

'The Guilfordian' garners 2014 national, state awards



BY ALLISON STALBERG
SENIOR WRITER

The American Scholastic Press Association has named The Guilfordian the "Most Outstanding College Newspaper of 2013 - 2014" in its annual best college media contest.

Richard Plass, chair of the ASPA judging committee, confirmed that The Guilfordian scored 975 out of a possible 1,000 points. Judging categories included content coverage, page design, general plan, art and illustrations, editing, and creativity.

"It was the most points scored by any college newspaper," said Plass in an email interview. "Jeff Jeske, adviser, Kate Gibson, editor-in-chief, and the entire staff of The Guilfordian newspaper should be congratulated on this excellent achievement."

In addition to the ASPA award, the Associated Collegiate Press awarded The Guilfordian seventh place in the best-of-show contest at the National College Media Convention, held in February in San Diego; the first six places were taken by universities. The Guilfordian's Web edition took 10th place.

The Guilfordian also won several awards in the annual state competition held by the North Carolina Media Association, also in February. These included a best-of-show award for the print newspaper.

One individual award-winner was Early College junior Kinsey Danzis, whose story "Amigos for Christ" won first place for sports writing.

"I screamed into a pillow and I rolled around on the floor for a couple minutes because I didn't expect to win," said Danzis.

Sophomore Kiera McNicholas won first place in photography with her photo "Mandalas & Monks."

"Kiera's photo of the mandalas and monks dominated the front page of an issue, and there was a lot of consensus among the staff that the image was really striking and engaging," said sophomore Allison DeBusk, The Guilfordian's photo editor, who chose the photograph to submit for competition.

"I knew it was a spectacular photo — technically and from a photojournalistic standpoint. The amount of positive feedback confirmed to me that the photo had the potential to win."

Senior Samir Hazboun won second place for his illustrations and graphics; co-layout editors Hazboun and Michaela Beggins also received an honorable mention for page design. Former CCE student Lane Martin and seniors Tom Clement

and Zach Kronisch won third place for multimedia package with "Kent Chabotar's Retirement."

Junior Shelby Smith, former staff writer and now regular reader of The Guilfordian, believes the paper's secret to victory lies in the staff and chosen stories.

"I think what makes The Guilfordian so renowned is its professionalism and its never-ending pool of not only talented writers and editors, but also passionate ones at that," said Smith. "The stories that are covered are meaningful and interesting. There's a little something for everyone to enjoy, which is exactly what a newspaper needs to do."

What makes these contests so important anyway?

"We as an organization are very critical of ourselves, and it's easy for us to see what to improve more than what we're doing well," said Editor-in-Chief Gibson.

"It's helpful to see how we're doing compared to other schools and staffs who are experiencing the same difficulties we experience, to know where we stand among our peers and to get feedback from fresh pairs of eyes that know what we should be striving toward."

The Guilfordian will celebrate its 100th birthday in October. Jeff Jeske, advisor of The Guilfordian and Dana professor of English, reflected that the newspaper has significantly evolved in his 27 years as advisor.

Jeske, a first-year literature professor with no journalism experience in early 1987, became Guilfordian advisor after the publication died that January. He said that then-dean Sam Schuman whimsically made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

Subsequently, The Guilfordian has come a long way. Since beginning to enter contests in 2005, it has tied for first place in the ASPA contest nine times. This year is the second time it has won the "Most Outstanding College Newspaper," the first occurring in 2008.

Considering that Guilford College only offers two journalism classes, compared to its competitor schools, many of whom boast full journalism programs featuring a full suite of courses, the staff felt especially proud of their accomplishments.

"We have a sense of our mission at The Guilfordian," said Jeske. "We really have a commitment to excellence."

GRAPHIC BY KARLEN LAMBERT/GUILFORDIAN

PECS hosts Fleming Lecture Series to generate discussion about gun violence

BY KELLI URESTI
STAFF WRITER

Gun violence is not something to be taken lightly; mass shootings, homicides and accidental child deaths are things we all hear about when it comes to guns.

Community members gathered on April 24 for the annual Peace and Conflict Studies Fleming Lecture Series, "Gun Violence in America: Causes and Possible Solutions." Speakers included Dr. Jacquelyn White, a professor from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Guilford College's Dr. Will Pizio, associate professor of justice & policy studies; and Will Revis, a Greensboro prosecutor.

"I was anticipating that each speaker would have very different opinions on the issues of gun violence," said sophomore Anna Silva. "Each speaker's thoughts and views on gun violence were relatively similar."

Another student was surprised by the forum.

"I anticipated the lecture to discuss how guns account for much of the violence in the country; however, it was somewhat different because statistics were given that prove this theory otherwise," said first-year Ivie Norris.

Pizio opened the forum by saying he hoped he would "piss you off a little bit."

"To frame gun violence, we need to understand where we are in relation to violent crime," said Pizio. "We are at the lowest levels of violent crime in 40 years."

According to Pizio, gun ownership and murder rates are down, and the country is safer than in recent years.

"I think that mass shootings are very wrongly lumped into gun violence in this country," said Pizio. "We don't know why

mass shootings happen. How do you solve the problem if you don't know what the causes are?"

Following Pizio's presentation, White used statistics and studies to support her ideas on possible ways to reduce gun violence.

"You need a comprehensive, science-based public health approach," said White. "This really means that gun behavior is a public health problem and should be approached like other public health problems."

The last speaker was Revis, who filled in last-minute for Chris Parrish, Guilford's part-time lecturer of justice & policy studies. Revis took the position that gun violence is not the problem — people are.

"Ted Bundy is suspected of killing over 100 people, no gun involved," said Revis. "So you could stack up some of the worst mass shootings that have occurred, and they're still not equal to Ted Bundy."

Revis acknowledged that he owns many guns. He believes part of the problem is that the media glorifies violence.

"I believe that in giving mass attention to the mass shootings, somewhere there is a person watching going, 'This is a great idea,'" said Revis. "I can name offhand one of the shooters at Columbine. How many of you can name one of the victims?"

According to Revis, we give the suspects, not the victims, all the attention.

As for the cause of the recent crime reduction, Revis thinks there could be many different explanations, depending on whom you ask.

"Liberals will often want to tell you that this progress has nothing to do with the criminal justice system," said Revis. "That it is the better economy, better education that is causing the reduction. Now, conservatives on the other side will say that it has all to do with putting people in jail. My answer is both."

Many students enjoyed the opportunity to gain new knowledge on the topic of gun violence through the speakers' three distinct voices.

"The most prominent thing I took away from the speakers was how there are many different ways of approaching the topic of gun violence," said Silva. "I really appreciated each speaker's varying opinions; there were no obvious disagreements or disputes, just different approaches to the issue."

'How do you solve the problem if you don't know what the causes are?'

Will Pizio, associate professor of justice & policy studies

