

Quakers say 'yes, please, yes' to consensual sex campaign

BY KINSEY DANZIS
STAFF WRITER

Physical abuse. Emotional trauma. The most under-reported crime in America.

One in five women and one in 16 men will experience some form of sexual assault while in college, according to Campus Safety Magazine. The danger lurks on college and university campuses nationwide and Guilford is no exception.

With its recent launch of the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee however, Guilford took a first step toward a safer, more informed campus.

"The mission (of the committee) is the education of the students towards the goal of preventing sexual violence," said Gaither Terrell, director of counseling. "It's about reducing and preventing instances of sexual violence and responding appropriately to instances of sexual violence when it does happen."

SVPC includes members from many groups across campus, such as the Counseling Center, Public Safety, the Student Office of Leadership and Engagement, and Sexual Assault Awareness Support and Advocacy, as well as other interested students not directly affiliated with any specific group.

The committee's diverse membership stems from its mission of spreading awareness to everyone at Guilford.

In his letter to the community, President Kent Chabotar said, "We want every student, faculty member and staff person

on our campus to understand that healthy sexual relationships require consent, to know what constitutes sexual misconduct of all types and what our policies are in regards to it, and to be aware of the resources that are available to anyone who has experienced sexual violence."

While creating the committee was a start, the severity of the issue demanded more, which led to the launch of the "Keep It Consensual: Only Yes Means Yes" campaign.

"The consent campaign is one particular aspect of the larger conversation," said Director of Student Judicial Affairs Sandy Bowles. "We picked one area of focus for this year; one area to engage the community as a whole instead of just parts of the community."

The campaign focuses on educating the community about "effective consent," which cannot be given when one or both parties involved in sexual activity is intoxicated.

"Alcohol is almost always a factor in sexual assaults on college campuses," said Dean of Student Affairs Aaron Fetrow in an email. "I think everyone now understands that driving under the influence is a really bad idea. Sadly, hooking up under the influence seems to be a norm with the current generation of students, and in some ways it is just as dangerous."

SVPC plans to promote the program through social media and campus communication, such as The Guilfordian and The Buzz, as well as through events

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during the entire year.

"There are some movie programs that will be available, so there's the Men and Masculinity program series that's going to be run," said Bowles. "In spring there'll be the Take Back The Night event, the Clothesline Project, maybe a major speaker ... we'll have the kickoff event soon, and we've got t-shirts and condoms to distribute."

The date for the kickoff event has not yet been determined, but the Guilford community is encouraged to watch for announcements and get involved.

"The committee is very open to student involvement and there's always room for people who want to be involved," said junior Chelsea Yarborough, a member of both the SVPC and SAASA.

The success of both the campaign and the committee relies heavily on student involvement. In order to work towards a world free of sexual violence, all voices must be heard and awareness must spread.

In a letter published by The Guilford Beacon on May 17, President Kent Chabotar encourages students to take action against sexual assault:

"We can and must do better. Guilford is certainly not alone in its struggle with this issue, but given our dedication to our core values and our commitment to community, we can and should be leaders in this effort."

To view the letter in full, scan with your smartphone here.



Summer ends, students return to changed campus

BY OLIVIA WERNER
STAFF WRITER

As soon as students left for summer, construction workers invaded campus. Over the course of three months, the school's renovation plans were put into action.

The renovation areas include the Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Plaza, Hege Library, Bauman Telecommunications Center, Mary Ragsdale Fitness Center, Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Plaza, King Hall faculty space and the Jack Jensen Golf Center.

The most prominent project is the construction on the Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Plaza to create a new campus center. The college used rocks from local areas for the water feature and plans to plant trees across the plaza in upcoming weeks.

The new seating arrangement and fountain will provide a space for students to relax after class, while the new walkway and eliminated road will allow for safer pedestrian and bicycle travel.

The original fountain proposal came from the 2005 master plan, but due to deferred maintenance this plan was put off until the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation recently provided funds for the project.

After news of the plaza was released to the community, however, many students were perturbed by the financial and aesthetic implications of the project.

"We have a lot of things to work on before we can start focusing on our outward appearance," said sophomore Libby Stillwell.

Students have arrived back on campus to an incomplete plaza, due to 22 consecutive days of rain in June. It is impossible to compact dirt while the ground is wet, so construction time was pushed back 40 days.

Administration members were disappointed by the delay, as they were planning to welcome students back with no visible signs of lingering construction.

On the practice field above the lake, the Jack Jensen Golf

Center is currently being built in memory of the former golf coach. Once completed, the facility will be functional year-round with the help of a heating and cooling system.

Not all the renovation projects remain incomplete, however.

In the basement of the Hege Library, the Betty Place Classroom has been expanded and updated with new technologies. Workers cleared out the old classroom and removed student closets to create a larger open space.

New smart boards have been implemented in the classroom, along with many other classrooms on campus. These interactive whiteboards allow users to record notes, take screen shots, use a magnetic keyboard and create audio recordings.

This transition into a more tech-savvy campus is also reflected in the Bauman renovations with Guilford's first-ever hybrid classroom. This new room will allow teachers to lead classes that students can access both on and off campus. With the help of a Web-interactive program, students can record lectures and participate in discussions regardless of their geographical location.

"A student can be in France and take a class at Guilford College," said Support Services Manager Rex Harrell.

The old rotting structural supports in Mary Ragsdale Fitness Area were replaced and a new steel-framed, translucent panel system was created. Previously, the windows and window frames had gaps between them, which allowed for air conditioning and heat to escape. The new design provides a greener, less wasteful set-up.

"You could see outside through the cracks (in the window frames)," said Vice President for Administration Jon Varnell of the previous design.

The faculty space in King Hall was renovated to create an improved working environment for the Business Department. Many faculty offices were updated to provide a more comfortable and workable atmosphere, while making



Seniors CJ Green, Duncan Fitzgerald and Faris El-Ali relax on the rocks in the water feature in the Joseph M. Bryan, Jr. Plaza.

the space more inviting to students.

The first floor area was reconfigured to create an office suite for the Career Development Center and the Study Abroad offices, which includes workstations for students.

The renovation plans were implemented with the hopes of creating a campus that is as welcoming, comfortable and sustainable as possible.