

Homecoming weekend bridges the past and present



Family of football players gather outside of Armfield Athletic Center to tailgate before the homecoming game.

BY QUINCY MALESOVAS
STAFF WRITER

Every year, new and returning students look forward to Serendipity in the spring.

But what does the fall have to offer?

The answer is Homecoming — a weekend full of music, food, sports, art and much more.

This year's Homecoming lured many returning faces back to the Guilford College campus.

Although festivities happened throughout the day on Friday, the real party began at sundown with jazz music by the lake, sponsored by the Center for Continuing Education.

Folks gathered into a large, white tent to escape the icy downpour and even less forgiving wind. Artist Reesa Renee began to perform, drowning out the sound of rain on the plastic tent. Freeport Jazz and Guilford's own The Blue Roots Experiment rounded out the show.

"The jazz festival was awesome," said Daniel Nolan '14, paying homage to the CCE department. "They should do that more often."

Saturday hallmarked the peak of the weekend, with sporting events and tailgating taking place from morning to night. Homecoming is traditionally centered around football, but you do not have to be a sports fan to appreciate the affair.

"(Homecoming) is about the overall community at the school and supporting each other," said Matt Dilascio '14. "Football just happens to be a part of it."

Family and friends of alumni also participated in the fun, fostering community beyond the campus boundaries.

Laura Milo '09 and Jordan Sutton '14 said their parents met through tailgating and are good friends now.

"You're building relationships, which is the heart and soul of a liberal arts education," said Milo.

Recently, comparisons have been made

between Homecoming and Serendipity, which alumni have been quick to rebut.

For Wesley Elam '96, who DJ'd the pre-game tailgate, Homecoming is more like a big family reunion.

"Serendipity is just a free-for-all to do whatever the hell you want for however many days," said Elam. "Alumni might try and relive it, but they're going to feel it the next day."

"(Homecoming) is just good-natured fun," said Milo. "There's nothing foolish going on."

Between Quake Talks, art exhibitions and banquets, Homecoming does have a highbrow air to it that Serendipity lacks.

"It's really a celebration of the liberal arts," said Senior Director of Alumni Relations Karrie Jo Manson '82.

"We all know that we have to get better about helping students make the connection between liberal arts and the next steps. That's a nuanced conversation and that is what this is really about."

What administration wants is for Homecoming to connect alumni with current students. Beyond the fun and games, there are many opportunities for them to learn from their predecessors.

"We want to make visible and known what (being an) alumni really means," said Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Miriam Biber '02. "We want to make it tangible."

This past weekend seemed to do that job adequately, with room for improvement. One recurring theme throughout the weekend was a wish from graduates that more of their classmates had shown up.

"It would be great if more alumni came out next year," said Milo. "There really aren't that many here."

Perhaps, if current students continue to participate in the event on a yearly basis, they can maintain enthusiasm until it is time for their own Homecoming.

Alumni golf tournament draws in students from multiple generations

BY HENRY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Harvey Ljung Alumni Golf Tournament was held on a brisk Halloween morning.

More than 50 Guilford College alumni teed off at Sedgefield Country Club in the annual event that serves as the official start to Homecoming weekend.

As dead leaves fell and littered the golf course, clouds of condensation collected at the mouths of the players while they strategized.

Approximately 15 teams went to battle in a captain's choice format of play, a team-oriented way to play golf, which is laid back and appropriate for an event aimed at reuniting old friends.

"It was great to see some of the people that we grew up with," said Bradley France '90. "It is good to see that people stay loyal and continue to love the school."

The event took place at the Guilford College home golf course.

Members of the golf team worked to ensure that the golf course would be in championship condition after playing a tournament just a few days prior to Homecoming.

Golf offers several benefits to our alumni as they rekindle old friendships. It creates a relaxing environment where people can interact and spend quality time with each other. It also takes place in a natural environment.

What better venue than a golf course for Guilford alumni to meet and reconnect?

The event was a positive experience for all involved.

The field of play was not represented by alumni alone. Some Guilford faculty members played, including head men's lacrosse coach Tom Carmean and head baseball coach Nick Black.

"I got to see all the guys that I don't get to see very often," said Black.

Black has been known to play with the golf team from time to time when he gets time off from his duties.

"It's always nice to get out on the golf course," said Black.

Alumni relations are important to the growth of any educational institution.

"I really like these types of events," said former assistant baseball coach Daniel Hadra. "It makes me feel a sense of connectedness."

Members of the Guilford golf team volunteered to hit drives on some of the holes in an effort to help the teams lower their scores.

The teams were given the opportunity to count one of the current golfer's drives as their own.

Sophomore golfer Ty Palmer is a good man for this job because when he hits the driver it is hard to believe that the golf ball will stay intact.

"I had a lot of fun with it," said Palmer. "I got to meet some people who graduated from my school who I would never have known otherwise."

Alumni are a huge part of Guilford. The Guilford family includes over 23,000 people worldwide who have graduated from this school.

Nobody is more loyal to a college than alumni. They fundraise, donate and are a walking marketing tool for Guilford through their social and professional networking experiences.

The alumni presence is always a key component of Guilford Nation, and each Homecoming they are a crucial link to our past.

"It was great to see some of the people that we grew up with. It is good to see that people stay loyal and continue to love the school."

Bradley France '90

ALL HOLDS
must be cleared
BEFORE
you can register!
To check your
holds,
log on to
BannerWeb

Registration is coming soon!

Online registration begins at 10:30 p.m. on the date specified

<p>Traditional</p> <hr/> <p>First-Year</p> <p>(current earned credits: less than 24)</p> <p>Sunday, Nov. 16</p> <hr/> <p>Junior</p> <p>(current earned credits: 56-87)</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 11</p>	<p>Sophomore</p> <p>(current earned credits: 24-55)</p> <p>Thursday, Nov. 13</p> <hr/> <p>Senior</p> <p>(current earned credits: 88 or greater)</p> <p>Sunday, Nov. 9</p>
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