

# 'And I named her Elizabeth'

*Editor's note: The Gamecock has invited several members of Student Government to "interview" themselves as a means of introduction to the student body on a less formal level, told in third person narrative. This is the second of a series of columns by the members themselves.*

BY ELIZABETH  
FORDHAM  
SG TREASURER

It will be 22 years ago Dec. 31, 1999, when my daughter first came into my life. It is hard to believe, but what a trip it has been to see her grow in so many different ways.

To some, she's your average 21-year-old, probably seen in Five Points on occasion and always seen at the library, I'm sure. But to me, she is something so much more.

I must admit that there was a point when I didn't want her to go to USC.

Coming from the small town of Beaufort and having gone to a small private school, in my eyes she wasn't going to be able to adapt to such a vast university.

But what a mistake I made in assuming that, because she has certainly proved me wrong. Elizabeth is what some might call a strong-willed type of person, and I couldn't say it better myself.

If there's something she wants to accomplish, she'll do it. She has the desire to see good in all, but doesn't let reality get overlooked.

Her heart is tender, and her faith is strong, not only in herself, but in others, too. College has brought about many challenges in her life, but they haven't changed her motivation to conquer whatever life throws at her.

Don't get me wrong; although she might seem like she has had it easy, she has had her fair share of ups and downs.



I was diagnosed with muscular sclerosis when she was 9, and being a Daddy's girl has made it hard on her. So who is this girl you might think you know? You might see her in class with her Tri Delta letters on. You might catch this movie buff at the latest movie. You will see her working hard in the Student Government treasurer's office. You will definitely find her playing with her new puppy or with her favorite overalls on, listening to the Dixie Chicks.

You can see her campaigning for

Elizabeth Dole, skiing behind a boat, writing her favorite poems, or you might see her just hanging out with her friends.

No matter what, she isn't just any girl. With her aspirations for law school and her delight in serving people, I don't think it would be too far-fetched to say that she reminds me of myself. After all, I'm an attorney who enjoys the political arena, as well.

If it weren't for her wonderful family and self-perseverance, she wouldn't be where she is today.

## Political parties would split SG

BY LAURA DEWITT  
STAFF WRITER

Whether you think of yourself as a Democrat or a Republican, Student Government's duty is to represent you. But with all the competition and participation that political parties incite in people, some students question why Student Government candidates aren't party-oriented.

"I would be more likely to vote for a candidate if I knew he or she represented my party," business sophomore Will Schwartz said. Business sophomore Christy Dickhans agreed. "I've never even met my senators, and the only real officers I know of are [Student Body President] Malik [Husser] and [Vice President] Brandon [Anderson] because they're president and VP," she said. "But if I knew the person I was voting for had the same political beliefs, I'd actually feel more connected to SG."

Husser said he believes that the main reason SG has never been affiliated with political parties is because it would "cause separation." He also believes that SG's purpose is to help unify students and bring them together in the manner that best benefits the university as a whole.

"The reason I think that SG doesn't and should not deal with political parties is it defeats the purpose of the ideal

university and the student body president position," Husser said. "It would cause separation of needs and issues that are relevant to the whole student body, whereas the student body president should have all student issues in mind." Melissa Fletcher, co-chairman of the SG Senate's Student Services Committee, and Leigh Ann Travers, Senate president pro tem, agree with Husser.

"SG is a way we improve the university," Fletcher said. "You should be representing the student body, not a party. It would be splitting the university more." Travers added, "I don't think organized parties have anything to do with SG. Affiliating with political parties would discriminate against other students."

However, Husser said he feels that having a party system might get students more involved with Student Government and increase voter turnout. He said that if candidates did represent a certain party, it could increase interest.

"Controversy always increases interest, and students would want to know what the new drama is in SG," Husser said. Nursing sophomore Kristen Crookes thinks that political parties would definitely help SG candidates.

"I'm really surprised that SG candidates don't run 'party'

campaigns," Crookes said. "I would think they'd get a lot more support by way of votes and money if students could identify with them better."

Woody Carothers, SG's adviser, doesn't think political affiliation would help potential candidates. "I don't think anyone would be elected if they were affiliated," he said.

Carothers referred to the SG constitution, which states that SG acts as an "official representative of the university." "The purpose of SG is to represent the students, not a party," Carothers said.

While Husser believes that having a party system in SG might increase interest, he agrees with Carothers.

"In college, instead of having an opponent, you have a colleague who's willing to promote your ideas as well as his own," Husser said. Husser added that if there were opponents, personal attacks, which he said are the basis of most campaigns in the political world, would start to become more important than the real issues.

"Definitely having [political] parties would prepare one for an outside political career, but who wants to deal with the chaotic, back-stabbing political game before they have to?" Husser said.

## TALLY-HO

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ness fraternity" and other student organizations to his roster this year.

Public relations senior Ellen Smoak said, "No one's going to go. That's not the point of Tally-Ho to just mingle with the organizations. I'd rather walk around the stadium to different lots than suffer in the Tally-Ho lot."

"It's going to be bad," she said.

Seawell is glad other student organizations are involved in Tally-Ho this year, but doesn't want other universities to get preference for space at Tally-Ho.

"I've allowed other universities in the past to rent out spaces, but I want to keep Tally-Ho USC-oriented. This is their [USC students] parking lot, and they are our first priority," Seawell said.

This year's average home game will host about half the number of tents (eight to 10) at Tally-Ho than last year's Uni-

versity of Georgia-USC game, played at USC, which hosted 17 tents.

There were 10 to 12 tents per game last year, which means Seawell allowed at least five non-USC Greek and non-Greek tents from the visiting university to tailgate there for the Georgia game.

Despite the loss of so many Greeks, other fraternity members still see Tally-Ho as their home and remain loyal participants to the Carolina heritage that is Tally-Ho.

Tau Kappa Epsilon is staying put. "Other guys left because they were looking for a change, something bigger, but Gary [Seawell] has always been nothing but helpful. The Greeks should not be segregated. That's why we [Tau Kap-

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