

J-term predicted to be a success due to enrollment rates

BY ALLISON DEBUSK
STAFF WRITER

This year, Guilford is trying something new: January term. J-term offers students the opportunity to study away, study abroad or domestically, take an on-campus seminar, launch an independent project, or intern for a company.

The enrollment deadline for J-term was extended from Nov. 2 to Nov. 19, and some speculated that low enrollment was behind the extension.

Professor of Theater and Director of Study Abroad Jack Zerbe and Assistant to the President for Planning and Management Jeff Favolise debunked this rumor.

"The deadline was extended to avoid the confusion of having two deadlines for the close of registration, one for January and one for spring," said Zerbe in an email interview.

"We wanted to give students every opportunity possible to consider enrollment, to discuss opportunities with their advisors and to register," said Favolise in an email interview.

According to Favolise, 174 students are participating in J-term. Forty-eight will study abroad, eight will study away domestically, 79 enrolled in on-campus seminars, 25 chose independent studies and 14 are interning.

These students are participating in 58 different J-term projects, consisting of nine on-campus seminars, 14 study away courses, 10 of which are abroad, 21 independent projects and 14 internships.

"This particular set of numbers far exceeds our original goals," said Zerbe. "However, it is fair to say we'd hoped overall to do a bit better, especially on campus and with internships."

The Cold Case Evaluations class, an on-campus seminar led by Assistant Professor of Biology Bryan Brendley, boasts full enrollment.

Students will learn strategies used to crack a cold case; something that Brendley believes speaks to the core Quaker value of justice. Brendley credits the program's success to several factors.

"I kept it simple," said Brendley. "Kept the cost down, the time down, the credits down."

Students also show enthusiasm for the upcoming course.

"I saw the J-term Cold Case class and was thrilled at the opportunity to earn needed credits and work on an exciting topic," said CCE student Laura Sammon via email. "I'm very excited about the J-term's fast pace and focused study."

This course is just one of the successes of this year's J-term.

"It amazes me that the college has managed to develop this new programmatic dimension in less than a year," said Zerbe. "That alone is a great success. Perhaps our second greatest success is the range of exciting offerings that have materialized as part of the term. However, access to students has clearly been a problem."

Many students cannot participate in J-term because they cannot afford it on top of normal tuition. Zerbe sees a possible solution.

"I hope to see us one day embrace the mode used by other schools with successful January terms, embedding the cost in annual tuition," said Zerbe. "In a sense, it then becomes 'free' to students, and gives them the opportunity to learn and grow from the unique experience of an immersive project."

This leads to another common rumor: Guilford will require J-term in the future.

Zerbe says that is not currently planned for the program but planning for next year's J-term has already begun, especially in regards to programs abroad.

Faculty have proposed trips studying things including international business in Shanghai, arts and religion

in Bali and Java, a cultural pilgrimage in Spain, a choir tour in Europe, a history project in Italy, and a biology or environmental studies project in the Galapagos Islands.

Important J-term Dates:

January 3rd – 24th, 2012
J-term's duration

5:00 p.m., January 4th, 2012
Last day to drop a J-term course
without a grade, last day for refunds
for class projects

5:00 p.m., January 10th, 2012
Last day to drop a J-term course
with a "W" grade

January 21st, 2012
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
(School closed)

SENATE UPDATE

This Week's Developments

Pizza party! Good luck on finals!

Next Week's Plans

Have a great winter break! If you have an idea for improvements at Guilford please email us, we will still be hard at work over the January term.

Contact Us

We need to hear your voice! Got an idea? Concern? Great recipe? It's important to us.

Questions? Email: senate@guilford.edu

Compiled by Tim Leisman, Community Senate President

Forum on Greek life disproves campus rumors

BY L.A. LOGAN
STAFF WRITER

"No frats or sororities now, no frats or sororities ever as long as I'm president," said President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar. "I was at Bowdoin College before we ended frats after 150 years. I have no intentions of letting that happen here and having another battle royale."

On Nov. 30, Campus Activities Board held its second official debate of the semester, titled "Should Guilford Go Greek," to seek input and address speculation regarding the possibility of Greek life coming to Guilford College.

"I don't know how these rumors started," said Chabotar. "There is no truth to the rumor that the college is contemplating, has contemplated or will contemplate Greek life on campus."

CAB organizes major events such as Serendipity and the Guilford Formal, but few other smaller events have drawn as much attention as this debate.

"I basically think it's funny that so many people are freaking out about the discussion," said senior Amy McMinn. "When people get upset about having a discussion that shows they're being closed-minded."

Chabotar reinforced the fact that this debate will not extend past the event.

"If CAB had debated germ warfare would people now accuse Guilford of having engaging in germ warfare?" said Chabotar. "It's a debate."

Nevertheless, high emotions surfaced during the debate.

Four qualified students in teams of two debated if Guilford should or should not consider Greek life. The anti-Greek debaters included Community Senate President senior Tim Leisman and sophomore Patrick Withrow. The pro-Greek pair included senior Eamon Deely-Wood and sophomore Alex Morales.

"I'm not going to name names," said Withrow. "At

least one of my opponents was very informal in how he treated the debate, slamming the table. We stuck to our guns, and we didn't dodge the argument like the other team attempted to."

The pro-Greek team noted the benefits fraternities can bring to campus.

Costume Designer/Costume Shop Supervisor Mahealani Jones said that she pledged when she was in college to benefit from the positive aspects of Greek life.

"I remember going trick or treating for canned goods with my Alpha Phi Omega brothers," said Jones about the co-ed service fraternity. "We dropped it off at local food banks to donate. Greek life is not all about getting drunk and partying. It's about changing the world."

The anti-Greek duo argued that fraternities and sororities would increase illicit behavior and foster a culture of drugs, drinking and misogyny.

"I don't think (Greek Life) possible at Guilford," said Leisman. "The administration and the Board of Trustees are strongly against it. They are the ones who make the decisions from 22,000 feet away for the college. They're the ones who control millions of dollars of endowment."

Debaters in favor of Greek life countered that it would be an opportunity to expand Guilford's club system and to have someone takes responsibility for parties on campus.

They also claimed it would provide an increased opportunity to network.

"You get an automatic circle of like-minded people (and) that expands beyond college," said Deely. "I know people that received internships because of their connection with a Greek system."

Chabotar agrees with Leisman, even in light of his positive Greek experience.

"I was a fraternity member in college," said Chabotar. "I had a great time, but times are different. Fraternities or sororities will not work at Guilford."