

Online projects prove successful during presidential debates

By Sarah Poupalos
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The university developed three online projects this fall to encourage youth involvement in the Presidential Debate and the political process. The development of these online sites led to increased youth awareness of the debate at the university, and of the campaign in general. Students were linked to the political system through the Internet, and were capable of voicing their opinions to their peers, the candidates and virtually any other Internet user. The two primary Web sites the university focused on were created through Speakout.com and the Opinioneering Corporation. Speakout is an interactive site based in Washington, D.C. that contains a page entitled "Rate the Debate." While watching the debate, users could respond to polls and answer questions as the candidates discussed the issues. This site captured the initial responses of debate viewers everywhere, including 660 youth par-

ticipants ages 16-25. Information Systems worked with Speakout by providing computers, preparing users for the debate night, and helping to test the program. After the first debate in Boston, the kinks were worked out of the interactive site, and people were able to log on and express their views of Gore and Bush during the second and third debates.

The second Web site was developed by a team of university students and allows students to declare which issues are most important to them when selecting the best candidate.

A student panel created the site and moderates it by submitting the most popular student questions to the top three presidential candidates Gov. George Bush, vice president Al Gore and Ralph Nader. The project continues until the Nov. 7 election.

"We, as an age group, feel disconnected from the political system," junior Sandy Salstrom, a student panelist, said. "We aren't addressed in the debates like the middle class is."

Salstrom said the Web site experienced an influx of participants after each debate as students probably contemplated what they would have the candidates discuss in the next debate and their interest in each candidate's stand on the issues.

The opinion-based polling site has had 500 students log in and register their opinions on a variety of topics since mid-September.

Information Systems coordinated the teams to work on these sites while also focusing on the bulk of hits the university network would experience as a result.

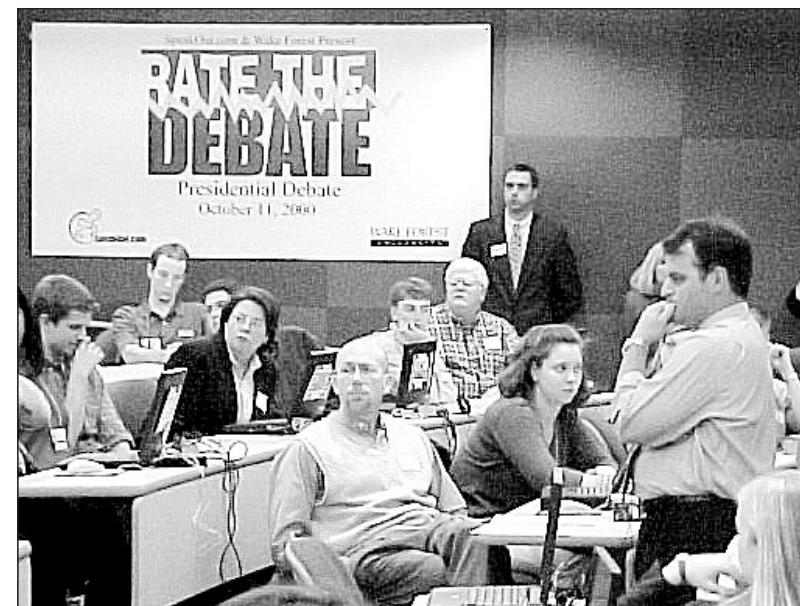
The sites were moved off campus to a bigger server to compensate for the many hits that would be received this fall, and all of the sites stayed up during the debate crunch.

In addition to the sites, the computerized lottery was created and was flexible enough to handle drawing additional names, when the university learned it had 220 rather than only 200 available tickets. The Web cams that documented each moment of the

debate were also created and monitored the step-by-step preparations across campus particularly in Wait Chapel.

Jay Dominick, an assistant vice president and Chief Information Officer, said, "We were very pleased at how well the Web site performed during the debate. Everything worked as well as, or better than expected. We were particularly happy with the speakout.com and Opinioneering sites. Those sites performed flawlessly, and helped us give a very interactive experience for the debates."

The university's online student interaction drew attention to campus in addition to the attention drawn by the highly publicized presidential debate. "The real benefit for the university beyond the publicity was that it gave students a chance to be involved in a positive way," Dominick said. "I was very proud at how well the students interacted with the media and with the local community. The student involvement made the technology relevant. I think that it was a



Austin Harris/Old Gold and Black

Winston-Salem residents and students gathered in Greene 145 to register their opinions of the debate.

tremendous example of what sets Wake Forest apart."

Dominick said that the university's involvement helped to set a precedent because the elections of the future would probably be conducted using sites like

speakout.com and the online polls as standard resources. The success of the online programs will only open doors for more student involvement in the political system during upcoming elections.



Will Wingfield/Old Gold and Black

All's not well

A facilities management contractor works to repair the eight-inch water main that failed, stopping water service to six campus buildings.

University celebrates second Moon Festival

By Laura Weems
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The East Asian languages department hosted their second annual Moon Festival Oct. 13 on the Magnolia Quad. The festival featured university students and faculty members singing, reading poetry and performing martial arts.

Yasuko Takata, a lecturer of East Asian language and literature, hopes that through events such as the Moon Festival, the university community will become more aware of the diversity that surrounds them.

The Moon Festival is an ancient tradition in both China and Japan. Although the festival carries the same name, it has different meanings for the two cultures. "In China the legend is that there is a rabbit on the moon," Patrick Moran, an associate professor of East Asian language, said. "This bunny makes an elixir of immortality."

In Japan, legend holds that the rabbit on the moon is pounding rice cakes instead.

For the Chinese, the festival is a celebration of the family coming together. "The fullness

of the moon is symbolic of the fullness of the family," said Moran; whereas for the Japanese the festival is a celebration of the fall harvest.

The Festival is celebrated traditionally by first pounding steamed rice into a sweet paste, a process called pounding "mochi." The paste is then formed into small ovals, representing the full moon. University students and faculty complemented this ritual with their own versions of East Asian poetry and songs.

The majority of participants were Chinese or Japanese language students who were taught their poetry by Yi Qiu, a visiting instructor of East Asian languages and literature.

Along with a Chinese language student, Moran performed a martial arts demonstration. David Phillips, an assistant professor of East Asian language and literature and Takata performed the pounding ritual.

Takata hoped that the festival would increase awareness of the Asian student population on campus as well as the East Asian language department.

"I think there are still a lot of people who don't know we offer Japanese," Takata said. As far as

achieving their goal of improved consciousness on campus, Takata was optimistic. "I think we achieved our goal," she said, although went on to comment that she "hopes more people will come next year."

One of the other benefits of the festival being held on campus was that it exposed students studying East Asian languages to the culture.

Mason Parker, a student studying Chinese said, "It was really cool to meet people from Japan. I just wondered if it was a whole new world for them."

He went on to add, "It was fun experiencing that culture with friends." Mason was one of a number of students who participated in the festival.

Students who missed the Moon Festival will get another chance to experience and East Asian cultural event soon. In March the Tokai University exchange students along with the East Asian language department will host a Japan Day Festival.

The department also plans to continue with the budding tradition, establishing the Moon Festival as an annual event on campus.

BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to news@ogb.wfu.edu, faxing to Ext. 4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

Philosophy to host Georgetown lecturer

The department of philosophy will host a lecture by William Blattner, the director of undergraduate studies of philosophy at Georgetown University, on Heidegger's Anti-Representation 4:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in Tribble B316. Light refreshments will be served.

Scholarships for screenwriting trip

A limited number of scholarships are available to students for the North Carolina Screenwriting Conference Nov. 10-12 in Raleigh. Panelists at the conference will include producers Polly Platt and Ron Yerxa, and screenwriter Michael Piller.

Applications including a letter explaining reasons for wanting to attend and a writing sample of no more than ten pages are due by Nov. 10 to Mary Dalton, a visiting associate professor of communications.

For more information, contact Dalton at Ext. 6120, or via e-mail at dalton@wfu.edu. Information can also be found at www.ncscreenwriting.org.

Internships available in N.C. General Assembly

The department of political science and public administration at N.C. State is hosting its 16th Legislative Internship Program.

Fourteen juniors and seniors from the four-year colleges and universities of North Carolina will be chosen to serve as staff assistants to officers and members of the 2001 North Carolina General Assembly.

Applications, including an application form, an official transcript

and three letters of reference (at least two from faculty members and one from the major department), must be received by Stephen Strauss, the director of the legislative internship program, by Oct. 25. Twenty-five applicants will be selected for personal interviews to be held on Nov. 4. For more information, contact Strauss at (919) 515-5095, or by e-mail at skstrauss@aol.com.

"Days of the Dead" celebration continues

The Museum of Anthropology will be holding two open houses 3-6 p.m. Nov. 2 and Nov. 9 in the Museum exhibit galleries to celebrate "Los Dias de los Muertos" ("Days of the Dead"). Guests can view the exhibit, "Celebrating Days of the Dead", view a video, and enjoy light refreshments. The event is free and open to all university faculty, staff and students. For more information, contact Myrna Mackin, an administrative assistant at the museum, at Ext. 5282 or by e-mail at mackinmj@wfu.edu.

Mellow, Luce grants available for seniors

Information about the Mellow Fellowship and Luce Scholarship is now available. The Mellow Fellowship is for seniors who intend to pursue academic careers, and are interested in teaching and scholarly research in the humanities.

The Luce Scholarship is available to seniors with a record of significant accomplishments and a strong interest in Asian cultures.

Those interested in either scholarship should contact Susan Faust, the assistant to the senior vice president, at Ext. 5891 to set up an appointment.

Info session to be held for field program

An information session and slide presentation for the new field program in Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemala July 7 - Aug. 9 will be held 4:30-5:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Banks Seminar Room. Applications will be available.

For more information, contact Jeanne Simonelli, the chairwoman of the anthropology department, at Ext. 5116, or by e-mail at simonejm@wfu.edu.

Project Pumpkin volunteers needed

Project Pumpkin will take place Oct. 26 on the Quad and in surrounding dorms. Those interested in being escorts should call sophomore Sarah Steen at Ext. 8516, or sophomore Brigid O'Donnell at Ext. 6775. Escort training sessions will be held 8 p.m. Oct. 22 in Benson 401A, 8 p.m. Oct. 23 in Pugh Auditorium and 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. Oct. 24 in Pugh.

Lecture to be held on Spinoza and Leibniz

The philosophy department is hosting a lecture by Catherine Wilson, a professor at the University of British Columbia regarding Spinoza and Leibniz 4:30 p.m. Oct. 27 in Tribble A307. Light refreshments will be served.

"Take Back the Night" fights violence

"Take Back the Night" will occur at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 in front of Wait Chapel. The nationwide event's goal is to protest all

violence. For more information contact Lee Anne Quattrucci at quatl02@wfu.edu.

Guest to lecture on Renaissance Venice

The department of classical languages will host a lecture by Dennis Romano, the chairman of the department of history at Syracuse University, 4 p.m. Oct. 26 in Scales 102. Romano will lecture on "Politics and Architectural Patronage in Renaissance Venice: The Commissions of Doge Francesco Foscari, 1423-1457." Faculty and students with an interest in the interplay of Venetian art, history and politics are especially encouraged to attend.

Applications available for study in France

Applications for the fall 2001 semester in Dijon, France are being accepted until Oct. 30. Applications are available in East 323. For more information, contact Milorad Margitic, a professor of Romance languages, at Ext. 5448, or by e-mail at margitm@wfu.edu.

N.C. State, Babcock, USC form job fair

More than 100 companies and 900 graduate business students are expected to participate in the Carolina Connect Cyber Job Fair, an online even hosted by the university's Babcock Graduate School of Management Oct. 21-27. Students can e-mail their resume directly to company representatives. Companies can register for the event by calling (800) 226-1065, or by e-mailing CarolinaConnect@mba.wfu.edu.

Glaxo Wellcome exec to deliver free lecture

Robert Ingram, the CEO of Glaxo Wellcome and chairman of its American subsidiary, Glaxo Wellcome Inc., will deliver the Babcock Graduate School of Management's 2000 Broyhill Executive Lecture 2 p.m. Oct. 20 in the Brendle Recital Hall.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact graduate student Eric Whittington at Ext. 5030 or Patricia Divine, an assistant dean of the Babcock Graduate School of Business Management, at (800) 722-1622.

Applications available for Spain study

Applications are available for an exchange scholarship with the University of Burgos in Spain for one to two semesters. Applications can be picked up beginning Oct. 12 in Greene 323, and must be turned in by Nov. 3. For more information, contact Candelas Gala, the chairwoman of Romance languages, at Ext. 5487, or by e-mail at galacs@wfu.edu.

PREPAR seeks freshmen facilitators

The Policy Group on Rape Education, Prevention, and Response is looking for new facilitators to be part of freshman seminars and Tie-a-Yellow-Ribbon Week and Speak-Out.

Applications are available in the Counseling Center and at the Benson Information Desk, and are due by Oct. 19.

Opportunity for theater study in London

Openings are available in Theater 1880: The Contemporary English Theater, a two credit, pass/fail class. Students will spend

Dec. 30 - Jan. 9 in London seeing plays, visiting museums, touring backstage, and having post-theater discussions. The approximate cost for students is \$2,250. For more information, contact Mary Wayne-Thomas, an assistant professor of theater, at Ext. 5086 or e-mail wayne@wfu.edu, or John Friedenberg, the director of theater, at Ext. 5995 or by e-mail at jerf@wfu.edu.

Freshmen, sophomore LEAD spots open

The Leadership, Excellence, Application and Development program is now taking applications from interested freshmen and sophomores. This leadership program occurs over eight consecutive Wednesday or Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5 p.m. beginning January 2001. Applications are due by Oct. 30 and are available in the Student Development Office, Benson 317.

Correction

The Oct. 12 article titled "Bush supporters rally at Dixie Classic fairgrounds" was co-written by Celia Zisman and Kathryn Spangler.

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