

## Islamic scholar to speak during Religious Emphasis Week

**Stephanie Atlan**  
Staff Writer

Islam is at the forefront of world politics. It is the second largest religion in the world. Yet, given our post 9-11 society, Islam has become widely misunderstood.

These are just some of the issues that Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr will address as part of Guilford's Religious Emphasis Week (Jan. 25-31).

Nasr, head of Islamic Studies at George Washington University, will visit on Jan. 28 to give a lecture entitled "The Heart of Islam" (7 p.m. in Dana Auditorium). He will also participate in a forum on religion and science.

Nasr is a leading Islamic scholar, former president of the University of Tehran, and former professor of religious studies at Temple University. He

has written over 50 books and hundreds of articles on religion and science, Sufism, and the spiritual and natural world.

It is no wonder that such a prominent Islamic scholar is speaking at Guilford College given the importance of Islam in our community. For the first time in Guilford County's history, more Muslims live here than Quakers.

"What people are not exposed to is the compassionate aspect of it and the beauty of Islam - the more human side," said Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Shelini Harris, who is using Nasr's book *The Heart of Islam* in her Islam class this semester. "He goes against the stereotype."

Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter worked with Nasr at Temple University. He describes him as "very gentle, very warm, and very approachable for a person of that stature and

reputation."

"I'm really excited for [Nasr] to come," said junior Mohammad Khalaf, an active member of Guilford College's Muslim club. "He explains a lot about the true side of Islam. It means a lot to the Muslim community."

Nasr's speech is part of Guilford's 14th annual Religious Emphasis Week.

"It is an opportunity for different religious groups and clubs to help advertise their wares," said Max Carter. "Religious Emphasis Week helps us showcase what is available on campus."

In addition to displaying Guilford's 11 religious clubs and organizations, Religious Emphasis Week events allow the community to speak openly about issues they might not otherwise feel comfortable discussing. One of these events is the interfaith student discus-

sion of spiritual formation in college, entitled "Faith after Four Years at Guilford," which will be held on Jan. 27.

The week also features the Luby Casey Campus Ministry Visitors, Michael Birkel and Mike Heller, who will speak on "The Timeless Quaker Wisdom of John Woolman." Or, for the lighter side of religion, come to a viewing of Monty Python's *Life of Bryan* on Jan. 29.

The week will conclude on Jan. 30 with a Chow down, Center down, and Hoedown - a potluck, silent worship, and contra dance.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, check the current issue of the College Activities of Worship (Guilford Council of Religious Organization's newsletter) or the Guilford Beacon, or contact 336-316-2445.

## Monster trucks fall short

**Tim Scales**  
Staff Writer

Looking for bone-crushing excitement? Edge-of-your-seat thrills? An awesome display of raw testosterone?

If so, the Monster Truck Rally at the Greensboro Coliseum is probably not the best choice.

Though certainly highly testosterone-charged, it was by no means an awesome display, and not really worth the exorbitant \$18 entrance fee. However, it was an experience I don't altogether regret.

"It's the thirst for blood that makes people go to monster truck rallies, drink down a six-pack of beer, and watch big trucks mercilessly crush small cars," says first-year Nate Miller.

The small arena floor consisted of two tracks, each with a small jump and four beat-up cars to crush. For the race event, two cars faced off on the tracks and, after a buildup of engine revving and false starts, slammed the pedal down and bumped slowly over the line of cars. Each heat took approximately four seconds and four thousand decibels.

The freestyle competition was mar-

ginally more interesting. For this, one car drove out at a time and powered around in a circle, crushing cars and the occasional minivan. Unfortunately, probably because of the arena's small size,

there was a very limited scope for the imagination. By the third car we had seen everything there was to offer.

Between events, they showed clips of other rallies on the giant T.V. screens above the arena. Watching these, it appeared that every other monster truck rally was far more exciting than the one we were watching.

They showed cars flipping, rolling, and driving through mobile homes: all manner of things more daring and death-defying than the stunts we were watching. Far from pumping me up,

seeing what could happen just made me t h a t m u c h more disappointed by what I was watching.

Ironically, my favorite

part of the evening's entertainment was when the smallest trucks took the stage. Four tiny remote controlled trucks drove out into the arena and proceeded to perform all the tricks that I had expected from the big trucks: jumping and rolling and running each

other over. Far more exciting than the main event.

TranSaurus Rex, the transforming robot dinosaur, also put on an impressive display. Driving onto the floor, accompanied by a stirring but wacky background story of intrigue and adventure, he proceeded to unfold himself from the back of a truck and tear a Plymouth Horizon apart with his teeth and flaming nostrils.

"I liked the juxtaposition between the fire-spewing TranSaurus Rex and the 1980's soft-rock chart-topper 'Don't you forget about me' that immediately followed the beast's appearance," said first-year Erin Burns.

I probably will never attend a monster truck rally again. However, that doesn't mean that I regret going, and I'd recommend it simply for the opportunity to say that you went.

If you are interested in attending a monster truck event, check out [www.ushra.com](http://www.ushra.com). Though this particular event is over, rallies visit this area regularly throughout the year.

First-year Aaron DeMoss summarized the experience best when he said, "I liked it when they crushed



www.familyevents.com  
Monster trucks crushin' some cars