

Biden talks cancer at Duke



DTH/ADDY LEE LIU

Vice President Joe Biden participates in a panel at Duke University. This was a part of the cancer "Moonshot" initiative supported by the president.

The vice president is leading a new cancer initiative

By Haley McDougal
Senior Writer

Vice President Joe Biden prepared more than funny anecdotes for his audience at Duke University on Wednesday — he had a message of hope.

Biden toured cancer research labs on Duke's campus and held a roundtable discussion to promote the White House's new cancer "Moonshot" initiative, which President Barack Obama announced in his 2016 State of the Union address.

"Almost everyone in the world has a family member who has had a brush with, or a loss, as a consequence of cancer," he said.

Biden's son, Beau, died of brain cancer in 2015. The vice president has since assembled a task force with a goal to further research for a cure, which includes a \$1 billion initiative from the White House.

"I believe that we need an absolute national commitment to end cancer as we know it," Biden said.

There was discussion at the roundtable about how to best utilize new advances in technology, to share research data, to push clinical trials and to encourage patient involvement.

"Much more has to be done, but I believe we can make much faster progress — as an outsider looking in with a different perspective — if we see greater collaboration, greater sharing of information," Biden said.

Stephanie Wheeler, an assistant professor at UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health and a speaker at the roundtable, said early diagnosis with existing strategies is key to the vice president's goals.

"(These strategies) are being underutilized by the poorest

people, the minority populations, the rural populations of the country," Wheeler said.

She said UNC's project, the Integrated Cancer Information and Surveillance System, links statewide data with information showing cancer hot spots and discrepancies in areas of the state.

Niklaus Steiner, director of UNC's Center for Global Initiatives, shared the story of his 15-year-old daughter, Sophie, who died of germ cell cancer. Steiner and his wife have since founded the Be Loud! Sophie Foundation, which focuses on caring for adolescent and young adult cancer patients at UNC Hospitals.

Steiner told Biden there's a gap in the care for this age group of patients, who often find the children's wing too juvenile and the adult side too depressing — something teens

shouldn't have to deal with.

"You're struggling with your identity, trying to maintain your dignity, trying to find out who you are," Steiner said. "And all of that is stripped away from you, and you just become a patient in a hospital."

Biden said while everyone, including himself, has had experience with life, death and tragedy, the potential of those working toward a cure could do should give people hope.

He said his goal for the initiative was to make a decade's worth of advancements in research within the next five years, forging a path toward an eventual cure.

Biden acknowledged some might consider the government "a bureaucratic stumbling block."

"I promise you, I will clear the way — I promise you," he said.

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New Campus Y presidents ready to grow

Expected turnout among Campus Y members was around 300 voters.

By Dylan Tastet
Staff Writer

Members of the Campus Y, an on-campus student group that promotes social justice, elected Lauren Eaves and Regan Buchanan as their new co-presidents on Tuesday.

"It's been an amazing process to go through, to talk to everyone who's involved in the Y — alumni members, current co-chairs and current committee members — and it's been so exciting to get all of their ideas, and I feel really excited about the opportunity to now bring those ideas to life," Eaves said.

Buchanan said she was humbled by her election. "I just feel really honored to be able to serve this place that I love so much in the coming year, and just very flattered by all the co-chairs and Y members that thought we would be good at the job," she said.

The election was restricted to dues-paying Campus Y members who had registered or held current membership between May 2015 and Jan. 20, 2016, although members who met these qualifications could also request a fee waiver to be eligible to vote.

Current Campus Y co-president Vishal Reddy, who is a member of The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board, said the candidates started developing their platforms during winter break.

From there, candidates submitted their platforms and applications to an elections board. If they were approved, the candidates went public and had two weeks before election day to campaign, Reddy said. Reddy said the job of the co-presidents is to oversee approximately 30 Y committees, work with faculty and staff to organize Y programs and organize members in collective actions.

"Those three responsibilities are the big things, but through that we also try to embed a self-reflective, committed, ethical, passionate sort of culture within the Y," he said.

Reddy said of the 2,000 to 3,000 Y members, 500 to 600 were eligible to vote, and expected voter turnout was around 300 members. He said this was proportionally similar to turnout for the student body presidential election.

"It depends on how you calculate the percentage. If you look at the percentage of paid members that vote, then it's around 50 to 60 percent. But if you look at the total number of Campus Y members that vote then it's around, what, 10 to 15 percent? Which is similar to SBP," Reddy said.

Eaves said she and Buchanan want to expand the Campus Y community so that the organization can have a greater impact.

"We don't think that this is a year where the Y can be silent," Eaves said.

Buchanan said she and Eaves would like to thank everybody on campus that supported their campaign. "And I'd tell the rest of the campus: 'Look out for the Campus Y, because we're coming.'"

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School of Education dean candidate focuses on STEM

He has experience with creating community partnerships in Illinois.

By Natalie Conti
Staff Writer

Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, a candidate to become dean of the School of Education, spoke about the importance of partnership, leadership and innovation to a packed room Wednesday.

Abd-El-Khalick, associate dean for research and research education at the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, began with a joke about the pronunciation of his name before talking about his goals and accomplishments.

Recent changes in demographics are affecting classrooms across the United States, he said, so there are large minority populations among students. Teacher diversity needs to keep up.

"The future already is here," he said.

"The students, the kids are already among us."

He said we need to find a way stop failing our population in equity, diversity and social justice, and it would be beneficial to act quickly.

Lynda Stone, an education professor, said the idea was appealing. "I liked that he, in a sense, positioned us in a larger sort of picture about America," she said. "I think we need to see ourselves in that larger arena."

Abd-El-Khalick said the decrease in public funding of universities is leading to cuts to schools of education, even though there are teacher shortages nationwide.

He said during his time at Illinois, he tried to combat this by making money through online learning programs, which the



DTH/LOUISE MCDONALD

Fouad Abd-El-Khalick is a candidate for the dean of the School of Education.

"We've created a situation where young people do not want to become teachers."

Fouad Abd-El-Khalick
School of Education dean candidate

school created in-house.

"We've created a situation where teachers do not want to go to school," he said.

"We've created a situation where young people do not want to become teachers."

Abd-El-Khalick said he is excited by research. If he becomes dean, he said he would take advantage of the Research Triangle to build a stronger education program.

"We need to think about how research changes the world," he said.

Abd-El-Khalick said he hopes to also engage in community partnership in Chapel Hill.

At the University of Illinois, he worked to receive funding for EnLIST, a program paid for by the National Science Foundation that promotes science and engineering in K-12 education.

He said the program has created an increase in interest in STEM, especially among African-American students.

This type of work resonates with Emily Freeman, a graduate student in the School of Education.

"His way of talking about community engagement and partnership speaks to everything that I like to try to do in my research and scholarship," she said.

Abd-El-Khalick said he's happy in his current position, but he would be thrilled to work at UNC.

He was the second of three dean candidates to speak about his vision for the School of Education. The last forum will be Feb. 22 in Dey Hall's Toy Lounge.

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How to vote in the 2016 primaries

By Olivia Slagle
Staff Writer

When is the primary election?

Election Day is March 15, which is over Spring Break, and the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee voting began Jan. 25.

"You have until the Tuesday before the election to request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots can be returned up until the day of the election," Ted Fitzgerald, spokesperson for the N.C. Board of Elections, said.

When and where can I vote early?

Early voting is from March 3 to March 12.

Orange County has six early voting sites, most of which are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tracy Reams, director of the Orange County Board of Elections, said she hopes students will vote at Chapel of the Cross on Franklin Street.

When can I register to vote?

Students not participating in one-stop voting must register to vote in the primary by Feb. 19.

"At one-stop voting a student can still register to vote and vote at the same time, but they need to provide proof of residence," Fitzgerald said. "That can be a current utility bill, a bank statement, paycheck, government check or any other government document."

Can I register to vote in Orange County if I don't live here or in the state permanently?

Students can register to vote in Orange County with any Orange County address, including dorms and apartments — but they must vote in the corresponding precinct and have lived in the county for 30 days.

Out-of-state students can choose to register in their home state and vote there or to register in Orange County and vote early

DTH ONLINE: Go online for more information and to locate your possible polling place.

or by absentee ballot.

How can I vote using an absentee ballot?

An absentee ballot can be requested online from the county board of elections through March 8 and will be mailed to the voter's Orange County address. The ballot must be postmarked on or before March 15.

"An absentee ballot contains the envelope in which to return it, and it either has to be notarized or signed by two witnesses," Fitzgerald said. "Notaries are not allowed to charge for notarizing a ballot."

Any notary public can notarize an absentee ballot, and this service is available in the bottom of the UNC Student Stores. Witnesses can be any individuals over the age of 18.

Reams said the only identifying information required with an absentee ballot is the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number or the voter's drivers license number.

Do I need to show ID when I vote?

All voters in 2016 must show government issued photo ID.

Acceptable forms of ID are listed on the NC Board of Elections website and include an N.C. driver's license, an N.C. state ID card, a U.S. passport, a military ID card, a veterans ID card and certain tribal enrollment cards.

UNC student IDs cannot be used as ID, but the DMV can issue free voter ID cards if individuals can provide proof of citizenship.

In-state students do not need the address on their photo ID to match their voting address. And out-of-state students that register to vote in North Carolina within 90 days of the election can use an out-of-state ID.

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