

## Bryan Series speaker Canada brings controversy, discussion



COURTESY OF JULIE KNIGHT

Geoffrey Canada spoke about Harlem Children's Zone, a controversial charter school program he created for the poor.

BY ALLISON DEBUSK  
STAFF WRITER

The Guilford community is not one to shy away from controversy. Nay, it seems to welcome it. When Geoffrey Canada came to campus as part of the Bryan Series on Feb. 10, students did not hesitate to voice their opinions.

Before Canada's appearance, Associate Vice President for Communications & Marketing Ty Buckner predicted that this could be the best program of the season.

"He's got this deep, deep dedication to children," said Buckner.

Canada founded the Harlem Children's Zone, a charter school that guides children from preschool through college. Since its foundation in 1997, the program has grown to currently serve more than 8,000 children and 6,000 adults in Central Harlem.

"I am just amazed at what has happened in my career because all I ever wanted to do was to save kids who were growing up in the same conditions that I grew up in," said Canada in his speech. "I never thought it would be the movie ('Waiting for Superman') or that the President would decide to replicate our program across the country."

Canada hopes that his program will equalize opportunities for children living in poverty.

"My plan is simple," said Canada. "You get kids from birth, and you teach parents about child and brain development from birth. My poor parents don't know anything about brain development. And as soon as we can count, we see that poor kids are behind middle-class kids."

Students who organized a teach-in on Feb. 8 in response to Canada's visit disagree with his methods.

"Public schooling was meant to be the great equalizer," said sophomore Alexandra Haridopolos, one of the organizers of the teach-in, who believes that charter schools are not the solution for the problems in education.

Canada also believes that violence is a major issue

for young people, but that the current solutions will not suffice.

"America is not number one in English," said Canada. "We're not number one in math. We're not number one in science. We are number one in incarcerating young people. ... You can get tough on crime, but if you don't change the opportunities these young people have, that's not going to produce any results."

Canada believes that providing students with a better education prevents crime.

Both Canada and the students who organized the teach-in agree on the importance of teacher accountability but disagree on assessment standards for students.

"(Alexandra and I) went to a high school that focused on performance-based testing," said sophomore Sara Minsky, another organizer of the teach-in. "There needs to be less focus on the testing, but teachers need to be trained in how you engage students in a way that allows them to be creative and critical."

There are other aspects of Canada's work that have come under scrutiny.

"One of the things he has done is he, as I understand it, runs (HCZ) like a business," said Buckner. "He has a lot of business support. He spends a fair amount of time out there raising money. I hope that what we're trying to achieve is a better education for all children."

"I was already aware of Geoffrey Canada's corporatization of public education," said junior Lyes Benarbane. "Geoffrey Canada is one in a really long line of deplorable speakers the Bryan Series brings to bring in cash with what I'll call 'pop intellectualism.'"

With discussion sparked on campus, sophomore Darius Mangum summed up the purpose of the Bryan Series.

"I like Geoffrey Canada a lot anyway," said Mangum. "There are some things I agree with him on and some things I don't agree with. It's interesting to hear his perspective."

## P-Safe officer of the year

BY AUDREY ROTH  
STAFF WRITER

"I'm trying to get to know the students," said Public Safety officer David Gauldin. "I mean, on not just a professional level, but also a personal level. Asking them how their classes are, are you okay ... You can't cross the line between professional and personal, and I try to keep the balance between the both."

Guilford recognized Gauldin's hard work and dedication to the student body this past December when he won the 2012 Public Safety Officer of the Year Award.

Public Safety Officers have been honored with this award since 2004.

"The purpose of this award is to recognize an officer for their performance and service to the Guilford Community," said Director of Public Safety Ron Stowe in an email interview.

From speaking with students and staff or just interacting with him on the job, it is easy to understand why the honor was given to Gauldin.

"He is well liked among his co-workers, as well as others in the community and seems to have developed a very good rapport with the students, which is very important to what we do in Public Safety," said Stowe. "He demonstrates a great attitude towards the students he deals with and has a real interest in them as people and their educational experience here at Guilford."

Gauldin has only been working at

Guilford for two and a half years, but in that short amount of time, he has already left an impression on the community.

"David consistently inspires me," said junior Lyes Benarbane. "The fact that there are Public Safety Officers who are safe, who you can speak to about events on campus, and even just chat with and not feel intimidated by. Honestly, David is a great, powerful and interesting person who I can only say good things about."

Gauldin's attitude and genuine concern for students' well-being can partially be attributed to the fact that he is a father himself.

"I take (the award) seriously, and it comes from the students mostly," said Gauldin. "The reason that I am the way that I am is because I know that my little girl hopefully will go to college, and you know, that someone will treat her with the same respect as I treat the students here."

"David is a real stand-up guy," shared former Guilford student, James Farquar in a phone interview. "At my new school none of the public safety officers can even compare."

Before Guilford, Gauldin worked in security for at least 20 years, 10 of which were spent in the military.

He now maintains a schedule including working the third shift at Guilford Monday through Friday; being a father, and recently receiving his degree in criminal justice.

"My mom always told me if you like coming to work, that's when you really know that you really like what you do," said Gauldin. "I like what I do, I really do."

## CCE SGA presidential impeachment

BY LAURA HAY  
STAFF WRITER

Impeachment in a Guilford organization is difficult to believe, but it can happen.

Guilford's Student Government Association in the Center for Continuing Education recently impeached their president Yvette Bailey from office and replaced her with then-Vice President Victor Lopez.

Bailey was removed from office via a historical nine to two vote of the SGA board. Never in the history of the SGA has an officer been forced out of office.

"While the CCE SGA board is grateful for Yvette's service and dedication to the CCE SGA, leadership problems led to miscommunication and some conflict among board members," said Lopez. "Yvette's leadership did not resonate with the community she was elected to lead, and it was best for the organization that she was removed."

Associate Vice President and CCE Dean Rita Serotkin echoed this sentiment.

"Some groups prefer a more consensus-based style of leadership, with all participating on an equal basis ... and others prefer a strong, charismatic leader who makes decisions and then directs the members accordingly," said Serotkin.

"As a result, (the board) wanted to be a part of a more cooperative team than this year's presidential leadership style allowed for."

SGA board members also commented on

the challenges the group faced in the past.

"I think the change was difficult for the board and officers ... but it was necessary," said Career Counselor and SGA Faculty Advisor Vivian Lutian.

Yvette Bailey was interviewed in regards to the impeachment via email.

"I had a campaign slogan which said, 'Are You Thirsty for Change?'" said Bailey. "This meant I was planning on doing things differently than in the past ... Unfortunately, there were differences between myself and other CCE SGA members that could not be resolved, resulting in the end of my tenure as president."

All those interviewed declined to share further details of the reasons for impeachment.

The SGA will be filling the vacant Vice President and Secretary positions, and plans to work on smoothing out lingering internal issues.

"We will take a strong look at our constitution and make sure that loopholes are filled," said Lopez. "Making sure that these student events are accomplished has been my top priority and the priority of the board."

Despite a difficult start to the semester, Lopez said that he and the rest of the board are excited for new opportunities to serve the community.

"I feel a kind of positive energy surrounding this change," said Lopez. "We are encouraging anyone who wants to be involved to come by Hendricks. Their voices are important."