

Open community forums hosted by DAC, discuss & combat race issues

BY EMILY CURRIE
STAFF WRITER

On a sunny winter day, students, faculty and staff sat in a haphazard circle in Founders Hall. Faculty and staff occupied one corner, while students spread out across the rest of the room. Shifting around in their seats, it was clear that individuals were hesitant to talk about the red-button topic.

Of the 35 people that showed up, most were white. The March 5 "Race and Reality at Guilford" forum was sponsored by the Diversity Action Committee.

"(The DAC) is a (group) of representatives from most departments on campus, as well as students, charged with overseeing the implementation of the institutional diversity plan," said Director for Diversity Training and Development Jorge Zeballos, co-chair of the DAC.

Zeballos made it clear that the point was to find solutions.

"The purpose of this forum is to create the kind of school we want to have, not just to complain," said Zeballos.

The committee is united in their goal to bridge racial gaps. The job tackles Guilford's struggles with diversity in segregated housing, black students' desire to see more faculty that look like them, and students of color feeling uncomfortable speaking up.

One brave student broke the tension by describing what racism is to her.

"Some people think racism is one thing, but it's actually the way you speak and the jokes you tell," said senior Emily Morazán "That's racism."

"Be aware of what you're saying. It's not okay to make those jokes."

Junior and Latina Ines Sanchez De Lozada helped organize the forum. She believes some teachers do not know how to talk about diversity.

"A lot of these conversations can seem confrontational and hard to have, and this needs to change on all levels at this school," said De Lozada. "It's not just the way faculty addresses (race), but the way students interact with one another."

Thinking back, Edwina Greene '13 takes in a breath before timidly summing up her Guilford experience.

"I felt like there was bias (at Guilford)," said Greene in a phone interview. "I felt discrimination from the white female faculty. In a psychology class, two white girls made a racial remark about me, and I reported it to the instructor. Nothing was done to those students."

Junior and woman of color Ilari Pass grew outraged in a class she took last semester. The instructor was white and the topic was African American theory.

"You can teach Black history until you are blue in the

face, but you can never comprehend what we still have to deal with in this society," said Pass to the instructor.

Underrepresentation of black students was not the only hot button touched on at the forum. Housing where residents are socially segregated was repeatedly mentioned at the heated meeting.

De Lozada recognizes the difficulty in speaking up about race, which touches people in an oftentimes painful way.

"I live in a theme house where everybody is white except me," said De Lozada. "At a meeting, I brought up the fact that I was uncomfortable in the living space."

"After the meeting, no one came up to me to talk about it. (It) just feels like I'm alone."

While creating an understanding, diverse community comes with a laundry list of challenges, the DAC is hoping the community forums promote change. The next forum will be in April. A diversity curriculum for First Year Experience is also in the works.

"(We hope) all members of our community will feel their voices are being heard and action is being taken to address concerns," said Zeballos.

"We have a voice, but sometimes we have to scream," said De Lozada.

Open Forums

April 2 @ 1:30 p.m.

Founders (West Gallery)

April 30 @ 2:30 p.m.

Boren Lounge

For more information, contact:

Ines Sanchez de Lozada

sanchezdelozadaai@guilford.edu



First-year **Tyler Kossover** finds an innovative place to relax.

Dorm hacks, tricks, tips for better college living

BY ABE KENMORE
STAFF WRITER

I returned from winter break to discover that my roommate had turned our Binford dorm into a physics lab using a scientific laser, a pillowcase, sunglasses and a binocular lens.

I have no need to conduct laser experiments in my room, but I do enjoy finding resourceful solutions to the problems of dorm life. To this end, I reached out to the Guilford community and uncovered some practical dorm hacks for living, studying and eating well in your dorm.

If you have an adjustable bed — like the ones in Milner — you can raise it to the top of the frame and swing a hammock underneath, forming an informal bunk bed. Hang blankets around the bed to complete the feel of a schooner captain's cabin.

Zack Wolfe, first-year

If you live in Binford, you know the joys of the massive storage cabinets above the closet. But did you know that, with few blankets these can become sound-proof study areas? Just climb up there and hide away.

Tyler Kossover, First-year

Not many people enjoy that lovely blue glow you get from fluorescent lights. To improve the quality of light, hang silks or other light cloth over them.

Olivia Chalkley, first-year

A few uses for those piles of old papers — stuff them into wet shoes to dry them out, use old newspapers to clean windows, or fold colorful, one sided handouts around letters like gift wrap for a quick envelope.

Naomi Madaras, sophomore

Try using a hanging shoe organizer keep tools, school supplies and other things orderly and out of the way.

Molly McCarriston Stoltzfus, First-year

If you like milk in your tea/coffee, but don't have a refrigerator, pick up a few single serve plastic creamers next time the Caf has a free coffee table out. They are much better than powdered non-dairy creamer.

Abe Kenmore, first-year

Speaking of coffee — have a teakettle, but no coffee maker? Cut the bottom out of a paper cup and invert it over a mug. Then, use a rubber band to attach a coffee filter over the hole. On top of this, add your coffee grounds and pour hot water through.

Kenmore

Don't have time to cook breakfast in the morning? Combine water or milk with oats, mix in sugar and cinnamon, and let the whole thing steep overnight in the refrigerator. In the morning, you have ready-made oatmeal.

Katie Fullerton, sophomore

Alternatively, make Swiss Bircher Muesli — mix equal parts cottage cheese and rolled oats, add frozen fruit or fresh fruit and a little juice and let it sit overnight.

Kenmore

Quick and easy breakfast sandwich: scramble an egg in a saucer, add some cheese, and microwave for one minute. It will be perfectly cooked — just add to a bagel, biscuit or toast.

Kenmore

They may not help you with that physics homework, but hopefully some of these ideas will make living in your dorm a little easier. So what are you waiting for? Start hacking!



Community members came together at the forum on March 5 to discuss diversity and race in housing, faculty and the classroom.