy un Líder," an annual leadership conference.

of Guilford.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, from Sept. 15–Oct. 15, HUG hosted numerous events. The opening event for Hispanic Heritage Month was a viewing of "Harvest of Dignity," a documentary which focuses

on farmworkers in North Carolina. Another event hosted by HUG was the memorable mariachi band performance in the cafeteria.

On Oct. 30, HUG also hosted a workshop for making sugar skulls in celebration of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead.

Originating in Mexico, Día de los Muertos is a tradition where people gather to remember friends and family who have passed.

"I learned a good amount about the cultural traditions of Día de los Muertos from the presentation that was given, and I liked the creative aspect even though I didn't get to eat the skull," said junior Connor Bayne in an email interview.

Probably the most anticipated HUG event is the upcoming Nov. 10 conference.

Soy un Líder will invite Latino high school students from Guilford, Forsyth and Alamance counties for inspirational workshops on campus. The opening and closing ceremonies will be held in the Alumni Gym.

"I am looking forward to getting the kids involved," said Alejandra Ruiz, co-president of HUG. "Here they get to talk to college students who are Latino themselves. We are setting an example just by being here and showing that we care."

Such an endeavor is proving to be costly. However, HUG is considering new ways to alleviate some of the financial stresses that the conference entails.

"One of the things that we are looking at is applying for grants that will allow us to have a significant amount of financial support," Zeballos said.

Despite some of the financial roadblocks, Zeballos and HUG are optimistic about the event.

"It is, in my mind, the most powerful and rewarding event that we do every year," Zeballos said.