

Shutterbugs gather under Photo-thon's light

BY JOSH BALLARD
STAFF WRITER

A picture is worth a thousand words. If that is the case, then participants wrote a veritable novel at the first annual Photo-thon held by Photo Club.

The event took place in Hege-Cox Hall on Sat., Dec. 1 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

"Our initial purpose was to provide a space where photographers could come together and spend time, learn and grow from each other," said Photo Club treasurer and sophomore D'vorah Nadel.

The event was inspired by the similar Draw-a-thon.

"When I heard there was an event like the Draw-a-thon, but for photography, I grabbed my camera," said Zach Morgan, a participating photographer and CCE junior.

Photographers were allowed to show up at any time and utilize student models for their photographic needs. The student models that signed up prior to the event could participate in 30-minute to hour-long slots for the photographers. They were paid five dollars for every 30 minutes they spent — as long as they filled out the requisite W-9 forms.

"We chose to pay the models because we had the budget to do so and because it is a common practice," said Nadel. "They are spending their time and energy doing crazy things for our artistic vision, so why shouldn't we?"

However, some models came for more than monetary gain.

"I don't want to sound vain," said sophomore Shelby Smith. "(But) I like people taking pictures of me. It's fun and I'm photogenic. Why not?"



Nate Secrest, junior, and Maddie Holland, senior, pose at the Photo-thon.

"I need a headshot for theater stuff, so this was a great opportunity," said sophomore Noelle Lane.

"I think it's a great opportunity for models and photographers to get to know each other," said Morgan. "It really builds community."

Not only did the event build community between photographers and their models, but also among the photographers themselves.

"I had many conversations with other Guilfordians who I had no idea were photographers," said Nadel. "Now we have a shared experience."

Lindsay Vanderhoogt, club secretary and junior, was pleased with the community turnout.

"I think it's a very Guilford thing to say you're going to go to an event but then not show up," she said. "The fact that people actually showed up is wonderful. It really sets a bar for future events. We have dreams, aspirations, goals, big positive words for many future events now."

"We plan on making the Photo-thon an annual event, which I dream will only get bigger and better with time," Nadel said.

However, the event had an ulterior motive.

"The Photo-thon was also a way to raise the hype and visibility of the Photography Club," said Nadel.

"I think there are so many talented photographers on campus, and yet we have an average of four people coming to our meetings," said Vanderhoogt. "That sucks."

Additional membership is imperative if the club wishes to continue holding events. Photo Club meets Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the photo lab in the basement of Hege-Cox Hall.

"In setting up this event, we've realized a number of things for the future," said club president and senior Nicole Lane.

Want to check out photos from the event? Then head to <http://www.flickr.com/groups/guilfordphotoclub>. As of right now, a Flickr login is required.

For more information on Photo Club, email photoclub@guilford.edu

BRANNNA GLENN/GUILFORDIAN

Cheap holiday gift ideas for the broke college student

BY DANIEL GASKIN
STAFF WRITER

Who says the more expensive the better?

The holidays are fast approaching and you have to get gifts for everyone in your life. What's the problem with this? You are broke and in search of a way to make people in your life happy without your bank account hating you. The following are helpful ideas for those in that precarious predicament.



For those who are musically talented, crafting and performing a creative rendition of a song can show your love because you are willing to sound ridiculous for your loved one. A great song for this purpose is "Your Song" by Elton John.

If you are not musical in any way, purchase a book from a used book store and inscribe a heartfelt message inside that only you and that other person will understand. Gifted books have special meaning because it takes time to pick out one that the other person will enjoy. Anything from the Harry Potter series can be found cheaply nowadays and is easily the most entertaining series I have ever read.

For the movie fan in your life, you can gift a one-month



Netflix subscription for only eight bucks. The myriad of choices on Netflix is something that anyone can enjoy, and once that month is over, that person can decide whether they want to continue the subscription.

Making a home-cooked meal doesn't cost as much as going out to dinner and shows a great appreciation for your loved one. If a meal is too complicated, then bake a cake — a fun and messy experience for all parties involved.



GRAPHICS BY JOR DAWSON



For people who knit, giving a piece of handmade clothing is a classic way for people to show their love. This craft has been done for hundreds of years, so this gift idea is tried and tested. Yarn can be cheap, and you can make socks, hats, earmuffs and scarves, among many other things. My personal favorite knitted accessory? A nice woolen hat.

A box of chocolates with a handwritten letter inside is a great way to show someone how much you love them by giving them two treats in one. Who doesn't like chocolate and handwritten letters? Ogres, that's who.

If none of these ideas work, then give the greatest gift of all: time with you.

Mayans predict end of the world December 21, 2012

BY BRYAN DOOLEY & THOMAS DEANE
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Dec. 21, 2012: a date that may change history. According to the Mayan calendar, that date is when humans will cease to exist after a series of apocalyptic events.

But is it true? Throughout history there have been thousands of failed doomsday predictions — from the Joachimites' two failed predictions in the 13th century to Harold Camping's failed predictions in 2011.

Is the Mayan calendar any different? What makes the Mayan calendar's prediction special? According to Assistant Professor of History Alvis Dunn, the calendar was used as early as 400 B.C. by the lowland Maya of Micronesia.

The calendar is unique in that it works in a series of ages. We are currently nearing the end of the fifth age, the last age of the calendar.

"One can imagine several wheels of different sizes turning in conjunction with one another, interlocking, and each measuring a different span of time," said Dunn in an email interview. "Different wheels turn for various periods ... one for a month (30 days) another for a year (365 days) and others for much, much longer periods. One of the largest wheels measures an age, which is what the interest today is about. The end of the fifth age approaches, evidently."

The calendar says the world is going to end on Dec. 21, but does that make it true? When The Guilfordian asked students whether or not they thought that their demise was imminent, the answer was a resounding "no."

"I'm really not too worried about it," said junior Julia Sheehan. "I mean, just because an ancient calendar says the end is here, why does it have to be true?"

Still, the calendar creates fascination for some people.

"I've always been interested in these kinds of things," said sophomore Ben Rosenthal. "But from everything I've ever read, I think the idea is pretty far-fetched."

However, if you still have your doubts, don't worry. NASA has tried to alleviate any last reservations about the brewing apocalypse.

"Contrary to some of the common beliefs out there, Dec. 21 won't be the end of the world as we know it," said NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center on their Facebook page. "However, it will be another winter solstice."

Multiple NASA representatives were on hand to debunk the doomsday theory via a Nov. 28 Google+ Hangout open to the public. During the event, NASA's David Morrison, an astrobiologist at Ames Research Center, called the doomsday theory "a joke to many people." Nonetheless, Morrison thought that it was "appropriate for NASA to answer questions" about the 2012 doomsday prophecy.

However, some students are finding a little levity in the possibility that everything we've ever known could come to an end.

"I do have some papers coming up that I wouldn't mind getting out of," junior Trey Atkinson said.

To combat this problem, Dunn has a very clear message for his students: "All I can say is that according to these ancient measures, a mathematical convergence will occur. My History 103 students will also have the final draft of their research papers due no matter what."