

## Doing their part: Guilford athletic alumni help in New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy ravages state

BY ANTHONY HARRISON  
STAFF WRITER

"If you say there's a blizzard coming (in New Jersey), they're fine with that," Assistant Athletic Trainer Danielle Duffy said. "But a hurricane in that area is a little different."

On Oct. 29, Hurricane Sandy made landfall in New Jersey. The storm destroyed more than 72,000 homes and businesses and killed 34 people, making it the most devastating hurricane recorded in the area. In a cruel twist of fate, a little more than a week later on Nov. 7 a nor'easter followed in Sandy's wake and dumped over a foot of snow across the state.

By that time, Duffy and her roommate, Kimberly Keys '12, had packed a rental car full of supplies and were on their way to New Jersey to help.

Duffy and Keys decided to support the relief effort after seeing the images of devastation reported on national news.

"I knew I could stay in North Carolina and help," Keys said in an email interview. "But to see Hurricane Sandy firsthand would mean that I would realize all my selfish ways and petty problems meant nothing compared to those who were affected."

Duffy, a native of Point Pleasant, N.J., also considered her family a major impetus in her decision.

"I was concerned with the emotions of my family and how they were," Duffy said.

Both women were struck by the devastation they witnessed once they arrived.

"The things we did see — you can't really prepare for it," said Duffy. "(We saw) things like boats on top of boats in

places there aren't supposed to be boats.

"All that kind of stuff was hard to believe, but when you see where it was and whose boat it was, it becomes much more real."

The duo helped out in places across the coast, performing a wide array of tasks.

"Kim and I started our relief efforts, per se, by shoveling some driveways," said Duffy. "We hadn't planned on that, but we decided we were there to do as much as we could."

Before their trip, they had collected supplies, which they donated to a church in Brick, N.J.

"After that, we volunteered at an abandoned shopping center that was set up to let victims receive donated supplies like necessities for young children, hygiene products and food," Keys said. "The last place we volunteered was in Point Pleasant. The houses had a lot of water damage so we knocked some drywall out and moved a lot of molded items out to be thrown away."

The Guilford Athletics Department supported the pair's efforts as best they could.

"An email was sent out by (Athletic Department Business Manager) Tracy Furjanic, asking for any additional Guilford gear to contribute to their relief effort," said Assistant Director of Athletics Dave Walters. "The folks in the department responded well and in short order."

Those close to Duffy and Keys are proud of their efforts.

"Knowing them, I knew they would make a big impact by donating their time," said senior Sarah Cutright, one of Keys's former softball teammates.

Both women consider the experience an eye-opener that put their relatively cozy lives into perspective.

Duffy plans on returning to help later this month.

"Packing your car and driving nine hours and seeing what I would see when I got there didn't seem like that crazy of an idea, I guess," said Duffy with a laugh.



The devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy may be unknown to students in the South. But **Danielle Duffy**, assistant athletic trainer, and **Kimberly Keys '12** took the initiative to help.

Courtesy of Kim Keys

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## Guilford to host 2014-2015 NCAA Golf Championships

BY CLARENCE TURPIN  
STAFF WRITER

Guilford College has a prestigious golf history and has the chance to expand upon that history within the next two years. Guilford is to host the Division III NCAA Golf Championships at the Grandover Resort for the 2014 and 2015 season.

The resort's website says the course offers "tree lined fairways (which) provide a seasonal blaze of color offering our guests the feeling of being in a nature preserve in America's heartland of golf."

"We enjoyed our experience with Grandover and the Sports Commission in 2011 and look forward to again showcasing our college and city," said Tom Palombo, Guilford Athletic Director, in an interview with the Guilford Beacon. "Guilford's strong tradition in national golf tournaments and Greensboro's reputation as a top-notch host make this event a great fit for our community."

Several members of the golf team see the tremendous benefit that accompanies the championship being hosted on Guilford's "home course".

"It will be big for us, we are able to play out there often and know that course well," said senior All-American Noah Ratner. "It will give most of us a better opportunity for our families to see us. It is much closer to most of us than Florida."

Sophomore Mitch Robinette echoes the sentiment.

"In golf, being familiar with a course is a serious advantage, almost like having a home football game," said Robinette. "The crowd is there, cheering for your team, which boosts confidence, and being on a golf course you are comfortable

with (also) boosts your confidence, which normally leads to success."

For the most part, the team recognizes the chance they have in hosting the national championship, but beyond that they see the potential legacy that they can leave behind.

"I know I can look back right now and say 'Wow, what a great career it has been.' I still want more though and so does our team," said Ratner. "A national championship is the (first) thing we want."

Junior golfer Jon Montgomery recognizes the potential opportunity that Grandover Resort course offers for him.

"For the next two years, I get the chance to play on a familiar course," said Montgomery. "This puts me in a great position to create success for myself, and my team and I look forward to it."

Members of the Guilford student body also see it as an important occurrence that Guilford will host the Division III golf championships.

"It is great. Being a part of the cadre program this past year, there weren't many events on campus to give the students a chance to see sports teams in action," said junior Gideon Brown. "With the golf championships here in Greensboro, there will be an opportunity for students and fans to watch the team in action."

On a more personal side of the matter, one fan has a close connection with the golf team.

"I have a good amount of friends on the team," said junior Saegan Hilliard. "The fact that they will be playing so close to home gives me the opportunity to see them perform in the biggest events in their careers. Plus, it's a privilege to see players such as Noah Ratner and Jon Montgomery play."