



ANDREW COONIN
CAA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Coonin is a junior public policy major from Wilmington, Del.

E-MAIL: COONIN@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

I am who I am because of Eve

Before Freshman Camp 2006, as the counselors prepared for the newest class of students, Eve Carson came up to me and said, "Hi Andrew, we haven't met, I'm Eve." The rest is history.

My freshman year was difficult to say the least. I had trouble getting involved with groups and felt as if I could never get a break.

I resigned myself to the idea that the school was just too big for one student to make a difference.

Then I met Eve. After three days of Freshman Camp, we traded numbers and started a remarkable friendship.

GUEST COLUMNIST

That fall I received an e-mail from Eve asking me to join her campaign for student body president. In the e-mail she continually stressed the importance of every student's voice, including my own.

As the campaign went on we got closer, and I learned so much from her. She instilled in me a firm belief in the fact that as students at this university we have the opportunity to do great things, and we must work hard for these things to happen.

She taught me that all it takes is an idea and the willingness to voice that idea. Great things are in our hands; we just need to take that step.

Eve did all of this with the biggest smile on her face. She truly loved every minute of the campaign. She loved meeting every single student. She not only loved meeting them, but loved hearing their stories and thoughts and sharing them with all the members of her campaign. She would hear an idea and immediately wanted to find a place for it in our platform.

Eve taught me how to lead and have fun. Every moment with Eve was a party in itself. While preparing for the election, Eve would talk about the most ridiculous plans for our time in the Pit. Ideas such as break dancing, bagpipes and basketball players were thrown out there.

We all laughed at the thought. Then the next thing we knew a bagpiper was walking through campus to the Pit. She made things happen; she wouldn't sleep or give up until she found a way for things to work. Things like having a spring music festival, starting a junior scholarship and being the student body president.

So, after the election ended I decided to take the first step and voice my ideas to try to make this University the best it could be. I applied for Homecoming vice chairman in the Carolina Athletic Association. I ended up not getting that position.

Instead I was asked to be CAA vice president. I went to Eve with a lot of fear and trepidation. What was Colby Almond thinking? Eve told me to make the most of it. Do things that haven't been done — start with an idea and go from there.

I came into my own under the tutelage of Colby Almond and the rest of the CAA Cabinet, but without everything I learned from Eve, I doubt I would have even applied.

In December I went down to Eve's office, a somewhat common occurrence, and told her I was going to run for CAA president. She was elated. She was so excited for me and acted as if it was one of the biggest things she had ever heard.

She always had a way of making you feel like everything you were doing was truly special. I won the CAA election uncontested, and the first person to write on my Facebook wall was Eve.

I don't know if she knew how important she was to me and my development here at Carolina. I now and always will work to better the student body because, as Eve taught me: If I don't, who will?



DTH FILE PHOTO



DTH FILE PHOTO



DTH/STACEY AXELROD



DTH FILE PHOTO

WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH

A dark cloud settled over Chapel Hill on Wednesday morning before any of us knew it.

Student Body President Eve Carson, ever a radiant, glowing presence on campus, was tragically taken from us.

Without a doubt, UNC will miss her dearly.

Eve was the kind of person who, just by nature, was a ray of sunshine everywhere she went.

That might have been what stood out most about Eve. The first things she always brought to the table were her cheerful demeanor, her smile and her enthusiasm.

No matter the issue, Eve was excited. It's astounding that one person could care about so many other issues, whether it was sustainability or diversity or tuition, and still have the time to invest in other people like she did.

The quotes on this page are an attempt to illustrate her impact on campus. While no amount of words or pictures can ever encompass what she meant to so many at UNC, we hope to provide a small window into that.

Eve the student body president will be remembered, and the next administration will pick up where she left off.

But Eve the friend, Eve the person, is irreplaceable. Her most lasting legacy will be in the people who are better off just for having known her.

Trying to understand what happened is a futile effort. The senseless, violent death of someone so young can never have an adequate explanation.

And yet, for the rest of us, this precious gift that we call life will go on.

All we can do is make the best of life while we have it, and that means making the world a better place for everyone around us.

That's what Eve did every day.

"I never knew a more absolutely brilliant person in all senses of the word."

J.J. RAYNOR, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT-ELECT

"If you took everything away from her, all her academic accolades, she would still be such an amazing person."

KELLI CLIFTON, WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH CARSON

"She loved Carolina and her enthusiasm was so infectious. When she walked into a room she filled it up. Her persona was magnetic."

DOUG DIBBERT, DIRECTOR, GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

"She was what you hope your child will become. ... She did so many things so well."

JOE TEMPLETON, CHAIRMAN OF THE FACULTY

"Let us be the University that Eve Carson envisioned. Let us show the Carolina Way that she lived."

CHANCELLOR JAMES MOESER

"This is going to leave a terrible void in the community. This is going to affect everybody who loved Chapel Hill and the University as much as Eve did."

CHAPEL HILL MAYOR KEVIN FOY

"My wife and I were on the absolute periphery of the people who knew her and were touched by her; I'm sure that's a huge number at UNC."

MATT CZAJKOWSKI, CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER

"She just always went the extra mile to be nice to people and show her appreciation. I just couldn't help but think what tremendous things she was going to do in the world."

TOM JENSEN, CHAPEL HILL RESIDENT WHO WORKED WITH EVE

"She was just full of life. When she was in a room or part of a discussion it took on a different dimension. She was full of ideas and wanted to explore opportunities."

NELSON SCHWAB, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER, CHAIRMAN OF CHANCELLOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

"You knew you were in the presence of someone who cared about you, who was compassionate and who was passionate about her beliefs."

ROGER PERRY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN

"Eve is the kind of girl you want your daughter to grow up to be. ... She is one of the most perfect children I've ever worked with. ... She was beautiful inside and out."

MAXINE EASOM, PRINCIPAL AT CLARKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ATHENS, GA.

"There was nothing Eve Carson couldn't do."

MARGIE SHEDD, THE MOTHER OF JARRETT SHEDD, A HIGH-SCHOOL FRIEND OF CARSON

"She had a rare ability to connect with people that touched many at Carolina."

JAMES ALLRED, 2006-07 STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

"She was a genuinely good person. I don't think she's ever done anything bad to anybody."

ASHLEY HARRINGTON, VICE CHAIRWOMAN OF TOWN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

"She became student body president and never lost interest in the little things."

DAVID MIKUSH, FRIEND OF FOUR YEARS

"She had everything going for her. Everything. Beautiful, smart, talented. It's just a tragedy. She was a really good person."

CARA GEWOLB, FRIEND OF FOUR YEARS

"My friend and I were just talking, and if you could pick one person who was just a beautiful person inside and out, it would be her."

KATHRYN BLACKMAR, CLASSMATE OF EVE

"I know when I'm up there tolling the bell it will be hard because I know who I'm playing for."

DAVID STEELE, MASTER BELL RINGER



BEN LUNDING
RHODES SCHOLAR

Lunding is a class of 2007 alumnus studying at Oxford.

E-MAIL: BJLUNDING@GMAIL.COM

Violence cannot take what Eve gave

I can't make sense of this; the world made a wrong turn. This is nonsense. I'm dizzy, and worse, my dizziness seems empty.

They want 650 words in memory of Eve Carson? I don't think I can make it that far.

I've lost structure. Speech is so fragile — so vulnerable to violence. Violence is so large. I owe Eve an apology on the front end: At this moment, I have so little to offer.

And Eve offered so much. I've never known someone so immune to the cold; so confident against the fleeting. Eve had an anchor — a hold on something sincere; something bigger than rhetoric.

Eve had found her passion in student government. Even in her playful e-mails, you can identify a sincere introspection, a passion that drove her:

"Last thoughts — Ben, if you were a statesman: how much would you be willing to compromise? I have been wanting to talk with you about this so much!!! I saw an amazing speaker the other day ... and then I've been reading a lot and meeting so many incredible alumni. ... More and more, I am LOVING this year, and I am EXTREMELY enjoying the student government work and everything I'm learning."

Can you hear it? Such enthusiasm seems misplaced at a time like this. Then again, it always did. She had so much energy.

Most of us aren't capable of Eve's sincerity in real life, much less in our informal writings.

Eve's closing to that note was even more striking: "But I think that my ultimate goal is to be able to have all my friends in a room and to hear where our conversation takes us. ... Yes: that's truly all I really want. I just want to have sincere and interesting friends and to get to learn from everyone, all the time."

It's so innocent — so playful and so sincere. You always knew Eve meant it when you heard it; you knew that politics wasn't everything to Eve, or anything really. Eve was interested in people.

When I graduated, Eve wrote to me, "I hope we will be able to keep learning about these ideas, and I can't wait to discuss these themes with you when we are in our middle ages (as you can see, I am now going to count on us remaining great friends)."

The violence tried to make a liar of Eve. But it can't do that.

Violence can't move everything; it can't displace the faith in others that allows for a sincere, loving relationship. I still have faith.

Today, Eve finally has all of us in a room together. It's a big room; it's all of Chapel Hill, Athens and for me, it's England. I'd like Eve to have the first words in that conversation she was hoping to start. It's something she wrote off-the-cuff — a feeling she had one day:

"World, inspire me! Share with me just hints of your glory and atrocity!" Eve believed that on balance, it was worth the struggle. There was always more glory than atrocity in the world. That's how she inspired. We need that, and we have to restore it, but that is a task for another day.

For now, this atrocity is deafening. So I reserve the last of my 650 words for silence. This silence must have its moment.