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Essay contest offers long term rewards

Kate Botty Reporter

It is not too early to begin thinking about the sixth annual Philip Carret essay competition. "It's more than just an essay contest," said Mark Albertson, registrar. "It's one of the most prestigious honors to win on campus."

This year's question asks students to explore the differences and similarities between the views of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams concerning the role of government in Americans' lives, and to consider their debates and how they have contributed to our contemporary understanding of American democracy.

The first-place winner receives \$1,000, and is invited for an overnight stay at the International Center for Jefferson Studies. This visit includes an honorary dinner and private tour of the University of Virginia and Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va. The second and third place winners receive \$600 and \$400 in prize money.

Dr. Daniel Jordan, president of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation says this year's question is excellent. "It should cause Elon students to reflect on aspects said. Jefferson and Adams had much in common, but their dissimilarities offer some perspective on the American experience." David McCullough, a recent speaker on campus is a member of the Board

of Trustee's at the foundation. Past winners are accomplished.

Elon graduate and English major Joe Mattern, won the honors in 1997 and 1998. As a result, he won a trip to visit CNN and met with CEO Tom Johnson. After graduating, Mattern was hired at CNN in Atlanta. Dan Callaway, a music theatre major won in 1999, and is currently in London working at the West End theatre district. The 2000 and 2001 winner Stephanie Newbold graduated from Elon last spring with a degree in political science and is currently attending graduate school at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University.

"Winning the Carret competition for two consecutive years was one of the best memories I will carry with me from my undergraduate experience at Elon," Newbold said. Newbold continued by saying the Carret competition opened an enormous window of opportunity for herself as a scholar. "Though researching and analyzing various topics relating to Mr. Jefferson, I developed an enormous passion for the contributions he made to our country and to democracy. As a result I was able to further study my research in several classes."

Although Newbold acknowlof our own national history," he edges the generous monetary rewards of winning the competition, the true gift is having the opportunity to visit the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. This summer she will be an intern at the International Center for Jefferson Studies at

Photo courtesy of Monticello/Thomas Jefferson Foundation First prize in the contest allows for a student to visit Monticello. Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va.



Photo courtesy of Carret & Co.

Philip Carret visited Elon to address the Love School of Business and left so impressed he donated \$40,000 in IBM stock to institute a campus wide essay contest. Carret died at the age of 101 in 1998, but his gift still lives today.

Monticello.

"I cannot stress enough how amazing and progressive the Jefferson Foundation is," she says. "I feel incredibly honored to have this opportunity.'

Carret, a prosperous New York investor accepted an invitation to visit the Love School of Business by Albertson in October 1996. After his visit he gave Albertson \$1,000 and asked him to start an essay question asking the question: "If Thomas Jefferson would come back to this country today, what would he think?" Albertson sent Carret the winning essay and within a few days received \$40,000 in IBM stock and a request to keep the essay competition running for years to come.

Newbold encourages Elon students to enter the competition. "Mr. Carret saw intellectual excellence in Elon students, and that is why he endowed this project in such a substantial financial way," she said. "I certainly encourage all Elon students to meet Mr. Carret's generosity by participating in this very special and enlightening contest."

-Submissions must be handed in to Ms. Nicole Jones, Registrar's Office, Alamance 102 by 4:30 pm on Friday, April 12, 2002.

-For further information contact Dr. John Burbridge @ 278-6000

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