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Democracy Matters may be newest Elon political organization

Michael Bodley
News Editor

A new student political organization is aiming to join the likes of Young Americans for Liberty (YLA) and the Elon College Democrats next fall.

Democracy Matters, a national non-profit and nonpartisan organization that seeks to “get big money out of politics and people back in” is in talks with Elon University to establish a chapter.

The organization’s National Field Director, Anita Kinney, said it’s important not only to educate young people about politics, but to mobilize them and harness their energy also.

“We strive to tell college students that there is always something you can do,” Kinney said. “You can raise awareness, not just money. You can take your congress-people to task for what they should be doing.”

A group of a half-dozen students are working with the Student Union Board (SUB) to get initial approval for the new organization. From there, they plan to work with Jana Lynn Patterson, assistant vice president for student life, to finalize details before presenting to SUB’s Student Life Committee, which grants the final approval for student organizations on campus.

Freshman Kelsea Johnson, who has been involved in the planning stages of the hopeful Elon organization, said students are generally aware of political is-

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Interfaith community restructures staff



The first strategic plan for religious diversity created the Numen Lumen Pavilion, the Hillel Center and the Better Together Living Learning Community. CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Stephanie Lamm
Assistant News Editor

As a part of Elon University’s commitment to a campus wide interfaith dialogue, the Truitt Center is rolling out several new projects and restructuring their chaplain offices.

Elon’s efforts to diversify in all aspects of campus life have been dictated by carefully thought-out strategic plans. As the university wraps up the fourth year of the strategic plan outlined for 2010-2015, leaders in the Truitt Center are reflecting on what they can do to reach out to people of different religious — or non-religious — traditions.

University administration and Tru-

itt Center staff are already in the formative stages of drafting the next strategic plan for the interfaith initiative. In the fall, students will have the opportunity to give input on the plan. The committee is scheduled to unveil the next strategic plan in March 2015.

While Elon’s many initiatives call for increased diversity, University Chaplain Jan Fuller said long-term change can only be achieved through small, calculated steps.

“We take a big step, and then we regroup. That may look like we are not moving forward, but we are gaining strength for our next move forward,” Fuller said. “It’s a kind of dance.”

Keeping up with student needs

This dance can be seen in the restructuring of the university chaplaincy positions. The university is currently searching for a new assistant chaplain to take over for Adam Miller-Stubbendick at the end of the year.

Originally, the search committee looked for candidates from all religious affiliations, but senior administrators pushed for a Protestant chaplain. Administrators believed the Christian students on campus felt left out of the diversity initiatives, and as a result they remained in fragmented, disengaged segments.

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