

# Students registered to vote in Alamance County run into trouble at polling stations

Jack Dodson  
News Editor

Molly Frank, a junior at Elon University, cannot vote in Alamance county's primaries in May unless she re-registers to vote because she changed addresses since last voting.

She said while this makes sense, many students do not realize that when they change residences on campus, they have to update their voting registration.

Frank, a Massachusetts native, said she changed her registration so that she could vote in the 2008 presidential election in North Carolina.

"I knew that it was going to be more of a close race here than in Massachusetts," Frank said.

After a close election year that prompted some Elon students to register to vote in Alamance County, some students are realizing when they go back to vote in 2010, they are unable to because they have changed housing assignments on campus.

Daniel Harwell, president of Elon's chapter National Campaign for Student Political and Civic Engagement, said when he was preparing to advertise the various primaries this year, he and public administration and political science professor George Taylor found students who had moved housing assignments on campus were no longer able to vote. Early voting, which ends May 1, is the last chance for students to re-register who want to vote in the primary.

He said this is because the address students use when they vote is no longer up to date if they have moved on campus. Elon's campus is also dissected down Haggard Avenue into two voting districts, he said.

Frank said she would have liked to be reminded by the school that she had to update her registration.

"I think it makes sense," she said, "I just didn't think about it."

According to Harwell, many of the students who changed their registration to vote in Alamance County do not realize they have to update it every year.



Workers for the election board in Alamance County sign-in registered voters April 16 at Graham Public Library during early voting. JACK DODSON | Photographer

Harwell said his organization has been trying to get the word out about the issue to make sure students know before they go to vote.

"We at least wanted to make people aware going into it so they aren't surprised," Harwell said. "I think the biggest thing is students just being more aware of it."


This is the first year his organization has noticed the problem, he said, so it is the first year they have tried to address it.

"Unfortunately, it's one of those things that we've kind of realized too late," Harwell said.

He said his group's efforts would mostly consist of trying to get the word out that students need to re-register to vote during early voting.



Early voting started last week for Alamance County at the Graham Public Library. Students who are registered to vote in the county, but who have changed housing in the last year have to re-register to vote to participate in May's primary election. JACK DODSON | Photographer

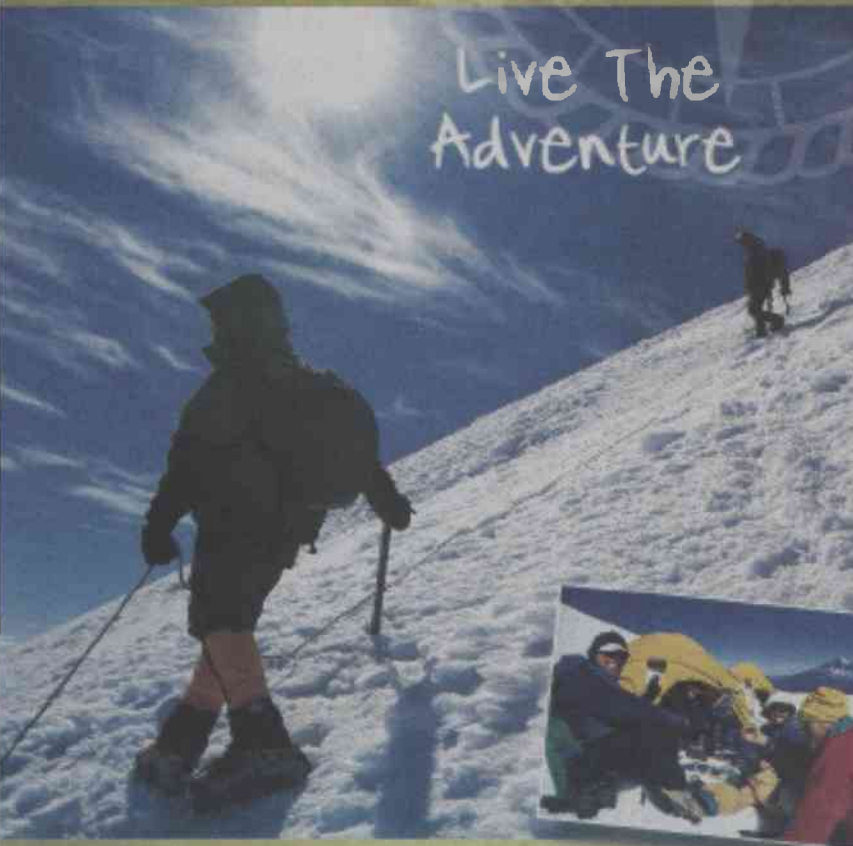


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Event: Wine and Cheese  
Date: April 29th 5-8 PM  
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