

Sun e-Briefs • April 2012

NCOCG News

SUNSHINE DAY 2012 WRAP-UP

Sunshine Day 2012 was hosted March 14 at Elon University. Speakers included veteran journalists from North Carolina and more than a dozen experts and advocates for open government, including keynote speaker Barbara A. Petersen, the president of the First Amendment Foundation. We had a great turnout for the event. Below are links to coverage of the day's activities:

- **Gov. Bev Perdue signed Sunshine Week proclamation:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958790>
- **Barbara Petersen stresses public's responsibility to demand openness:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958788>
- **Yes, the government can get it right:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958791>
- **State's public records laws still need improvement:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958796>

And here are more links to media coverage of Sunshine Week and Sunshine Day:

- *Burlington Times News:* **Keep government open a responsibility for all of us:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958704>
- *Watauga Democrat:* **Let the light shine in Watauga and far beyond:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958734>
- *Outer Banks Sentinel:* **Sunshine Week clouded by withheld records:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958770>
- *Durham Herald-Sun:* **Weak sunshine:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958771>
- *Smoky Mountain News:* **Celebrating a society built on open government:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958773>
- *Jamestown News:* **Giving the public a right to know:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958775>
- *Wilmington StarNews:* **For Sunshine Week, a how-to guide on tapping into public records:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958776>
- *Shelby Star:* **Your right to know: Public records, open meetings laws:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958777>
- *Gaston Gazette:* **Speaking at public meetings:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958904>
- *Charlotte Observer:* **On Sunshine Week, a salute to success:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958828>
- *Raleigh News & Observer:* **Open for business:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=958829>
- *The Pendulum:* **Sunshine Day expands reach, markets to students:** <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=959345>

News & Observer wins Brechner Center for Freedom of Information Award

Congratulations to our colleagues at the Raleigh News & Observer for winning the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information Award for its reporting on the state's restrictive personnel law and the impact the law has on keeping public employees' misconduct secret. Reporter Dan Kane and database editor David Raynor accepted the award.

Read more about the honor: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=959686>

City restores some blacked-out lines in DNC emails

Charlotte Observer: The city of Charlotte had been withholding information about the upcoming Democratic National Convention, but after complaints some details in what should be public emails were revealed.

Read more about what the released information: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=959346>

Automatic legal warnings on emails violate law

Fayetteville Observer: You've probably seen this warning at the bottom of emails: "This email and any attached files are confidential and intended solely for the intended recipient(s). If you are not the named recipient you should not read, distribute, copy or alter this email." If the warning comes from a public official, though, it may violate the law.

Read more about the issue with some email: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=959347>

Public records law might require release of Asheville evidence room audit

Asheville Citizen-Times: The city-commissioned audit of the police department evidence room has been withheld for three months. Now, District Attorney Ron Moore is investigating whether it should be released.

Read more about the audit: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=959655>

Sun-e Briefs are a service of the Sunshine Center made possible through a grant from the Knight Foundation. This monthly news update will keep you in the open-government loop by bringing you news about access issues from across the state and updates on the Sunshine Center and North Carolina Open Government Coalition. Coming to you from Elon University, home of the Sunshine Center, we think you'll find **Sun-e Briefs** a valuable addition to your inbox. If you would like to contact us to let us know about a story or to remove your name from our list, please write ncopengov@elon.edu.

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