

'Snowmageddon' bombards Greensboro with snowfall

BY ADITYA GARG
STAFF WRITER

Add "Snowpocalypse" or "Snowmageddon" to the list of events you have now survived.

Feb. 13 marked the first of a two-day snowstorm that swept across the state, dumping a near-record 8 inches of snow on Greensboro.

Among many circumstances of this storm, Guilford College classes were cancelled from Wednesday afternoon through the weekend, the Bryan Series event featuring Itzhak Perlman was postponed, the "None of the Above: Dismantling the School-to-Pipeline" art exhibit opening reception was postponed and the "Who is Black Panel" was cancelled.

The inclement weather unleashed a flurry of activity as administrators deliberated on whether or not to cancel classes.

"(The) president has ultimate authority to close the College and/or cancel classes, but he has delegated this responsibility to me," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Adrienne Israel in an email interview. "I decide based on

reports from the staff who maintain the grounds ... a range of weather reports and predictions ... (and) from the state highway patrol and police department about driving conditions."

Israel went on to explain that the target for announcing class cancellations and campus closings is 3:00 p.m. for evening classes and 6:00 a.m. for day classes.

Among those involved with the decision are Dean of Students Vice President for Student Affairs Aaron Fetrow, Director of Environmental Sustainability David Petree and occasionally Vice President of Administration Jonathan Varnell.

Two consecutive closings are somewhat unusual for Guilford.

"(The College) never closed for two days straight due to snow since I arrived in 2002," said President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar in an email interview.

Coordinating the Bryan Series event proved especially tricky.

"Decisions about the Bryan Series are generally made independently because they impact people who are not associated with the College,"

said Ty Buckner, associate vice president of communications and marketing, in an email interview.

Due to the snow, the Bryan Series event featuring Perlman will now be held on March 17, which displeased many.

"Perlman is by far my favorite violinist, and I was really looking forward to seeing him at the event," said Early College junior Porter Jones. "It's a shame the event was postponed another month."

Early College senior Parth Vaidya agreed.

"I don't think I'll be able to see him now," Vaidya said. "March 17 is during our spring break, and like many others, I already have plans. I certainly was disappointed by the outcome."

Much of Guilford's staff was forced to work long hours to ensure students' safety and provide them with services.

"Since we are considered essential personnel, we have to be here," said Public Safety Coordinator Rhonda Johnson. "Public Safety is here 24/7. If somebody does not show up, the officer on duty has to stay until



COURTESY OF CHAD NORTON

Students used the abundant snowfall and free time to create this snowman.

someone else can get in."

Johnson was among the few that spent both Wednesday and Thursday night on campus. Many of the grounds crew also stayed overnight, lodging at Campbell House, while they worked into the night and rose early to clear sidewalks and roads.

Despite the inconveniences, many students found the snow enjoyable, as Guilford's hills turned into sledding mounds and snowball fights overran the campus.

"Snowmageddon ... allowed me to be five years old again," said junior Edward Praley. "Snow day equaled snow ball fights."

SENATE UPDATE

this week's developments

Students prepared for the upcoming Board of Trustees Town Hall on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 4-5:30pm in Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Auditorium. Questions were collected and students were encouraged to turn out. Also, a crafty sign was created!

next week's plans

Angela Reiter and the website development team will be coming to Senate to get feedback and suggestions for the new Guilford College website!

contact us

We need to hear your voice. Have an idea? Concern? Great recipe? It is important to us.

Email: senate@guilford.edu
or visit
guilfordsenate.wordpress.com

Compiled by Samir Hazboun, Community Senate president

Society of Physics Students defies gravity by raising the bar ever higher

BY SUKYUN CHUNG
STAFF WRITER

When you look back on elementary school days, memories of standardized tests and recess may swarm your mind.

The Guilford College chapter of the Society of Physics Students, however, is helping create memories that go above and beyond at Jefferson Elementary School.

For over two years, Guilford's physics students have volunteered at an after-school science enrichment program at Jefferson Elementary.

The chapter has been recognized for its efforts in the study of physics. Guilford's SPS has been selected as an Outstanding Chapter of the Society of Physics Students, an honor given to less than 10 percent of SPS chapters.

"Personally, I was part of our program to introduce the students to computer programming," said senior Henry Corbett in an email interview. "Other students from the SPS have taken physics demonstrations and activities (to Jefferson), ranging from electronics to making simple telescopes."

Introducing these students to equipment not already available at Jefferson increases their involvement in experimentation. SPS hopes to get children more excited about science.

"I think that kids are born as experimenters and explorers," said Professor of Physics and Guilford SPS Advisor Steve Shapiro. "If there are opportunities for them to explore scientific ideas rather than just read about

it, I think their interest in science will greatly increase."

Alongside Shapiro and Corbett are student officers: senior Nolan Dwyer, senior Emma Taylor and junior Justin Ouellette.

One Jefferson student's mother, who requested to remain anonymous, has witnessed the effect of SPS's dedication firsthand.

"I've never seen my son this enthusiastic about an academic field before," said the mother. "It was always just video games and football until Guilford College came in with their demonstrations."

Some members of SPS volunteer as judges in the Jefferson Elementary and Guilford County school science fairs. While this year's science fairs have come and gone, her son looks forward to next year's fairs.

"I can't wait to show them how much I learned," he said.

SPS also hosts a yearly open house for Jefferson students at Guilford's observatory.

"The first year we did it, we had an overflow crowd," said Shapiro. "It was really quite impressive."

Although Corbett is honored to receive the award, he maintains that SPS is about more than just awards.

"It's always nice to be recognized for what we do, but it's not really why we do it," said Corbett. "These are the kind of experiences that I wish I would have had at that age, that I feel would have been informative for me, and I am glad we get to help create them for others."