

Warner speaks about memoir, surviving sexual assault

BY MOLLY SCHNEIDER
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 24, Guilford College students were given the inspiring opportunity to meet Ashley Warner, a North Carolina native, licensed clinical social worker and full-time psychotherapist working and living out of New York City.

Warner originally planned to visit Greensboro to do a reading at Scuppernon Books for her recently published rape memoir "The Year After." Once she arrived in the city, she decided to reach out to Guilford to offer her time through hosting a reading and discussion on our very own campus. But what we got was much more than the average book reading.

Members sat in a circular formation alongside Ashley Warner, her husband Hugo, Guilford's Wellness Education Coordinator and Community Director for Shore Hall, English Hall and Pope House Kristie Wyatt and six other Guilford students.

The event started with a moment of silence followed by a brief prelude of Warner's life up to the point of the rape. She then proceeded to read the first chapter of her book, a detailed account of the traumatic rape that shook her foundations about 20 years ago.

"It was absolutely chilling hearing such a personal account from somebody sitting right in front of you who experienced it," said sophomore Bex Hyman, an attendee of the event.

Being the account of a rape survivor, Warner's book offers an honest, heart-breaking and inspiring day-by-day narrative of how she dealt with such a life-altering trauma and her road to healing.

"Her book and talk were not only powerfully moving, but necessary," said sophomore Molly Anne Marcotte. "I feel that many survivors would find the raw emotions that she experienced relatable and empathetic, while any loved ones of survivors could gain new insight and perspective on how to best support them."

Warner sat among her audience laying down statistics while reading powerful excerpts laced with dark humor from her book. She related her own narrative to the experience that almost every rape survivor has gone through.

"My reluctance to come forward was exactly why I needed to come forward," said Warner. "I wanted to add my voice to the brave people who spoke out before me."

When going through her recovery, Warner could not find any literary material like her book to help her through everything she was feeling.

"Six months into my healing process, I was having an episode of extreme emotion when (suddenly), I had a moment of clarity," said Warner on how the idea to write the book came to her. "When looking for material to relate to, there was not one book that I could find that was a real, day-by-day, from-the-trenches report of what I was going through."

With her firsthand experience and education in the University of Southern California social work program, she has a positive stance when it comes to educating those on sexual violence. Although her own experience was rape by a stranger off of a college campus, she is still very knowledgeable about closer-in assaults.

According to Warner, 38 percent of survivors

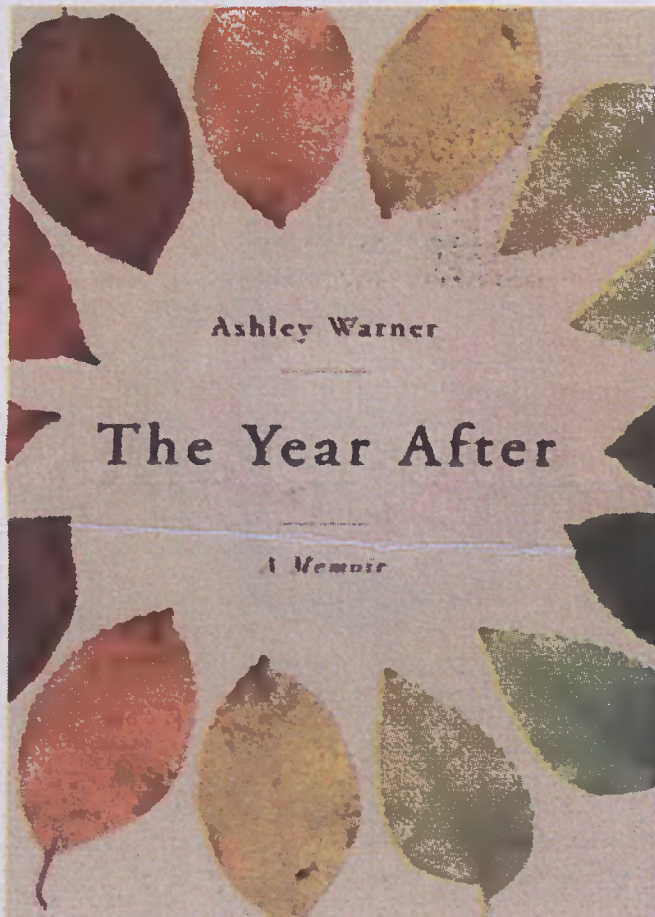
were friends or acquaintances with their rapists, and two-thirds of survivors knew of their rapists. These statistics explain why most college survivors do not immediately report their sexual assaults. In fact, according to Warner, only 12 percent of college cases are reported.

In order to combat these percentages, Warner gave detailed information and advice on the prevention of sexual assault and helping those who have fallen victim to it. From being more sensitive to their trauma or just opening your ears, it was clear that what she said came from her own traumatic experience.

"I don't know a lot about the topic, but after attending Warner's event I feel much more informed," said senior Hannah Schewel. "Her dedication to this issue was striking, and when reading us chapters from her book and then relating her experiences to actual facts, it hit home that much harder."

The talk came to a close with questions from those who attended. Almost everyone asked a question. It was clear that everyone in the room was very invested in the topic and really cared about the issue. At the end of the event, Warner handed out a gift to every participant: their very own copy of "The Year After."

"Society needs to know how prevalent this topic is, and we need to talk about it so that hopefully, one day we won't have to have anymore (discussions about it)," said Warner.



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On Friday, Sept. 24, psychotherapist and author **Ashley Warner** speaks in the East Gallery of Founders about her new memoir, "The Year After."

Bonner tutoring sites serve to promote mentoring, community and acceptance

BY NICOLE ZELNIKER
STAFF WRITER

Whether through the Bonner program, a class or just because it is a great thing to do, many Guilford students choose to volunteer at one of the Bonner Center's many tutoring sites.

"I went to France last year, and one of the reasons I considered not going was because I didn't want to leave (Glen Haven) for a whole year," said senior and Glen Haven project coordinator Christina Loubet-Senear.

As much as students love their work, it can be hectic with hundreds of energized kids in one space.

"It's really loud, and sometimes the kids will be screaming," said Loubet-Senear. "There aren't enough tutors, so you'll be trying to do multiple things with different kids at the same time. There's a lot of conversation in other languages, so there's a lot of added background noise."

Through the chaos, the craziness and the lack of consistency, project coordinators and members alike cannot stop coming back to their sites, helping refugee and immigrant children from all over the world.

"They struggle with the English language, so they need help with their homework," said sophomore and Elimu Tutor Ayellor Karbah. "We don't do their work for them, but we teach them."

For many, the attraction to their site comes from the bonds formed with the children.

"I reached out to two boys last year, and I talked to them about their interest in pursuing higher education after high school," said Karbah. "I told them if they need help, I can help them look into colleges ... and get them into the Bonner program and Guilford."

For many, the connection is personal.

"Coming from a Hispanic family, I really see the struggle these kids have," said a Latino Impact project coordinator who wishes to remain unidentified. "I didn't drop out, but that doesn't mean (they won't). I see myself and I know I can do something."

This year, many became involved through a Guilford class or just because it is something they felt called to do.

"I didn't have enough stuff to do (as a first-year), so I went to the fair," said Loubet-Senear. "I wanted to be a teacher, so I figured why not do something with kids. They were amazing, so I just kept going, and now I'm site

coordinator."

After repeatedly being told that they are not good enough, the children are often hard on themselves.

"There have been a few times when the kids have been hard on themselves for being a particular race or speaking a particular language," said first-year and Ashton Woods Tutor Elena Sippel. "One kid the other day was speaking Arabic, and another little girl told her, 'You don't speak Arabic here. It's America.'"

The children often look up to their tutors for approval. "It's important to remind them that we are all really special," said Sippel. "We all offer something really cool."

For any Guilford student, it is easy to get involved. Students can get in touch with Karbah or any other project coordinator.

"For any Guilford student, we would appreciate if they would reach out to those kids," said Karbah.

Be warned: once you fall in love with these kids, it will be difficult to stay away.

"They chased the car down when we were trying to leave, (telling us) 'no, you have to stay. Come back,'" said Sippel. "I feel compelled to go there every day because it does matter."