

## Campus political groups revise agendas in time for election season

Melissa Kansky  
News Editor

The College Democrats and College Republicans advocate for opposing candidates, but the Elon University chapters still share one common goal.

"We want discussion," said junior Patrick Brown, president of the College Republicans. "Our goal is not to lock people into one side or another, but our age group is known for not voting, so we just want to get people engaged."

Junior Jordan Thomas, president of the College Democrats, named voter registration as the primary mission for the student organization.

"I think our organization's activi-

ty this semester is important because it's focused around bringing people aware of the upcoming campaign," Thomas said.

Although both organizations have been fairly inactive the past two years, the 2012 national election has inspired them to increase their presence on campus.

"The biggest thing that affects voting is education," Brown said. "Those with more education are more likely to vote."

Thomas expressed a similar opinion and said he expects the student body to be politically active in this election.

"A college campus is a nice place for change in general and a lot of ideas continue to grow on a college

campus," he said. "I think the majority of students will vote in this election if they are able to."

In order to cultivate an atmosphere of political awareness, the organizations are working together to conduct a debate involving students on campus.

"The main goal is to inform Elon students of the issues on campus and presidential issues," Thomas said.

Although Thomas said he believes the more people hear about the economy, the more inclined individuals will be to vote for Republican candidate Mitt Romney. Nevertheless, other crucial issues will attract the young voter populations to the Democratic Party, Thomas said. He named social rights, health care and

international relations as other significant issues during this election.

Nevertheless, Brown said the perception of college students' political views are misleading, believing more college students support the Republican Party than typically expressed.

"I think a lot of college students rally support and sympathize with the Republican ideals of hope and success through hard work," Brown said. "I think that speaks to college students everyday. We're doing a lot of things to advance our life."

To further raise support for their respective party, College Republicans are also working with TurboVote to increase voter registration among Elon students and have extended their activity into the surrounding

community. Students involved in the organization are working with the Alamance Republican Party and the Victory Office in Burlington to help promote the Republican candidate and generate networking opportunities, according to Brown.

Similarly, the College Democrats plan to participate in College Coffee weekly, organize a watch party during the presidential debates and collaborate with other student groups.

But the politically-focused organizations are planning programs in addition to those dedicated to the 2012 election, such as social activities.

"We're trying to do things so that it will not only be a political organization," Brown said.

## National Convention internships experience major political events

Rachel Southmayd  
Senior Reporter

While many Elon University students were

getting settled into the routine of a new school year, others were hundreds of miles away, adjusting to the rhythm of the national conventions. Through Elon's partnership with the

Washington Center, juniors Jack Minor and Gabrielle McCarthy secured internship positions at the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention, respectively.

Minor, a broadcast journalism and political science double major, was paired with the New York Post. During the week leading up to the convention, Minor participated in a seminar. Then, from Aug. 27-30, he received his assignment and began field work.

"I was very excited," Minor said. "I knew it was going to be a great opportunity."

While the convention activities were going on, Minor said the Post assigned him to cover different events, such as speakers, concerts and delegate parties. One of his stories earned him a byline in the Post, and Reuters also picked it up.

But Minor said one of his best experiences was working as a runner for United Press International on the night of Republican candidate Mitt Romney's presidential nomination acceptance speech.

"Basically, what I was doing for them was running memory cards," he said. "But the coolest thing about that is I was literally right at the bottom of the stage for Mitt Romney's speech and Sen. Marco Rubio's speech."

McCarthy also had a few celebrity encounters during her time as an intern for Fox News at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. She worked as a production assistant and runner, working for Shepard Smith, Juan Williams and Mike Emmanuel.

Initially, McCarthy said she was concerned about working for Fox News because of the overtly conservative stigma attached to it, but



PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Junior Jack Minor poses with Megyn Kelly of Fox News.

interns set aside political feelings when they were working to prevent biased reporting.

Minor said he liked how being in the convention let him meet all kinds of people and hear their stories and opinions.

"It's important to keep an open mind and network with everyone there," he said.

For McCarthy, the convention trip meant getting to see one of her idols: former President Bill Clinton.

"He's someone that I have admired for most of my life and to seem him speak live and in person was something I'll never forget," she said.

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