

Campaigning with Peace

Mary Kubeny '19
Social Media Editor

Peace students recently visited the campaign offices of two candidates, independent incumbent Nancy McFarlane and democratic opponent Charles Francis, during the run-off municipal election for the Raleigh mayoral position. Students received this hands on campaign experience as a part of Dr. Elizabeth Kusko's State and Local Government class at Peace.

As a part of the class's focus on local politics, students visited the campaign offices to get an inside look on how political campaigns work but also the goals and processes of government at a local level. National elections are highly sensationalized by the media and catch the public's attention easily, while more local elections like this one require more effort to motivate the people to go out and vote.

After the initial election failed to determine a clear majority, the Francis campaign called for a runoff election. The runoff election was held on Nov. 7. It was a very tight race with only about 8,000

votes separating the two candidates. In the end, Mayor McFarlane won 57.8 percent of the vote and was elected into the position for her fourth term as Raleigh Mayor.

"Local elections don't have the same glamour of national elections but they're still really important," said Emma Shaw, field director for the Nancy McFarlane campaign.

At each office, students spoke with the candidates' campaign managers and other staff about the candidates, the issues facing Raleigh and the political career experience as well as how it differed at different levels of government. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and then participate and get hands-on experience working on a political campaign.

At the Francis campaign office, students chose between voter data entry, where they typed the voter information in the campaign's database, and making phone calls, where students called potential voters and, using a script, tried to encourage them to vote for Francis.

Things got competitive at the McFarlane campaign office when students were each given a call sheet and phone script calling for potential campaign volunteers. The first to get a guaranteed volunteer was the winner and the students were successful in obtaining at least three more volunteers for the campaign call center.

A common theme from both campaign's staff was the need for campaign workers and the potential benefits of the



Photo by Mary Kubeny

full experience. For recent college graduates, working on a campaign, at any level of government, can offer valuable professional experience, networking, and even the opportunity for travel.

Brett Stargell, field operator for the Francis campaign, first got involved with the Obama 2008 presidential election campaign, but currently focuses on more local campaigns.

"There is a place for you in any campaign," Stargell told Peace students in response to student curiosity in campaign work as a career.

During the runoff campaign both candidates focused on their platforms and letting the people choose which direction they want to see Raleigh headed in. Charles Francis primarily focused on Raleigh's affordable housing crisis and its effects on the inner city as well as traffic issues, job growth and innovation for the city. Nancy McFarlane's campaign took a different approach, as incumbent mayor McFarlane advertised her achievements in similar issues while pointing out her opponents past flaws and lack of experience.

For more news on the happenings at WPU, visit www.peactimesonline.com



Photo by Mary Kubeny

WPU Men's Basketball

Christian Branch '18
Staff Writer

Basketball season is underway. Following eleven practices into the season, basketball is off to a great start to a great year.

The previous year the basketball team led in a 15-11 program record for the 2016/2017 season. Coach Claude Shields, who is in his sixth season of coaching, says the team this season is in the year of rebuilding.

Plans for the basketball team include getting better in every practice. The team is working to maintain growth and keep a game mindset. Shields says his hopes for this season will be one where players understand the concept of a Big win and Big loss.

When showing the model of a true player, Coach Shields showed he believes in someone who understands the platform of reaching people, who has a perspective of basketball not being the base of life and identity.

"On a team you can't just have an architect you also need bricklayers," Shields said.

As for the goals for the team, they strive for four long-term goals. To work hard, have fun, making every play count and playing to win.

Shields stated his biggest fears and hopes for the team. The biggest fear Coach Shields believes would be not having the team show their potential. On the other hand, in regards to his hopes, Coach Shields believes the team can accomplish

things other teams have not accomplished. The biggest dream for the team is winning the national championship.

The basketball team had their preview game on Nov. 11 against Elon University. They played Virginia Wesleyan college on Nov. 15, losing by a single point. They also played Hampden-Sydney college on Nov. 20th, this time winning by a single point.



Photo courtesy of WPU Athletics

WPU Mens Basketball Coach, Claude Shields

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1194 N Main St. Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 893-5391
115 N Main St. Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
(919) 552-4132