

Bridging the Gap Between Guilford and Greensboro

Sara Addison

Staff Writer

With 12 ongoing volunteer opportunities, a helpful staff, and the resources to support student ideas for new service-based projects, Project Community enables Guilford students to enrich the Greensboro community.

Project Community, located in the basement of Founders, makes it easy for students to participate in community learning by maintaining ties with Greensboro service organizations and training student volunteers.

Community learning involves getting to know the surrounding area (in our case, Greensboro) and finding ways in which we can make it better.

It is also an opportunity to learn about the realities of life outside of Guilford.

"We want them [students] to be agents of change and to see the community for what it is," said James Shields, Guilford's Director of Community Learning. "We want to dispel some of the

preconceived notions people have."

One way that students can be agents of change is to sign up for one of Project Community's 12 established volunteer sites. Shields said that Guilford has worked with some of these sites for over five years.

Project Community volunteer opportunities range from helping African families adjust to life in America to spending time with U.S. veterans at the Servant Center.

Shields says that the most popular volunteer sites are Pathways Tutoring Program for children, Prison Literacy, and Montagnard Dega Association.

Other volunteer sites include educating students through the Aids about A.I.D.S. program, working on environmental projects at the Piedmont Environmental Center, and tutoring at the Greensboro Buddhist Center.

Project Community can also be a valuable resource for Bonner Scholars who are re-

quired to perform community service to receive their scholarships. Claire Dixon, the Bonner Scholar Coordinator, said that it is easy for Bonners to participate in Project Community's established programs.

Project Community also welcomes student proposals for volunteer projects that are related to community service, social change, or awareness.

"Project Community has connections and financial resources to help you get your project underway," said Shields. With the help of Project Community, students began a new volunteer site with Habitat for Humanity last year.

Project Community sponsors the Volunteer Fair every fall to provide a way for students to find out about volunteer opportunities and sign up to participate. Sophomore Genna Cohen, a Project Coordinator for Project Community, said, "This year's fair was great. We had tons of people who were interested in volunteering."



James Shields, Wanda Williams and Clair Dickson of Project Community

Sarah Sherman

For those of us with busy schedules, there is a volunteer opportunity nearly every day of the week. Cohen also said that there are one-time volunteering opportunities during the year that help nourish the larger programs.

Smaller opportunities include the Bonner Memorial Soup Bowl and on-campus trick-or-treating. During the Soup Bowl, Guilford and Greensboro College will compete

to see who can collect the most canned food. It will be held throughout the week before Sept. 21. On Halloween, children from all the major volunteer sites come to trick-or-treat at the doors of Guilford students who volunteer to give out candy.

"Project Community is here for all students. It's for anyone who has an interest and wants to help," said Shields.

Amado Brings Energy and Enthusiasm to the SOAN Department

Josh Caray

Staff Writer

Maria Amado stands about 5'6." She wears a modest yellow dress and speaks softly, but in her short time at Guilford Amado has helped to rebuild a once-floundering department.

As a professor of sociology and anthropology, Amado has become one of the most popular professors in her department. Amado's Racial and Ethnic Relations class has gone three

students above the class capacity of 25. Considering the recent losses in the SOAN department, her timing couldn't be better.

The SOAN department was in a state of flux after losing half of its faculty members following the 2000-2001 school year. Department head Edwins Laban Gwako went in search of a Latin American professor who offered a package of the qualities needed to be a member of the SOAN department.

Amado won the job over 72 other applicants after she conducted a class interview that Gwako said was outstanding. According to Gwako, Amado was a "perfect match," and the only applicant to be given a consensus of positive evaluations from students and faculty.

When told of Gwako's comments, Amado merely said that she was flattered and very satisfied with her interview performance. As for the challenge of

helping to rebuild the SOAN department, Amado said that she sees the task as challenging but stimulating. Amado also said that the department has much potential.

Amado's responses should be of no surprise considering the Panama native is no stranger to adversity. She was still in Panama in 1989 when the U.S. invaded the country in search of General Manuel Noriega, the former dictator of Panama. Amado wit-

nessed people being killed and losing their homes during the invasion.

Amado says that she is more than happy to be at Guilford due to our "strong sense of commitment to the issues."

Many people are enthused by Amado's presence at Guilford a. According to Janet Wright, Archdale secretary, "her energy and enthusiasm for the job are a refreshing addition to the department."