Ghilioni, Sweeney speak on finding God

BY KIERA MCKENDRICK
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, Peter Ghiloni of the Chaplain’s Office and Kelly Sweeney ’02 shared their personal experiences of how they find God in both their daily lives and through particular instances. The discussions, sponsored by the Chaplain’s Office and the President’s Office, took place in Hogan Suite A and were open to faculty, staff, and students. About 80 people came to eat lunch and listen to Ghiloni’s and Sweeney’s insights in what was the fourth talk of the lunch series for this semester.

Sweeney shared how she finds God especially in the subtle teachings of her father, to the faces of the poor in Mexico, to the feeling of a simple hug. She explained to the audience that it was not until she was independent at Holy Cross that she really began to discover her faith.

“I was on my own,” she said. “I had the choice or whether or not to go to church on Sundays, but somehow I knew that this point in my life was an important one on my spiritual journey.”

Sweeney shared stories of her intense prayerful experience in her two missions in Mexico. She explained to the audience that she felt the overwhelming presence of God in and among her fellow students and the people of Mexico. She shared with everyone her encounter with a Mexican woman, Domitilla, who told her that she could never be angry with God despite her poor circumstances.

“Domitilla reminded me of how quick we are to blame God,” Sweeney said. “To me, she represented the face of Jesus.”

Peter Ghiloni, too, found the face of God in the things surrounding him every day. “There are three things that pretty much sum up how I find God,” Ghiloni commented. “They are music, prayer, and surrounding myself with people that I love.” Ghiloni talked about music, saying that it was like a prayer itself.

When asked what it was in particular that made music foster his relationship with God, he joked, “No one ever loses Mass hammering the hymnol.” Ghiloni found that his music is a beautiful way for him to serve, worship, and feel closer to God.

Ghiloni also discussed the way in which prayer factors into his relationship with God. He shared with the audience two prayers from his parents’ Funeral Mass cards that he prays everyday. “I leave the cards on my bathroom mirror as a constant reminder,” he said. To finish his speech, he sang a hymn with those who attended the luncheon.

At the end, Marybeth Kearns-Barrett, an assistant chaplain thanked Ghiloni and Sweeney for their insights and commented on how their personalities truly shone through in their talks.

After the speeches, members from the audience asked Peter and Kelly questions and commented on their speeches. Meagan Hoeschler ’05 remarked on the beauty of both talks: “Peter and Kelly put it so nicely. I think the question now is how can you not find God?”

The main inspiration for the lunch series was a book written by James Martin, S.J., titled, “How Can I Find God?” The book is a compi- lation of essays written by famous theologians, writers, and everyday people of various ethnic, social, and religious backgrounds. The Chap- lain’s Office built this book through sponsoring luncheons seek- ing to illustrate different answers to this question from members of the Holy Cross community. The series serves to foster the mission of Holy Cross by accepting and integrating members of different faith back- grounds into the community while still maintaining a Catholic identity and message. The final luncheon will be on Wednesday, Nov. 14 where Prof. Joanna Ziegler of the Visual Arts Department and Rev. Gerald McKeon, College Chaplain will share insight on how they find God in their own lives.

Biochemistry faculty candidate links chromatin histone code to cancer

BY MELISSA PELESZ
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A full audience, with standing room only, was present Monday for Dr. Emily A. Wiley’s presenta- tion on “Deciphering the Chromatin Histone Code.” Dr. Wiley graduated from Western Washing- ton University and received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. She completed her post-doctoral work at the Univer- sity of Rochester before teaching for the past two years at Mount Holyoke College. Wiley presented this lecture part of her research in histone modification and deacetylation in the protaozans Tetrahymena.

Wiley concluded her summary of her research with the Histone Code Hypothesis. This hypothesis states that the amount of acetylation is not what is responsible for the activity of the histone structure. Rather, it is the pattern of acetylation in the histone tail, which amino acids have been acetylated, that directs the chromatin structure. Wiley also described one of her student’s projects which had excit- ing results resembling the pheno- menon often described by can- cer. After completing a growth curve of the wild-type strain and their mutated deacetylase strain of Tetrahymena, they discovered that the mutated strain grew to two times the normal density of the wild-type. Something similar is present in the mutated form that does not respond to the normal signal that indicates a halt in growth. Likewise, cancer cells continue to multiply and ignore the normal response to signals regulat- ing cell division. Thus, this discovery may be useful as a model system for cancer, and there is a possibility that histone deacetylation could be linked with the disease.

Students who attended the lec- ture left the seminar very enthusi- astic about Wiley’s research. In discussions following the lecture, students discovered Dr. Wiley’s love for not simply research, but also teaching. Wiley believes it is very important for students to be exposed to the vocabulary and techniques involved in molecular genetics. She hopes to be able to take part in preparing students for their future endeavors. When asked what types of topic courses she would want to teach at Holy Cross, she mentioned many ideas, including cancer and genetic interac- tions. However, her final com- ment indicated her true under- standing of what it takes to be a teacher: “It is not the topic that is important but how the material is taught.”

Wednesday, October 31
Hogan: Two males soliciting student to sign up for credit cards outside of building. Public Safety responds, building and surrounding area checked but persons not found.

Wheeler: Student reports window broken.

Hanselman: Student reports items missing from her dorm room.

Mulledy: Broken lock. Locksmith called.

Thursday, November 1
Wheeler: Building trashed. East side of building has trash thrown all over.

Hogan: Fan room fire alarm going off.

Hogan: Wallet found.

Sunday, November 4
O’Kane Square: Two males in white van reported to be exposing themselves.

Realy: Students in vehicle on campus reported to be shooting paintballs out of car windows. Last seen on Campion Hill/Lower Easy Street.

Monday, November 5
Dinan: Student reports laptop missing.

Tuesday, November 6
Linden Lane: Student requested to speak with the counselor on duty at the counseling center.

Student Lot #1: Vehicle towed to Boulevard Towing

Student Lot #1: Employee reports finding a computer tower in the grass by the Public Safety Information Booth.

Fenwick: Employee from ITS reports laptop computer missing from the Help Desk.

Fenwick: Purse found in first floor restroom.

Fieldhouse: Student staff member requests officer for a group of non-students.

Mulledy: RA requests officer meet him on Easy Street to investigate a suspicious odor.

Wheeler: Vehicle towed from Wheeler Lot.