

# Serving your passions

SUSAN ALLEN  
features editor

Passion—that's what service work is all about. For AIDS about AIDS co-coordinator Amanda Sabin, sometimes there is only passion urging forward when patience, energy and endurance have vanished.

Three years ago, three Guilford students: Jack Register, Mark Ferguson and Amanda Sabin envisioned a conference to take place on campus to raise AIDS awareness. Three years ago, no one was certain if it was possible.

Passion about the issues surrounding AIDS made it possible. It is that same burning passion that has caused AIDS about AIDS to grow from a small local conference into a national conference that now invites students from across the country to attend.

For Amanda, the AIDS issue became more personal and more passionate nearly four years ago when she lost a close friend to the disease. Watching that pain spurred her to action.



AMANDA SABIN

It may sound cheesy, but if our efforts cause one person to think about using a condom or a clean needle or asking questions of his or her partner, we have made a positive change.

The action she envisioned at that time might not have been as large as AIDS about AIDS has become, but Amanda is glad to have been involved, though she claims she never expected to get in so deep when Jack and Mark approached her with the concept.

As AIDS about AIDS has grown and burgeoned over the past three years it has become

more organized and businesslike, but the passion has not diminished about the importance of the message the conference hopes to convey.

Having it on a college campus is also very important to Amanda, who sees a great need to increase awareness in the 18-24 age bracket—where AIDS is spreading the fastest. Having the conference

at a college targets this group very directly.

Having the conference on Guilford's campus has been an asset as well. The small size and supportive nature of the campus has made it possible to pull together many of the resources available. GLBA, HOME, Intervarsity, and the Sexual Assault Task Force will all be involved in AIDS about AIDS this year.

More of Guilford is involved now, but Amanda admits that she has been disappointed by the number of students registering to participate in the conference. Community Senate agreed to subsidize the cost of attending, but few have taken advantage of this offer.

The organization would like to express its thanks to all who have volunteered or indicated interest. Amanda hopes to see the conference continue for years to come and gain greater recognition at Guilford and nationally.

She is thankful for the opportunity AIDS about AIDS has presented for her to put passion and leadership into service work.

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## Featured Speakers

Mohammed Bilal is a composer, member of an award-winning band, and poet. One of the seven cast members of MTV's hit show, *The Real World*, Mohammed Bilal shared his life with 1.5 million people every week. Viewers developed a deep affection for Pedro Zemora, his HIV+ housemate who passed away during the season. In remembrance, Mohammed has added AIDS activist to the many hats he wears.



Demetri Moshoyann is the founder of Youth Positive, an AIDS serve program aimed at engaging youth living with or directly affected by AIDS/HIV in peer support and peer education. HIV+ himself, 24, and gay, Demetri began his service career with the Corporation for National Service, helping to initiate Americorps.

Ben McFadyen is executive director of Triad Health Project (THP), a local HIV/AIDS service organization. With a staff of 19 full-time and four part-time employees and over 500 active volunteers, the agency serves 435 persons with HIV/AIDS. While working at THP, Ben developed high-tech interactive products for Fortune 100 companies. He volunteered at THP in 1991 to honor friends he had lost to the disease and joined the staff one year later.

John Hackett is vice president of the Bonner Foundation and director of the Bonner Program. The Bonner Program provides scholarship support for 1,600 students active in community service at 21 universities. He has also served as managing director of Campus Outreach Opportunities (COOL), a national network and platform for young people active in community service.

## Come Learn Serve

## Good advice

BEN FORD  
guest writer

The life of a residential advisor is filled with requests to unlock doors, to fix the heat, and to solve problems.

These are all important requests, but why doesn't anyone ask for condoms? Most RAs do have condoms for their residents to use. Some people know this, but many seem to be left unaware and unprotected.

Well, here's the grand announcement. If you need a condom, go to your RA. If they do not have any in their immediate possession, they will be able to help you find some.

Tragically, there are some people who know that RAs have condoms and have refused to take them. They believe they don't need this protection. Besides, it takes time to put it on. In their minds, it

is more of a problem than a problem solver.

In addition to this group, there are those who are just too shy to ask. Sure they will wake me up at 6:30 in the morning to unlock their door, but they are afraid to come to me for a condom.

For those who are too embarrassed to ask for one, maybe we need to devise a special code. Try going to an RA and saying, "The red spotted dog jumps on Tuesday." This would alleviate the usage of that embarrassing word, condom.

The next time you and your special someone find that you are missing something, go to the closest RA or convenient store to get what you need. Those of you who are a little embarrassed, use the code. "The red spotted dog jumps on Tuesday."

It is better to be embarrassed than pregnant or dead.