

Staff Editorial

CAAP spreads
HIV awareness

Community AIDS Awareness Project (CAAP) will provide free HIV testing on Nov. 5 with professionals from Triad Health Project and the Guilford County Health Department.

HIV testing is particularly important as the domestic AIDS pandemic no longer holds the nation's attention. With the answers to many of the initially terrifying questions about AIDS and with the lack of media attention in decimated communities, many Americans consider the disease to be a problem solely for other countries.

But with 30,000 North Carolinians HIV-positive and 2,000 of them in Guilford County, this misconception is incorrect and dangerous. Twenty-one percent of infected individuals in the United States do not know their status. Most college students are sexually active and many engage in risky sexual behavior. The need for accurate prevention information and testing services remains critical in decreasing the disease's spread and keeping students healthy.

At Guilford, CAAP works hard to fight the apathetic viewpoint many young Americans take towards AIDS. CAAP members volunteer with the Triad Health Project, an organization that does AIDS prevention and cares for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Through this volunteer work, CAAP members have an important perspective of the value of AIDS prevention and of the actual impact of an AIDS diagnosis on a person's life. Their insight serves as a valuable reminder of AIDS' severity, especially considering the insular nature of the Guilford bubble.

To take advantage of CAAP's free HIV testing, go to the Career and Community Learning Center from 1 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 5. The testing is completely confidential. Students meet privately with a counselor, who will return in three weeks to discuss the results.

Though AIDS research has come a long way, there is still no cure. Prevention plays a critical role in reducing the spread of the disease. Despite our cultural desensitization to the disease, AIDS continues to destroy lives and communities.

Ignoring the problem only creates unnecessary deaths. If you are sexually active, take an active role in keeping yourself and your partners healthy. No one else will.

Free HIV Testing
Wed., Nov. 5
1-5 p.m.
in the
Career and Community
Learning Center
PROTECT YOURSELF!

"Become more" ... specific



When checking my e-mail over fall break, I noticed the words "become more" printed in bold at the top right corner of the Guilford home page. "Become more," I thought. "Become more what?"

Little did I know, "Become more" is our current slogan, adopted by admissions nearly two years ago. Taglines such as "Become more" and "Guilford got me there!" are used as a part of the promotion for the college and for student recruitment.

Marketing tactics aside, I think it's important that we ask ourselves what message this slogan sends to prospective students who are considering attending Guilford.

At the bottom of some alumni profiles on the Web site is a blurb about how "become more" manifests itself in the Guilford community.

According to Guilford.edu, "Guilford College provides a positive, transformative experience in the Quaker tradition for students of all ages."

"For me it should be a Zen Quaker paradox," said Max Carter, campus ministry coordinator and director of the Friends Center. "In the Quaker tradition you become more by becoming less — less concerned with wealth and material."

By using the tagline "become more," are

we really becoming less? Is Guilford emphasizing our Quaker values of community, diversity, equality, excellence, integrity, justice and stewardship when recruiting potential students?

"The approach that our traditional admission staff and CCE areas have used to promote Guilford is to tell the stories of, in most cases, recent alumni," said Ty Buckner, senior director of communications and marketing, "with the stories reflecting what

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we call outcomes. The product of a Guilford education."

These outcomes that Buckner refers to are the recent graduates, both CCE and traditional, profiled on the current homepage and throughout the Web site. Students profiled include, a current equity capital markets analyst for Wachovia, a Doctor of veterinary medicine candidate at Mississippi State University and a middle school secretary.

By sharing their diverse stories with prospective students, Buckner hopes that "become more" is seen by students as a challenge as well as a reflection of what their experience at Guilford can be.

The bottom of many alumni profiles read, "(Guilford students) engage the community outside of the classroom, expanding their

world view. They interact with individuals from all sectors of society, expanding their cultural understanding. At Guilford, every student shares one path: they each become more."

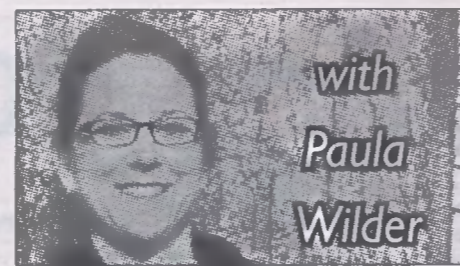
As a senior beginning to figure out my own life's purpose, and what my next step will be, I reflect on my past four years at Guilford. Have I become more? I guess that depends on your definition.

Have I grown as an individual? Most

certainly. Have I expanded my world view by interacting with students of different religious, ethnic, regional and national backgrounds? Yes. Have I engaged in the community outside the classroom through internships and community service? Definitely. I'm not saying that Guilford is by any means perfect. I'm not even sure that there was an entirely unified stance on what students we should be, and are, attracting to our institution by creating this ultimately vague slogan.

But above all, I believe that Guilford can be a transformative place. It is a place that has helped me develop into a more confident and socially conscious individual. Have I become more, though? I think you'll have to be more specific.

Today's Lesson: Health insurance worries



Most situations in life, whether big or small, come with a downside and an upside.

For instance, in February, I was happy and relieved that my divorce was finalized.

The upside of that meant that an unhappy 15-year marriage ended.

The downside made me worry, because according to North Carolina law, my health insurance also ended.

I'm self-employed, so minimal coverage health insurance was going to cost me close to \$200 a month. I decided to join the ranks of the uninsured and take a risk rather than opt to forego groceries, heat, or gas for my car.

The upside: my children and I were well-fed, warm, and mobile.

The downside: there was always a nagging fear of "what if."

A glimmer of hope came when I found a CCE health insurance survey in my mailbox in the spring of 2008 asking if I

would be interested in a student insurance plan. I filled out my survey and encouraged others to do the same.

According to Rita Serotkin, CCE dean of students, there was not a definitive reason why health insurance had never been offered to adults. She said that it was a subject that had not been discussed during her time at Guilford.

Serotkin said that a student stopped her and asked if some

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type of coverage could be offered for CCE students. Serotkin took the request to Guilford's president, Kent Chabotar, and Jerry Boothby, vice president for finance and administration.

Chabotar and Boothby thought that this was an idea that should be pursued if enough students were interested in the coverage. The survey was used to find out how many students would be interested in health insurance through Guilford.

The results from the survey showed sufficient interest, so with approval from Chabotar

and Boothby, the administration began their search for the carrier with the right price and right coverage. UnitedHealthCare won the bid.

CCE students were given the opportunity to enroll through an obscure form received in the mail. I usually read everything closely, so thankfully I noticed that it was offered.

There was no brochure or information about the coverage. The only information pro-

vided was that the cost was only \$369.00 for twelve months of coverage.

Even though I wasn't sure what was covered, I thought this unknown something would be worth more than the known nothing!

I finally did receive my coverage information and found that it was well worth the cost.

I don't have well visits, but there are certain health screenings covered along with most sick visits to a hospital or a physician. It's definitely coverage that takes away the nagging

fear.

There were not many students who enrolled in the insurance plan and Serotkin believes this was due to the lack of information and lack of publicity. She stated that in the future she would love to see more students benefit from the insurance.

Serotkin said, "If it benefits any student, then it is a good thing ... The insurance gives them a way to take care of themselves without a huge financial hardship."

CCE students can enroll at any time during the year, adding this to their Guilford bill. The cost is pro-rated based on the number of months of coverage and the expense can be covered by financial aid.

If you have an interest in the coverage, UnitedHealthCare has finally provided the insurance brochures to the CCE office. If you like to see what you are getting before you pay, then drop by Hendricks Hall to pick up more information.

As usual, life gives us ups and downs. The upside to this: thanks to Guilford, I'm no longer an uninsured statistic. The downside: I graduate in May, so I'll lose the coverage. The upside: I graduate in May, and I'll worry about the rest later.