

MLSP Scholars ensure Guilford promotes diversity throughout the community

BY CLARE FORRISTER
STAFF WRITER

Every year, one small, diverse group of fewer than 20 students works tirelessly to break down the unceasing, outdated prejudices that still affect Guilford to this day.

Whether people realize it or not, this group has helped make changes in College policies that affect everyone's experiences on campus.

"I think the goal of MLSP is to push the community to actively embrace diversity and recognize the importance of the experiences of all people," said junior and second-year MLSP Scholar Zana Hicks in an email interview.

This year's 16 MLSP scholars learn about the value of diversity through weekly workshops and discussions.

Scholars then bring what they learn to the wider community through year-long projects with positive impacts. The projects focus on changing policy at Guilford to be more inclusive.

"The real issue is making sure the College as a whole lives up to its diversity core value, and through MLSP we've seen that work be actualized because we as students actually have to implement it," said senior and second-year MLSP Scholar Khadija Carr.

Students in the program form small groups to pursue their diversity-focused projects for the year.

"Groups need to focus on a specific policy or practice that will lead to the creation of a more affirming culture for all groups," reads the MLSP page on Guilford's website.

Last year, one group worked to change the approach to sexual assault and health education during new student orientation by improving the way orientation leaders facilitate conversations about sexual assault and health.

"My group members and I did research of how sexual assault and health was taught and surveyed first-years," said junior and second-year MLSP Scholar Yashua Clemons in an email interview.

The group restructured the program to create a more effective approach to the topic, and their changes were implemented for Orientation at the beginning of this year.



Students, part of the Multicultural Leadership Scholars Program, meet in the Multicultural Resource Center inside King Hall to discuss their projects.

Other projects have aimed to improve campus policies on financial literacy, the design of RA training regarding the judicial policies at Guilford and the underrepresentation of people of color on the Guilford faculty.

This year, students have already participated in activities to broaden their perspectives, such as visiting the Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels.

"At the museum, I gained so much knowledge of what actually happened by seeing the pictures and the documentation," said sophomore and first-year MLSP Scholar Rosie Mijangos-Lucero. "I saw the property tax receipts where they would charge for slaves like they were property. You just gain so much from it."

Students also gain new perspectives at their weekly meetings.

"The Wednesday meetings are unique," said senior and first-year MLSP scholar Josh Williams. "The discussions vary so much because of the difference in perspectives in the room."

An abundance of different viewpoints flourish thanks to the diversity of the group itself.

"We're a very wide cross-section of Guilford's campus," said senior and second-year MLSP Scholar Chelsea Yarborough.

The MLSP program provides each student with a scholarship, which may be compelling enough for some students to apply. However, MLSP requires a commitment greater than just time.

"You must have a willingness to learn and not judge right away," said Mijangos-Lucero. "Do it because you want to learn about it, not just to get the scholarship. Have that

commitment to it."

The scholars appreciate the opportunity to be in the program and the chance to make a difference in the community.

"MLSP is important to the Guilford community because it centers the work that marginalized students are doing on campus," said Yarborough.

"I like knowing that there is a dedicated space on campus where my ideas are heard, and I'm encouraged to go out and make things happen."

First-year and MLSP Scholar Jeffrey Ray praised the program for creating bonds across the community regarding topics, such as race, that can be divisive.

Ray expressed his confidence in the power of MLSP to make a difference.

"I believe one small group can move a mountain," said Ray.

Colorful hair grows and streaks across the campus

BY LILY LOU
STAFF WRITER

Bleach, hair dye, latex gloves and a bold personality.

These are just a few things you may need to dye your hair an unconventional color, such as pastel pink, lime green or navy blue.

Chances are if you walk through Guilford College's campus on any given day, you will run into someone with colorful hair.

"It's pretty normal," said senior Deanna Moquin. "I'm not surprised when I see people with dyed hair."

For many, hair dye is a medium of expressing themselves.

"Doing different things with your hair is a great way to express yourself, and it's not something that's permanent," said Janet Wright, faculty secretary and ombudsperson.

For others, it is a way of rebelling. "I get really spiteful, so when

someone tells me that I can't do something, I'm going to do it," said first-year Alex "Tiger" Ward, who has curly brown hair with a pop of bright red color in the front. "It's kind of a rebellious thing. Women are supposed to be pretty and dainty, and I'm like, forget that, I do what I want."

Some do it because of the aesthetic appeal.

"Honestly it's totally vain," said Aron Correa, a first-year with a history of dying their hair all the colors of the rainbow, including rainbow. "I think it makes my eyes look better. I think it suits my personality more. It just looks better and spices things up."

Wild hair colors are becoming more popular and accepted within the Guilford community.

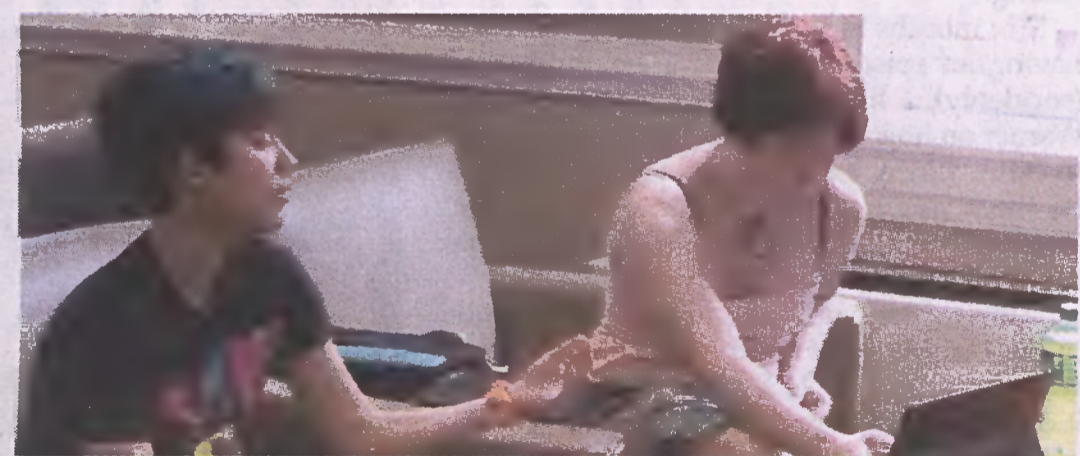
"I like how people feel more comfortable changing things about their body and their physical appearances," said sophomore Lucy Kokenge Hartsock, who has a pixie cut with orange and yellow highlights. "I appreciate that people are becoming more accepting of different types of creative expression."

As for choosing a color, many students experimented with different colors before finding their favorite.

"I've done pink and blue together," said Amber Reid, a CCE senior with short hair and teal highlights. "I didn't like the pink because it fades too fast. I liked the blue though."

Bold hair colors are often used to express unique personality.

"I think it makes a statement,"



Amber Reid (left) and Amanda Thompson (right) both dye their hair.

said Ward. "For me, red is a color of passion. I'm a very passionate person, and I'm very passionate about music."

Ward has dyed her hair pink, purple and red, which she prefers the most.

If you are afraid of dyeing your hair yourself, simply head to a salon.

"I go to a place called 'A Beauty Parlor,' and the woman who does my hair is Lindsey Wilkerson," said Reid. "If someone goes to her and says they were recommended by me or anyone else they'll get a discount on their first visit. Her prices are incredibly reasonable, and she's willing to work with someone if they're not entirely sure what they want. I've gone in having no idea what I really want to do with my hair, and she always helps me figure something out that always ends up looking great."

Otherwise, if you're willing to take a risk and dye it at home, Manic Panic seems to be the most popular brand of colorful hair dye.

"My favorite product for coloring is probably Manic Panic, but I stick to using argon oil for when my hair gets dry and untamed," said Laura Navey, a first-year with aqua-blue hair.

Or perhaps you could enlist a friend to help you dye your hair.

When asked what color she plans on dying her hair next, Navey mentioned asking for a friend's assistance.

"Probably whatever my friend chooses," said Navey. "I like to give him creative freedom over things like this. He's a genius when it comes to stuff like this, and it's really fun to be surprised."

To those who are thinking of dying their hair, Navey offered some advice.

"Research, research, research," said Navey. "Know what you're getting into. Also, and most importantly, hair grows back. Don't be afraid to experiment. No one thought I was cut out for blonde hair, but I went for it anyway and I loved it. Life's too short to play it safe."



ALLISON STALBERG/GUILFORDIAN

Alex "Tiger" Ward '18 rebelled against society and died her hair red.