

PRIDE Gayla celebrates 40 years of LGBTQA activism



Students and alumni attended the Gayla Banquet and Awards Ceremony for dinner and to celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQA organizations.

BY CLARE FORRISTER
STAFF WRITER

Excellent food. Elegant clothing. Engaging conversation. Eye popping costumes.

On the evening of Oct. 31, PRIDE hosted a 40-year-legacy celebration, throwing a Gayla Banquet and Awards Ceremony in the Gilmer Room of Founders Hall. The celebration included the presentation of the inaugural Angelic Troublemaker Award, inspired by Bayard Rustin, the gay black civil rights activist after whom the LGBTQA center on campus was named.

"We need, in every community, a group of Angelic Troublemakers," Bayard Rustin once said. "Our power is in our ability to make things unworkable."

At the Gayla, a group of angelic troublemakers gathered to celebrate the history of LGBTQA organizations at Guilford while looking towards the future with the aim of making a difference.

"I think it's really cool that we're doing (the Gayla) in collaboration with alumni weekend, (so) for current students to see what the alumni are doing now," said sophomore Ellie Weiner, vice president of PRIDE. "It's also really important for the

alumni to see how PRIDE has developed, what we're currently doing and how we're trying to be very proactive this year."

The Gayla began with dinner and conversation, followed by speeches from members of the PRIDE board who discussed the history of PRIDE and their own personal experiences with living out their identities at Guilford.

The Angelic Troublemaker award was then presented to Reverend Kevin E. Taylor '87, who has used his Guilford education to live an active life in a number of different fields, from television production to pastoring to working in social justice. His work includes championing marriage equality and opposing bullying and racism within LGBTQA communities. Taylor now serves as the co-pastor at Unity Fellowship Church New Ark.

"There is no way that an accounting, English and Spanish major (would have become) an award-winning television producer and author except that Guilford taught me how to negotiate transition," said Taylor. "Not just times when transition is forced on you ... but the times when you are the author of the transition ... and you can say 'this isn't working' or 'this doesn't feel

like what I'm looking for' and give yourself permission to shift."

After being presented with the award, Taylor gave a speech that inspired many attendees.

"He was basically like, 'just be fearless when it comes to being yourself,' and that you should never hold back," said first-year Imani Ames, who attended the Gayla.

In his speech, Taylor pointed out that LGBTQA communities embrace their uniqueness in ways from which everyone should learn.

President of PRIDE Colin Nollet was impressed with how the event turned out.

"It hit all the notes we wanted it to," he said.

Nollet discussed what PRIDE aims to do as an organization.

"Sexuality is always something that people have reservations with," Nollet said. "But I think part of what PRIDE tries to do is make a safe, open space for those conversations. Because I know we have people that come and are confused and don't know how they feel, and they use PRIDE as an opportunity to learn more ... And I think it's really our motive and job on campus, to bring these things out in the open."



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The Gayla was a hit with alumni who were involved with LGBTQA organizations during their time at Guilford.

"I just hope that the association keeps up the good work," said R.J. Nickels '94. "I hope PRIDE keeps going and grows stronger and keeps helping people be who they need to be."

PRIDE will continue making history this year through various projects for social justice, exciting events to attract students and as a continued safe space for exploring and celebrating identities during their weekly Monday meetings at 8 p.m. in King Hall.

Printmaking Palooza! provides time for alumni and students to connect over art

BY JULIET MAGOON
STAFF WRITER

French printmaker Odilon Redon once said, "While I recognize the necessity for a basis of observed reality ... true art lies

in a reality that is felt."

This statement rang true during the Art Department's "Printmaking Palooza!" Homecoming and Reunion event held on Nov. 1 in the Hege-Cox Printmaking Studio.

An air of delight was present as alumni were reunited with friends from years prior. As those returning to Guilford looked around Hege-Cox, they were reminded of their own college experience. The layers of paint smudged on the walls like glimpses into the past.

Chatter and laughter were shared amidst a lesson on monoprinting, a form of printmaking where markings can only be made once.

Julia Hood '06 exuberantly demonstrated for onlookers, children, alumni, teachers and students as she rolled brightly pigmented acrylic paint onto gel printing plates.

After the plates were fully coated, textures were pressed with lace, stamps and stencils. This step was then repeated with a different color and texture, allowing the artist to create multiple layers of paint on a single piece of white paper.

"Hood had used the gel printing plates at a fall festival, and it was just great," said Terry Hammond '81, curator of the Guilford College Art Gallery. "There were kids doing it as well as adults. I thought, 'This would be great.' It is nice to have art and different activities besides the football game (during Homecoming)."

While much of the intrigue was attributed to Hood's printmaking lesson, the event was multifaceted as alumni and professors shared thoughts on life after Guilford with students.

The question of how to transition from an art major into an art-related career resonated with many attendees. While the conversation was based around art-related career paths, these concepts can be applied to other majors as well.

"(After college), I hope to get a job in graphic design and keep painting," said senior art major Gloria Taylor Williams. "If I get lucky with some commission pieces, I will be very happy."

Other alumni shared their experiences on transitioning into a world outside of the Guilford bubble.

"I work in an auction house in Cincinnati," said Jack Arthur Wood '12. "I just look at art all day. My dad deals antique (artwork), so I had a name in a way."

While Wood was privileged through his father's success, for other alumni an immediate resolution was not found.

"Right after (graduating from) Guilford, I was in the healthcare field doing administrative work," said Hood. "Within a year of working with people who were not idea driven, I knew I wanted to do something else. I then went to graduate school for the history of decorative arts."

In the art field, one must have patience in their journey towards a career.

Sometimes in order to reach a place of satisfaction, multiple steps and failures must lead you.

"It is important to be open to

the process," said Hood. "Keep your feet moving while asking the universe what it is that you want. Circuitous routes are okay."

Hood now works as coordinator of education at the Reynolda House Museum of Art in Winston-Salem.

"It is really important to be around creative people," said Roy Nydorf, professor of art. "If you get rejected, work harder. You can't just be an island, hiding and isolating in your own space. Get out into the community."

Graduates entering the field of art should not let rejection bring them down, but rather use it as encouragement to work even harder.

"When I was in graduate school, at one point, I got rejected (from) 14 shows in a row," said Nydorf. "Rejection can often be a teacher. Always continue to practice and work."

The many inspiring moments and conversations that were shared on Saturday between students, teachers and alumni supplemented the spirited printmaking lesson.

There was much to take away as attendees said their goodbyes and exited Hege-Cox at 4 p.m.

All glowed with delight, as their radiant prints lit the space. Above all, attendees were reminded of the effervescent community that continues to thrive here at Guilford: a place where feelings and intimate connections overcome the mundane.



Students, alumni & family members learned about the process of monoprinting.

JULIET MAGOON/GUILFORDIAN