

Bonner Center for Community Learning and Service embodies core values

BY SHELBY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

"Access to education; opportunity to serve."

This is the motto of the Bonner Center for Community Learning and Service.

"We are a scholarship program," said Elizabeth Baloff-Bird, Bonner Scholars Coordinator. "We give students who are passionate about community service the opportunity to attend college when finances don't allow them to do so."

There are 60 Guilford students in the Bonner program. During the school year, each Bonner Scholar completes 280 hours of community service. The total outcome is 16,800 hours of community service per school year.

This accounts for 90 percent of the community service hours completed by the entire Guilford student body.

But the Bonner program is about more than just numbers. It's about growth.

The community service performed by Bonner Scholars goes deep in an attempt to solve the problems in the community.

What they call "Band-Aid service" is never enough for the students.

"I want to incorporate service into a regular thing in my whole life," said first-year Bonner Scholar Ben Evans. "I love the feeling of making someone's day better

Lu. "It's improved my vocational skills, which I didn't think I had before entering (Bonner), and I want to keep improving those skills."

These vocational skills are what make Bonner Scholars so successful. The retention

"Bonner has taught me a lot about the real world and how messed up the world is," said senior Bonner Scholar Marielena Del Pozo. "I have learned that in order to make it in the world, I need to know the real issues and how they affect my community, myself and other communities."

"People think we're community service snobs, but we're not," said Bird. "We want the entire campus to get involved in the community."

Efforts to get students involved continue to grow. Sports teams are more regularly participating in fundraising and serving charitable causes. Student organizations and clubs are doing the same.

Ultimately, Bonner wants to promote an involved campus and fight against apathy in the student body, while remaining true to Guilford's values.

"Bonners live the core values of the college," said James Shields, Bonner Center Director. "We've got 21 years of Bonner graduates out in the world doing the same."

If Bonner were to deliver one message to the campus, it was summed up by Evans: "Get involved."

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Marielena Del Pozo, senior Bonner scholar

through my service."

Personal growth also comes with the territory of being a Bonner Scholar. Every student experiences it differently.

"Bonner challenges me to see how far I can go," said junior Bonner Scholar Mandy

rate of the program is 89 percent, higher than the retention rate of Guilford College as a whole. Those students, in most cases, walk away from graduation with a secured internship or job, as well as a new way of looking at life.

PROFESSORS

Why teach at Guilford College?

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Nevertheless, despite all of this, professors still choose to work at Guilford.

"I didn't think about the salary when I got into this profession, and I still don't," said Professor of Foreign Language David Limburg. "For me, there are other benefits like the tuition waiver for my son, sabbaticals, teaching abroad opportunities and the freedom to teach and contribute the way I choose."

Between Guilford's irreplaceable awkwardness, our very own farm and the friendliness that lingers around campus, it is clear as to why professors choose to stay despite a lower pay.

"I stay because of things that are dear to me such as the passion and dedication of my colleagues and the liveliness and originality here at Guilford," said Visiting Assistant Professor of English Mylène Dressler.

Who would enjoy going to work with people they didn't like?

Associate Professor of Accounting Garland Granger also finds joy in teaching and in watching his first-year students and CCE students mingle and learn from one another.

"Traditional students gain more of an understanding of the work place while CCE students are exposed to youthful enthusiasm which can be lost with age," said Granger.

According to Professor of English Jim Hood, his colleagues are one of the many reasons he has

stayed committed to Guilford.

"The people I work with are people that I cannot imagine ever getting tired of being with and talking to," said Hood. "Coming to work here is fun because the people are just so spectacular."

Guilford did not seem to be the ideal choice for Professor of Psychology Richard Zweigenhaft, but he, like many other professors, succumbed to Guilford's unique and accepting atmosphere.

"I knew when I came that the salary I was being offered was low, but salary was less important to me than finding the right fit," said Zweigenhaft. "I will say that if I was a young faculty member and thinking of raising a family on the salary Guilford now offers, it would be a harder decision to come here."

Supporting a family on a below-average salary is something Assistant Professor of Justice and Policy Studies Sanjay Marwah struggles with.

Although he is motivated to stay at Guilford due to the many advantages of a small college and the ability to teach and integrate different disciplines in his classes, the below average pay is taking a toll.

"I don't think the salary allows me to maintain and raise a family," said Marwah. "My own family situation in terms of financing has been rough, but I understand Guilford has gone through financial troubles."

Even though the salary for professors is below the average, they still put their hearts and souls into teaching and caring for students.

"The people I work with are people that I cannot imagine ever getting tired of being with and talking to."

Jim Hood, professor of English

Towards Diversity

Journeys in Blackness
COMMEMORATING

5

YEARS
of INTEGRATION

**Guilford
COLLEGE**

YOU'RE INVITED:

**Early Black Alum '62 - 77 Portraits
and Profiles Exhibition**

Opening Reception
March 29, 2013, 6:00 p.m. — 8 p.m.

As part of 'Journeys in Blackness: Commemorating 50 Years of Integration,' portraits and profiles of Black alumni and past activists of Guilford College will be featured at the exhibition.

This exhibit includes: audio recordings of interviews, interactive components, profiles, and portraits taken by photographer Adam Watkins '13. The exhibit will be open for the remainder of the 2013 spring semester.
Food & refreshments will be served.

Location: Guilford College, King Hall 126 & 127

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