

# University finds sponsors for debate activities

By Brian Schiller  
Editor in Chief

The university has announced nine sponsors that will be joining it to help make the Oct. 11 debate a success. After being approached by the university over the past several months US Airways, Wachovia Corporation, the *Winston-Salem Journal*, BellSouth, Duke Energy, Idealliance Inc., TITAN Technology Partners and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peebler have agreed to become official sponsors. Enterasys Networks will be the lead sponsor for the debate. The sponsors will help offset the \$550,000 the university was required to provide in order to host a debate.

Debate sponsors will provide both cash and in-kind gifts said Kevin Cox, an assistant vice president and the director of media relations. "Before we made our proposal to the Commission on Presidential Debates, we consulted with several corporate and community leaders who were very encouraging about potential financial support," said Sandra Boyette, the vice president for university advancement and coordinator of the debate, in an Oct. 2 press release from the university.

"Sponsors were chosen by, and approached by, the staff based on expectations of their interest," said Bob Baker, an assistant vice president and the director of development.

Enterasys Networks, formerly a part of Cabletron Systems, is the official network provider of the university and has been working closely with technology development on campus since 1995.

"It was an ideal opportunity to build brand recognition, bring some of our top customers to debate activities and strengthen the relationship with Wake Forest University," said Tom Eggemeier, the vice president of corporate communications for Enterasys Networks.

Enterasys representatives will be distributing approximately 4,000 T-shirts on campus Oct. 9-10. Several members of the campus community who wear the T-shirt on Oct. 12 will win American Express travel vouchers worth \$1,500 toward travel in the United States.

Enterasys hopes to promote the work that it has done in conjunction with the university. "We will be doing a case study on the work at Wake Forest to highlight the success of the partnership," Eggemeier said. Enterasys has placed half-page advertisements in the Oct. 5, 9 and 11 issues of the *Wall Street Journal* to promote the work of Enterasys and the university in relation to the debate.

Another sponsor of the Presidential Debate in Wait Chapel is Idealliance Inc, a not-for-profit organization that promotes innovation and technological development in the Piedmont Triad.

"First and foremost it was a total community collaborative effort on an opportunity for worldwide exposure," said Bill Dean, the president of Idealliance Inc. Idealliance will contribute "in a small way to support connectivity and technology for students and the community" Dean said. He added that the debate was an opportunity that a lot of communities never had, a chance for a "worldwide audience to be looking at what's going on with great interest."

US Airways and Wachovia also sponsored the 1988 Presidential Debate at the university. Mr. and Mrs. Peebler are members of the university's Parents' Council and reside in New York City.

Abercrombie & Wake  
By Michael Wright



# Opportunities for activism extend outside campus gates

By Kathryn Spangler  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The deadline has passed for students to sign up as volunteers for the debate, but there are still opportunities to get involved on campus both with the debate and the November elections.

Students can volunteer with partisan groups such as the College Democrats, College Republicans, and the campus Green Party supporters, as well as take advantage of the online focus groups that attempt to relay young people's opinions to the candidates as well as the media.

Despite the fact that Ralph Nader will not be participating in the debate, Green Party supporters on campus are still making their voices heard.

"We're working with some other groups in North Carolina and around the Winston-Salem area to hold some protests on and around campus all day on the day of the debate," said junior Andrew Whitacre, a student representative for the Green Party. "We tried to get permission to hold a parade to the upper Quad, but were once again frustrated by the stringent restrictions of the university on our protests. We circled a petition, and we have 275 signatures from students alone who agree that the university's restrictions on our protests violate our freedom of speech."

The College Democrats will try to get students involved, too. "We're hosting a student debate 9 p.m. Sept. 5 at Shorty's as a forum for all of us to present our sides of issues, and have a little bit of dialogue with those issues," said senior Pollyanna Rhee, the vice president of the College Democrats. "We're also putting out an issues guide just so people can see the issues of the Democratic Party."

"The issues guide will be available by late October, and will cover the major issues of campaign: education, gay rights, women's issues, civil rights, and the general Democratic platform," said senior Liz Reilly, the secretary of the College Democrats. "It will include opposing viewpoints and explanations of why students support Gore."

"We're working with Forsyth County and North Carolina Republican parties on a joint venture to have a rally at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum Annex the night of the debate," adds Potter. "The debate will be shown there, and we'll have speakers."

The group has invited a number of prominent national politicians, but have yet to secure a keynote speaker. However, Gov. George W. Bush has tentatively agreed to come by the rally after the debate.

"This is a good opportunity for students to get involved with the senior party, and for people to get experience in planning this kind of event, but at the same time receive the knowledge and resources of the professional politicians we have guiding it," says Potter.

Students are also invited to participate in "Youth Rate the Debate," which will be the country's largest ever focus group of young citizens – over 5,000. After registering at the Wake Forest/SpeakOut.com site ([debate.wfu.edu/speakout.html](http://debate.wfu.edu/speakout.html)), students will receive a user name and password that will allow them to get into the focus group the night of the debate.

When students log into the Wake Forest/SpeakOut.com site a few minutes before the debate a "dial meter" will appear on their computer screen. As the debate begins on television, students move the dial's slider on the dial to indicate their disapproval or approval of what the speaker says. Within minutes, a results page will be available for students to compare their opinions with those of other young citizens, and with the ratings of other demographic groups. The results will also be available to the 3,000 international media representatives on campus.

Another opportunity for students to make their voices heard online can be found at [www.opinioneering.com/wfu](http://www.opinioneering.com/wfu), which is run by seniors Heath Bumgardner and Luke Fedlam, junior Sandy Salstrom and other members of the WFU Opinion Team. Students can propose questions for the candidates, and vote on which questions they think the candidates should be discussing. The questions that receive the most votes will be sent to the campaigns so that they can give a response. The Opinion Team will e-mail the answers they get from the candidates directly to those students who participate.

All groups encourage those who have not become involved with the debate so far to do so. "It's definitely not too late to get involved," says Reilly. "The best way would be to e-mail one of our officers to find out about volunteer opportunities, and ways to get involved on campus surrounding the debate. We have volunteers in almost all of the state and local campaigns, as well as in Students for Gore." Whitacre encourages any students interested in supporting Nader to contact him.

"We're always looking for more people to get involved, and we're hoping to retain a lot of people who have been involved in the past to help out," says Potter. "We're open to anybody who wants to help out because the bottom line is getting our message out and getting our people elected."