

## Indigo Girls and Winona LaDuke come to Guilford campus

Nasi Eaton

Staff Writer

"The Indigo Girls are activists. Both of us have that threaded in us."

Amy Ray, half of the award-winning duo that has been together for over two decades, wasn't kidding. She and her counterpart, Emily Saliers, will be at Guilford tonight alongside former Green Party Vice-Presidential candidate Winona LaDuke to raise awareness about energy conservation. This is only one of the many concerts they are putting-on to get people thinking about the issue of energy conservation.

Friday's program begins with the women hosting a short discussion about energy conservation, followed by a concert.

"I think the key is to get people who are really going to affect policy in the future to be aware of this," said Ray.

Over the course of their time together, the Indigo Girls have produced eight studio albums, played concerts worldwide, and developed a devoted fan

base. Even with all of their fame they continue to be activists, contributing their efforts to such organizations as Habitat for Humanity and Honor the Earth. Honor the Earth is sponsoring tonight's event.



"We've been working on issues surrounding energy policy for, really, the life of [Honor the Earth], so about 12 years," said Ray.

Honor the Earth is a Native

American organization that the Indigo Girls helped start. The organization pushes for native environmental issues and the survival of Native American communities.

"It's weird, and sort of telling, how long you can work on energy issues in this country," said Ray, "I've known of Guilford's activism for a long time, so for us, it's an obvious place to speak about it."

The "it" that they want to promote is the use of more renewable energy sources in North Carolina, which is the nation's 12th-worst air polluter. The state contributes nearly 72 million tons - or 144 billion lbs - of carbon dioxide to

the air annually.

Not only does tonight's program tap into Guilford's abundance of student activism, but Ray feels that it ties into the Year of Spirit and Spirituality.

"I'm an activist who has a lot of my activism rooted in my spirituality and in my belief that to have a full spiritual life, you have to do a lot of community work. I don't think you can have a rich spiritual life unless you're engaged in the community," Ray said.

Many of their fans think of the Indigo Girls as a spiritual group, a fact which is sometimes represented in their lyrics. For that reason, too, the duo seems a good pick for the year's theme.

"We just write what we write," said Ray. "If something about our spirituality comes out, that's fine; it doesn't scare us or anything. But I'm not driven to expose that part of myself in a big way."

Students within the Guilford community have mixed emotions, both about the Indigo Girls coming and about whether or not they're linked to the year's theme.

"Environmental awareness is defi-

nitely a big part of spirituality and a lot of religions," says first-year Nathan Ellis. "I'm very excited to hear what they have to say about that."

"What they're talking about seems to tie in more with merchandising and mercantilism than spirit and spirituality," argues first-year Blair McKinney.

The truth is, whether or not this program ties into the year's theme or not, it's a great way to bring a lot of people together on a Friday night. According to Ty Buckner, Director of College Relations, that's what the college was initially aiming for.

"[When we planned the event,] it was partly to try and come up with an event that would appeal to a broad series of people, and the Indigo Girls were natural because of their activism and so on," said Buckner.

The show starts at 8 p.m. tonight in Dana auditorium; tickets will be sold at the door.

As excited as the students may be to see this acclaimed group perform, the Indigo Girls are excited to be here, too.

"Yeah, the Quakers really have it going on!" said Ray, "They're pretty amazing. It's an amazing faith."



## 'The Lexicon of Wonder' provides opportunity for community to come together

Jabari Sellars

Staff Writer

On Sept. 14, Guilford professors and lecturers held the first poetry and prose reading of the year, entitled "From the Lexicon of Wonder."

The reading featured 13 faculty members sharing poetry and prose of their own, as well as favorites from writers such as Ernest Hemingway and T.S. Eliot.

In a large room off the Gallery illuminated by a single light, a crowd of more than 100 shared a carpet floor and plastic seats to hear the words of 13 professors.

Rather than lecturing, the professors shared their stanzas and verses, showing the audience their lives were defined by more than neck-ties

and brief-cases.

"You can tell a lot about a person through their writing," explained sophomore David Logwood. "It lets students see a side of their professors they don't see in the classroom."

The single light shone on each reader, guiding the audience's attention toward the front of the room. As in the classroom setting, the audience gave their full attention to each speaker, listening to every word and jotting-down notes in their minds.

"This [the reading] is a way to bring together people from the community that share the same passion," said alumna Cat Jacques.

Jacques, the editor-in-chief of Guilford's literary magazine *The Piper*, explained how poetry readings foster diversity

and camaraderie.

"Not only can students see an interesting side of the faculty they don't see everyday, this also lets you hear different kinds of art."

Melissa Daniel, Director of the Academic Skills Center, explained the advantages of beginning the series with personal poetry and prose.

"It is important for students to know the creative side of all professors; regardless of what field of study they are in," she explained. "It is an opportunity to share the passion for language."

"We come together in the joy of words," said tutor Doug Smith, who helped co-ordinate the event. "We want to encourage writing and reading on campus."

Smith has already planned a

Halloween-themed reading in October. His passion for readings comes from the rewards of sharing his work with an audience.

"Writers always long for the open ear of good readers," said Smith, reflecting on the experience. "All the writers there enjoyed having a large

and engaged crowd of listeners."

According to participants, the reading achieved its goal of connecting students and professors through something beyond a grade on a paper.

"We want our students to know that we live as writers and readers," said Smith.

### Mission Statement

*The Guilfordian*, a student publication, seeks to promote fair and accurate coverage of campus, local, national, and global news and opinions. In the spirit of Quaker traditions, *The Guilfordian* also provides an opportunity for free and open dialogue among members of the Guilford community.