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THE PENDULUM

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008 | VOLUME 34, EDITION 28

www.elon.edu/pendulum

Elon students prefer Obama, more engaged than ever poll says

Olivia Hubert-Allen
Editor-in-Chief

Sen. Barack Obama is the preferred presidential candidate among Elon students by nearly two to one, according to a CBS News, UWIRE and Chronicle of Higher Education survey released Monday. Sixty-four percent of Elon students plan to vote for Obama, while 34 percent say they'll vote for Sen. John McCain.

The survey was completed at 49 colleges in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Colorado and North Carolina between Oct. 6 and Oct. 19. Elon University returned the most number of surveys than any school with 1,149 students

participating.

The results are in line with polls at North Carolina public universities, most of which attract in-state students. Elon, a private school with 60 percent out-of-state students, is voting in the same way as in-state students at public universities, challenging some traditional questions about voter demographics. Geographic home and income is having little impact on how students are voting.

"The amount of interest all across the board has really surprised me," said George Taylor, professor of political science. "The interest, the enthusiasm, the depth of the interest — it's a phenomenon."

Of the 13 schools surveyed in North Carolina, Elon had the third highest support for Obama.

The survey also found that more than one-third of Elon students will vote for a different candidate than at least one of their parents, a striking statistic that could signal a generational disparity in how the votes will fall this November.

"It's not a situation where they feel like I'm negating their vote if I'm voting for someone else," said Kim Duggins, a psychology major who took part in the poll and plans to vote for a different candidate than her parents. "My parents are pretty open and understanding."

The results are increasingly important in a state that could play a large role in the 2008 Presidential election. North Carolina's 15 electoral votes, which have long been a stronghold of the Republican Party are up for grabs as campaigns close in on the final week before the election. Forty-five percent of Elon students are registered to vote in North Carolina and half of those will vote in Alamance County.

For most college students, this November will be the first time they will cast a ballot in a presidential election. Like most adults in the

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BLOODY BRILLIANT



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

Juniors Christopher Wood and Emily Rice lead the Elon theatre department in its rendition of Stephen Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.' Wood plays the role of Sweeney Todd, the insane barber who seeks revenge in his town. Rice plays Mrs. Lovett, Sweeney Todd's partner in crime. The show opens at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 30 and shows through Nov. 1, and again Nov. 7-9 in McCrary Theatre.

SGA finalizes legislation for \$7,500 Fun Fund

Shelley Russell
Special Projects Editor

The Student Government Association voted on Thursday to further develop a fund that will benefit student entertainment on campus to the tune of \$7,500 each year. Students would be able to use the money in the fund for anything from a slip n' slide in front of Moseley, to a trip to the local bowling alley.

The idea was passed with the expectation that the fund will be open to students during spring 2009. Jeff Casullo, SGA's executive treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee, began planning the Fun Fund this summer. He became interested in the idea after learning Wofford College held about 35 programs last year through a similar fund.

"The hardest part about developing the idea was figuring out where the money would come from," Casullo said. "We didn't want to take away money that we already allot to other student organizations."

Each semester, Elon students pay an activities fee of \$215 to help SGA fund events and give money to other student organizations. Money for the Fun Fund will come from SGA's contingency, in which money is set aside in the event of a low enrollment. Due to Elon's high enrollment, SGA has accumulated money over the past few years.

"Since money from the fund is coming from the activity fee, it's almost like every student in the university is endorsing this program," Casullo said.

The \$150,000 endowed fund will leave SGA with \$7,500 each year to give to students for the sole purpose of having fun. The program is geared toward individual students who may not have the means to get funding through student organizations. Casullo said he could see the fund benefiting freshmen that may not be as involved in student organizations.

But the fund is not restricted to individuals. It's open to all student organizations as well. Through an application process that will include required itemized budgets from all applicants, the fund can help cover anything from advertising, security, bands and food for an event.

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McCullough returns to Elon for Baird Lecture

Amanda Kennison
Reporter

As the country approaches the end of a historic election, Elon welcomes back a highly esteemed historian. David McCullough addressed the Elon community as part of the university's Baird Pulitzer Prize Lecture Series, but his lecture also marked a special return. McCullough gave the inaugural Baird Lecture in the fall of 2001, just days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

History Professor Charles Irons introduced McCullough, praising him for his "exercise of moral courage, [which] brings out the best in those around him."

This accolade fittingly introduced McCullough's speech, "Leadership and the History You Don't Know."

Highlighting Elon's efforts to

enhance faculty scholarship and continuing education, McCullough discussed the great importance of education.

McCullough credited 19th century scientist and professor Louis Agassiz for finding "the finest lessons in scholarship and learning."

He said Agassiz brought "a gust of fresh air to Harvard," with his teaching methods and in order to understand what one is studying, they must go beyond the image in front of them and really study all the parts that make up the whole image.

McCullough carried this lesson throughout his life.

"It's not just what you find," McCullough said. "It's how you look at what you find, and what you do with it."

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MY NGUYEN | Photographer

Historian David McCullough offers insight into the importance of education.