

Drug-free fun club gets new name, new faces

BY KINSEY DANZIS
STAFF WRITER

Has your lifelong dream been to learn how to basket weave underwater? If that is what you have been searching for, then the Underwater Basket Weaving Club will not be able to help you out much.

Despite what the name may suggest, the club is actually dedicated to creating a substance-free, relaxed environment for anyone who just needs to wind down after a stressful day of classes.

"(UWBW is) like a college class that doesn't give you any necessary job skills," said sophomore and UWBW vice president Connor Wilson. "We thought that (name) fit well enough with what we were trying to do."

Before this year, the club was dubbed "Am I The Only One?" or AITOO. After much deliberation and countless suggestions, club officials changed the name to the Underwater Basket Weaving Club.

"For a long time, for 'Am I The Only One,' there were only five or six of us who regularly came to meetings," said Wilson. "Very slowly, we ended up with 12 regular people and then around 20, so we were kind of like, 'Yeah, we're not the only ones anymore, so we need to pick a different name.'"

However, despite a change in name, the club has kept to

AITOO's mission.

"We're an open community for people who don't use alcohol and drugs," said sophomore Samantha Evans, UWBW secretary. "We help people who aren't interested in doing things like that but still want to socialize."

The club meetings are casual and relaxed, creating a calm atmosphere in which members can play games and watch movies.

"I like that fact that it's a very laid-back community," said sophomore and member Laura Todd. "It's social, but you're not pressured to be social."

Even though the club is a substance-free community, you do not have to swear off substances forever in order to join; you can still have your Budweiser, just not at club meetings or events.

"We don't judge, so if you use substances, it's not a big deal," said Evans. "We just don't use substances together."

This environment attracts students with diverse interests, but their reasons for joining the club are more or less the same.

"(The club meetings) sounded like fun," said Todd. "I wanted to make sure I had a community where I didn't feel pressured to drink or anything like that but could still have fun."

Like Todd, sophomore Eleanor McTigue likes the atmosphere that the club provides.

"I joined the club because my friend was interested in it," said McTigue. "Once there, I found I really liked the people and the environment they created."

The club meets twice a week in The Hut. On Mondays, starting around 5 p.m., members go to kick back in a safe, sober environment and play games like "Apples to Apples" or "Monopoly."

If your gaming interests lie in places other than the family genre, they also sometimes play "Cards Against Humanity."

Fridays at 8:30 p.m., the club hosts movie nights. Attendees can bring their own movies a few minutes beforehand and vote on which one to watch. It is like going to the movie theater, minus the outrageously-priced food, plus extra legroom.

If you have some time, UWBW invites you to drop by, even if you do not live substance-free. If you are interested, either drop by The Hut at the meeting times or email Emily Albert, Connor Wilson or Samantha Evans for more details.

"We're accepting of anybody, so if you just show up, you're more than welcome to stay," said Wilson.

If you have been waiting for the opportunity to learn how to basket weave underwater with a cold beer waiting for you on the poolside, then you are out of luck. But if you just want to have a good time with friends in a pressure-free zone, then the Underwater Basket Weaving Club is for you.

Nontraditional art form blossoms on graffiti walls, shed

BY OLIVIA WERNER
STAFF WRITER

Wherever you go on campus, you are bound to find some type of student artwork, be it one of the campus' numerous art installations or simply drawn onto a desk in Sharpie marker.

From art majors to biology majors, many students find art to be a powerful means of self-expression, with graffiti standing out as a popular art form.

"For Christmas, sophomore year (of high school), I asked for an air compressor and an airbrush," said sophomore Jackson Wagner, founder of his high school's graffiti class. "I don't know if that's a weird request, but I was so giddy about it."

The term "graffiti" itself can actually be traced back to 1851 when it was used to describe the inscriptions that appeared on the walls of ancient ruins in Rome and Pompeii. It has since evolved to include any

graphic that is placed in a public area as an act of vandalism, often done with spray paint.

Graffiti arose in U.S. culture in the 1960s as New York City's youth inscribed their names onto public areas, otherwise known as "tagging." Thereafter, hip-hop culture popularized street art in the '70s and '80s, despite the New York City government's efforts to combat the art form.

"Graffiti really started making headway with trains," said Wagner. "It's the ultimate dream for a graffiti artist. When you put your tag up on a train, that train is going to go miles across the country and everyone will see your tag."

Today, street art is commonly found in urban areas on buildings, bridges and railroad boxcars.

"It is art working outside the traditional framework of the museum/gallery," said Assistant Professor of Art Mark Dixon in an email interview. "It is art that is encountered

by people who were not expecting to encounter art. It is creativity having an impact on a bland and conservative public setting."

Graffiti artists typically go through an artistic process as they plan and create their piece.

"I have a routine that always involves listening to classic punk from the '70s," said Wagner. "I don't worry about anything. There's nothing on my mind. It's just me and my canvas."

"I always wear a hoodie no matter how hot it is, because you don't want to be noticed or identified by anyone," said a Guilford College graffiti artist known as "Talls" via email.

In order for this unconventional art form to exist on our campus, there are several designated locations where students may legally post their artwork.

Guilford's lakeside Graffiti Wall has proven to be a creative outlet for student graffiti artists.

"I love that Guilford has the Graffiti Wall for students to use," said "Talls." "You can work on your pieces a lot longer and not worry about your surroundings when you have a free and legal wall to paint."

Less than 50 feet from the graffiti wall is a shed, which is also covered in graffiti, acting as an extension of the wall. Other than these two designated areas, graffiti can be found throughout the woods on trees, rocks and even sewage tanks.

"My inspiration comes from life and things around me," said junior and graffiti artist Conway Boyce. "Sometimes I'll look at trees and get ideas for what lines to draw based upon branches that I see."

This method of creative self-expression is important to our campus as it enhances the aesthetics of the lake and woods area. Our school is unique in that students have the ability to artistically express themselves in this alternative way. It is something you will not find at schools like High Point or



Guilford's graffiti wall can be found by the lake.



This artistic form of self-expression enhances the aesthetics and uniqueness of Guilford's campus.

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LISA ROBBINS/ GUILFORDIAN

Elon University. "It's something you can call your own," said sophomore and resident graffiti artist Timmy Barrows.