



Activist Jen Jones starts the chant: "What are we gonna do?" "Vote against!" "When are we gonna do it?" "May 8!" at Elon's Race to the Ballot event, urging students to register to vote.

Students raise their voice against NC amendment during Race to the Ballot

Katherine Blunt
Senior Reporter

United, they pledged to vote in opposition.

Elon University students and community members registered and vowed to vote against Amendment One during Race to the Ballot, an event dedicated to educating voters about a controversial state legislation, Feb. 15 in McKinnon Hall. Nine campus organizations, including SPECTRUM, the LGBTQ office and Better Together, welcomed a team of activists from the Coalition to Protect North Carolina Families dedicated to educating North Carolinians about the consequences of the proposed amendment, which, if passed, would recognize only the legal union of one man and one woman as constitutional within the state. The amendment will appear on the state ballot May 8.

The coalition is comprised of more than 75 statewide organizations united against the amendment, which would invalidate all unmarried partnerships and civil unions, both heterosexual and homosexual.

All four of Elon's a cappella groups performed while individuals circulated around the room, collecting information about the amendment. More than 140 people registered to vote and signed pledges

to "Vote Against."

"Better Together wanted to sponsor Race to the Ballot because we are an interfaith organization at Elon, but that does not limit us to just religious backgrounds and philosophical backgrounds," said Mason Sklut, co-president of Better Together. "One of the key things that we like people to focus on is having mutually respectful relationships between different groups."

Voter registration began in Moseley Center the morning of Feb. 15 and remained open throughout the evening of information and entertainment. Representatives of university organizations that sponsored the event promoted awareness and social equality while the Race to the Ballot team members continued to register voters and collect pledges to vote against the amendment.

In an on-stage presentation at the start of the event, Jen Jones, communications director of the Coalition to Protect North Carolina Families, explained that Amendment One would directly affect not only the rights of gays, but the rights of women, families and senior citizens as well. The passage of the amendment could complicate the legality and enforcement of child custody rulings, domestic violence



Twisted Measure, an Elon co-ed a cappella group, sang at Race to the Ballot Feb. 15.

claims and the wills and trusts of the deceased, Jones said.

"The issue that we're trying to tackle is one of the most important things facing our state in modern times," said Cameron Williams, member of Quality North Carolina, a Greensboro-based advocacy group for gay rights. "If we pass this amendment, it will be darn near impossible to reverse. I don't think we should take that kind of risk."

The Race to the Ballot team began its journey across North Carolina in January and will continue traveling until early March. The group has scheduled events at 26 college campuses, towns and cities, from Asheville to Wilmington.

The Race to the Ballot movement is part one of a three-part effort to

raise awareness and ultimately foster solidarity against the passage of Amendment One. The second part of the movement will commence next month by providing college students with information to share with friends and family over spring break and the effort will culminate in a collective march to the polls on April 19, when the early voting period begins.

Jones encouraged students to vote early because the voting period in May coincides with finals and graduation.

"We really believe that early voting is going to be pivotal to defeating this discriminatory measure come May 8," Jones said. "(The march to the polls) is a huge part of Race to the Ballot. The first people who get there win."

French club celebrates Mardi Gras for a cause

Adriana Miano
Senior Reporter

This year, the French Club will celebrate Mardi Gras with festivities for a cause close to its members' hearts.

Mardi Gras, which is closely associated with the French holiday Carnival, is an important time to call attention to those in need, according to Christie Goyette, French Club publicity chair.

"The holiday is a good

time to raise awareness of causes such as the Avalon Refugee Center because (the celebration) is often very extravagant, which is a sharp contrast to the way the people at Avalon live," Goyette said.

Since it was founded in February 2009, the Avalon Community Center has provided a home for hundreds of international refugees. Still, the families housed at Avalon live in poverty and the children

don't always have access to a quality education.

In response to the needs of the refugees at Avalon, the French Club has become involved in volunteer work to benefit the center. Club members frequently visit the children to socialize with them and to provide tutoring.

"Since we've gotten so involved with the center and personally know so many of the people who live there, we felt that it would be fitting to

donate the proceeds from our Mardi Gras party to benefit (them)," Goyette said.

Raising funds for Avalon is a great way to get students to think globally and act locally, said Sarah Glasco, assistant professor of foreign languages and faculty adviser to the French Club.

"We have taken on Avalon as our home charity so that we can make an impact here, one that students can see with their own eyes," Glasco said.

To raise money for Avalon, the French Club will charge a \$5 entry fee for the Mardi Gras benefit. Festivities will include New Orleans-inspired gumbo, cookie decorating and prizes throughout the night.

The Mardi Gras benefit

When: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21

Where: Carlton Kitchen

Why: Funds raised will be donated to the refugees at the Avalon Community Center.

Choosing a major based on happiness, not price

Erin Valentine
Reporter

In today's world, college degrees are the way to add more figures to a salary. According to a recent study by Georgetown University, majors that have higher earnings are gaining popularity. But students at Elon University are still choosing the majors that interest their curiosity.

Students' choice of field of study represents their interests, although financial concerns are still evident.

"I feel all students have these fears,"

said freshman Devon Gailey, a media arts and entertainment major. "I decided to pick an unprofitable major. However, it's something I find myself to be passionate about. I wouldn't change my major. Even

Top Majors at Elon University

- Strategic communications
- Psychology
- Media arts and entertainment
- Finance and marketing

Information courtesy of Mary Wise, associate vice president of academic affairs

if it's not as prosperous as I'd want it to be, I'll still be proud of what I do."

In choosing her minor, though, Gailey said she is looking toward a subject that could possibly bring her more revenue and more opportunities in the future.

"Chinese would be an idea because it's a language often used in the business world, and since business is in general more lucrative than film, I could use my knowledge of Chinese to open up a lot of new opportunities for myself," Gailey said.

Regardless of the major, internships enhance a student's marketability,

according to USA Today Educate. The survey also said that graduate degrees can add to yearly earnings in any career, as long as the difference between that and the cost of graduate school even out.

To Elon freshman Josh Kaufmann, money does not factor into his decision to major in psychology, he said.

"Money has been one of the last things to motivate me," Kaufmann said. "I want to be well off enough to have my basic needs met, but I've always lived by staying true to myself. I honestly just want to be happy, and money won't make me happy."