

historic ELECTION supported by ACTIVE students

→ On January 20th, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America. William & Mary students participated in the entire scope of the historic election process by campaigning and even traveling to Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration first-hand. For many students active in the political process, simply casting a vote for the future was a new and memorable experience.

Campus organizations encouraged students to register to vote in both the Presidential and local elections. The Student Assembly focused their voter campaign on registering students to vote in Williamsburg. The College Republicans and Young Democrats often had registration tables on the SC Terrace to encourage students to register.

Political groups helped educate voters in the community. The College Republicans took a group of students to Virginia Beach the weekend before the Presidential election to walk door-to-door and talk to residents. Club members bonded over their common interest. "It was really cool to spend time with other College Republicans," senior

Abby Freeman said. "My partner for the day and I had totally different backgrounds, but we came together for a single purpose." Talking with strangers about politics proved to be an interesting experience. "Some people didn't want to listen, but some were very responsive. It was really neat to get to talk to people in their houses," Freeman said.

The night of the election, groups of friends gathered around campus to watch the results come in. Some met together in Lodge 1 to watch the election results unfold on the big screen while others went to the delis to celebrate early. "It was exhilarating because either way the election went, it was going to be historic: either the first black president or the first female vice-president," senior Kate Brunick said. Brunick and her sorority sister watched the election coverage together, despite holding opposing political views.

Regardless of which candidate they supported, students came together to appreciate the democratic process and their personal role in shaping the government.

> Kelly Harmon



Friends gather in a Spotswood lounge to view the election results show the night of November 4th, 2008. Students registered in Williamsburg voted throughout the day before, during and after classes at nearby community centers and churches. Many students who chose to stay registered in their hometowns sent in absentee votes.

Clasping her hands in joy, sophomore Natalie Applegate watches the progress of election night surrounded by friends in Spotswood Hall. Many stayed up until the west coast polls closed and the election was officially called for Barack Obama.



While waiting near the Capitol Building in Colonial Williamsburg before the "TODAY Show," students from the College Republicans show their support for candidate John McCain. Political activists, both students and community members alike, came out to show support for their candidate during the morning news show's coverage of Virginia as a swing state.