

VOTER'S GUIDE

Your place for the election information | www.skiff.tcu.edu

In an effort to help the student body make an informed decision about the Student Government Association elections today, the *Skiff* compiled information about the 10 candidates running for the five offices. The *Skiff* e-mailed the candidates three questions. The candidates were given a 75-word limit for each response, and their responses are running here, unedited. The Skiff encourages students to closely examine what the candidates have to say and vote online at www.vote.tcu.edu.

President

Blake Eason



Major: Finance • **Year:** Junior • **Semesters in SGA:** 4 • **House of Student Representatives:** 2 semesters as a Representative, 1 semester as University Affairs Chair, 1 semester as Parliamentarian • **Programming Council:** 1 semester as Community Council member, 1 semester as Howdy Week Chief of Staff

Activities in which you are most active on campus: SGA • Student Foundation • Catholic Communities

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

I initiated and worked with Athletics to move student seating at basketball games to the floor. In addition, as chair of the University Affairs committee, I again worked with Athletics to allow swipe cards at all concession stands during Basketball and Baseball games. Most recently, I served as Parliamentarian over the House and served as Chief of Staff for Howdy Week. I am also involved with a diverse group of organizations on campus.

What are your goals if elected?

SGA is a great asset to the university, however we are weakened because we take on too many initiatives and we don't do them all well. Why have five small concerts when we have the power to throw a large-scale concert? Other things I will initiate are placing a student representative on the Board of Trustees and provide programming on channel 40. I have researched my goals to ensure these promises are possible.

What is the No. 1 issue you think the House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

We need to realize what House can and cannot realistically do. SGA takes on too many initiatives and is spread too thin. This prevents us from truly meeting the student's needs and never allows the organization to reach it's full potential. It's time for us to consolidate our agenda. Let us continue to improve the programs we perform well, and concentrate on those so we can make a more effective impact on the student body.

Jason Ruth



Major: Entrepreneurship, Marketing, E-business • **Year:** Senior • **Semesters in SGA:** 4 semesters and served on every committee • **Semesters in PC:** 2 semesters as Treasurer

Activities in which you are most active on campus: I am a founding member and currently President of the CEO - Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization. We have received recognition as one of the TOP 5 Chapters in the nation • Senior Vice President of Delta Sigma Pi • Camp Director for two Casa Nueva Frog Camps this past summer

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

Having been in several leadership positions on campus, CEO President, Vice President of Delta Sigma Pi, Frog Camp Director, Treasurer of Programming Council, Campus Tour Guide Trainer, Chancellor's Leadership Mentor, and many other various committees, I have learned how to work with people to accomplish an objective. Another important qualification is that I am a good listener. I intend to listen very carefully to TCU students and make their agenda my agenda.

What are your goals if elected?

My goal is simple. If elected, I want to work to implement what the student body wants. I intend to visit with organizations and conduct town hall meetings. This will allow me to hear the complaints and wants of the student body. I want to focus all of my abilities and the abilities of other SGA Officers into resolving those issues and communicate to everyone on campus how each matter is being fixed or handled.

What is the No. 1 issue you think House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

Communication. Communication. Communication. Students need to know weekly what their SGA is accomplishing. Students need to be informed about TCU's administration's plans. An effective way to develop meaningful communications is to attend campus meetings to learn requests and complaints of students. The *Skiff* and TCU's CEO TV are excellent vehicles for broadcasting this information. Also, to empower better communication, I plan to redesign SGA to make it more effective and representative of the student body.

Megan Brown



Major: Political science major with an emphasis in international relations • **Year:** Sophomore • **Semesters in SGA:** 3

Activities in which you are most active on campus: I am currently involved in the House of Student Representatives as the Community Council Liaison. With this position, I have become an active member in the Berry Street Initiative and various neighborhood associations, specifically the University Neighborhood Alliance • Also, I co-founded TCU-UNICEF this past semester and now serve as the Vice President of the small, but growing organization • Finally, I am involved with TCU's Young Democrats.

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

Serving as Wiggins Hall representative, the Academic Affairs committee and secretary to the current VP of House has adequately acquainted me with the procedures of House chambers. My current position as Community Council Liaison has informed me of the concerns of the students and the surrounding community and the need to address these concerns. I feel that an open mind, good communication skills and perseverance will enable me to accomplish my goals for the position.

What are your goals if elected?

My Goals are to: • Motivate Student Representatives & Their Constituents • Encourage Use & Improvement of Student Resources • Gain Confidence of the Student Body • Address Student Concerns • Nurture the Collective Student Voice • With this, I hope to sponsor legislation that will cater to the needs of the student body. Every candidate shares the same specific goals (parking, dining, and safety); however, we all differ on the methodology of achieving these goals

What is the No. 1 issue you think House should address next year and how do you suggest handling it?

The number one issue in House is assimilating a diverse group of individuals who represent the varied population matriculating at TCU. I propose that House expand its membership to include the leaders of all Student Organizations. Increasing the size, and thus diversity, would directly increase the variety of discourse and debate acted upon through legislation in House chambers. Campus leaders will be unified and able to work together and communicate to improve the TCU campus.

VP of House

Anthony Oppermann



Major: Radio/TV/Film • **Year:** Junior • **Semesters in SGA:** 1

Activities in which you are most active on campus:

Co-director and mentor in the Connections program • Honors Cabinet member • Leadership Council member and Peer Advocates committee chair

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

I am bringing excitement and a fresh perspective to SGA. I think outside the box and see the big picture. I am a supportive and patient person; however, I am not afraid to step up when someone is not doing his or her job. I am fair and honest, and care about this university. I want every student to have the opportunities and experiences that I have been so blessed to have experienced.

What are your goals if elected?

I want the SGA to better represent the student body, and I think two things need to happen. First, I want to see representatives form a better relationship with their constituents so that everyday is "Constituency Day." Second, I want to see an invitation for representation in SGA extended to every organization and college on campus in order to address more concerns and create more discussion which will generate more ideas.

What is the No.1 issue you think the House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

Attitude and atmosphere. I want an attitude to be formed in House where the student body comes first. This will create an atmosphere where service is the top priority. I plan to lead-by-example and work with representatives and executives personally in order to create a House where issues and concerns can be addressed and communicated back to the student body.

Jay Zeidman



Major: Political Science and Economics (Double Major) • **Year:** Junior • **Semesters in SGA:** 1

Activities in which I am most active on campus: Vice-President of Kappa Sigma • Public Relations Chair for TCU College Republicans • Social Justice Chair for United Campus Ministries

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

I am involved in several different organizations on campus, each unique in their own way and have helped me to grasp the growing concerns of my friends. I am an experienced leader, a true initiator, who talks less and takes more action. I'm deeply committed and energized about leading my classmates into a new era of representation.

What are your goals if elected?

To liven up the student body by unifying the various organizations on campus, thus bringing a higher level of communication and planning between everyone. I want to encourage my classmates to diversify themselves academically, politically, spiritually, culturally, and socially. To bring SGA to the student body, SGA is a valuable asset to the students, the community, and the University. The only way for students to realize this is if we bring SGA to them, make them aware of how we exist solely by the students and for the students.

What is the No. 1 issue I think House should address next year and how do I suggest handling that issue?

Diversity. It is going to take the right leadership to diversify this campus spiritually, politically, culturally, and socially. I will address this by bringing SGA to the organizations, helping them with co-programming and the ability to get their message out. SGA is one of the most valuable tools that a student has, and I feel strongly that many students don't know that and need to. It is our responsibility to bring SGA to you.

Jose Luis Hernandez



Major: Music/POSC • **Year:** Sophomore • **Semesters in SGA:** 3

Activities in which you are most active on campus: SGA

Academic Affairs Chairman and Clark Hall Representative Presenter of lecture/recitals at the School of Music • Active participant in intramural sports

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

Served as SGA Community Service Chair and Academic Affairs Chair. Collaborated with the Faculty Senate to initiate a membership to the Center for Academic Integrity. Presented the University with plans to improve academic advising and mentoring programs. Motivated his committee members to formulate plans of action to improve academic standards. Developed the University Mission award in honor of the former Chancellor. He is a TCU Scholar and recipient of the University Leadership Award.

What are your goals if elected?

Push for better parking security policies • Create a Task Force to monitor food quality and review current TCU dining service policies • Research and formulate a plan of action regarding the Honor Code concept • Increase Co-Programming Legislation to sponsor projects from student organizations • Promote holiday housing alternatives for International students • Communicate to the student body through a newly developed House website • Broadcast House proceedings over TCU channel 40 • Follow-through with House legislation

What is the No. 1 issue you think House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

House should be committed to serve as a strong link between TCU students and administration. This can be accomplished by promoting channels of communication such as a website and open forums; diversifying House representation; creating a sense of community by sponsoring projects from your student organization, and following-through with House legislation. These actions will lead the way to bring SGA to a higher standard and level of effectiveness.

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VP of Programming Council

Sebastian Moleski



Major: International Economics • **Year:** Sophomore • **Semesters in SGA:** 3

Activities in which you are most active on campus: House • PC • TCU Unicef • Economics Club

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

I have served within Programming Council for one year, first as the Howdy Week Project Director and, after that, as Director of Programming and Development.

What are your goals if elected?

My goals are to bring Programming Council closer to the students by sponsoring more programs, actively seeking out student organizations for co-programming and bringing one or two large concerts to the campus as part of the Spring Fling and Homecoming events.

What is the No. 1 issue you think Programming Council should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issues?

I think the primary issue Programming Council should address is how student organization's programs and events are promoted on campus. PC has an abundance of resources available to help organizations that don't usually get much support. I think it should be our job to help them as much as possible.

Secretary

Corrie Nerissa Lockhart



Major: Advertising/Public Relations • **Year:** Sophomore • **Semesters in SGA:** 3

Activities in which you are most active on campus: TCU SGA- Secretary Fall 03 • Dining Services' Chair '02-'03 • TCU Student Foundation- Director of Morale • TCU Purple Hearts- Captain

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

As a third semester SGA member I have seen and been a part of the ins and outs of TCU's Student Government Association. After being asked to take over the position of Secretary over the summer, I, with the help of my advisors and committee, have instituted successful and beneficial campaigns and programs such as "Are You In The House" and the SOS Forum in efforts to communicate with the student body.

What are your goals if elected?

If elected, I hope to continue to strive for and achieve increased communication between the student body and the governing bodies that represent them. In doing so, I plan to hire a web designing company to design and maintain the SGA website, develop and distribute a campus wide newsletter that will illustrate SGA's campus involvement thus increasing visibility, and encourage active participation in SGA activities in order to better the perceptions of SGA's purpose.

What is the No. 1 issue you think House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

Communication! Communication is a valuable tool in improving relations and perceptions throughout this campus. Without communication, it is no wonder that the majority of the student body is unaware of the projects, proposals, and financial support that we offer the student body. As we take our oaths, we pledge to execute our jobs to the fullest, and in doing so we are charged with making responsible decisions that benefit the students in which we serve.

Lena Strawser



Major: Business • **Year:** Sophomore • **Semesters in SGA:** 3

Activities in which you are most active on campus: Programming Council • House of Representatives • Catholic Community

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

I have been involved in SGA for three semesters. Being a member of both the House of Representatives and Programming Council, I have a good idea of what goes on, on both sides. I am currently the Communications Director for PC. I am good at keeping things organized and making sure things get done on time. I am also considering accounting as my business major concentration.

What are your goals if elected?

I would like to increase the awareness to the other organizations on campus about co-programming. We have money to give to other organizations and we need to make sure that they know about it. I will also make sure that we allocate money properly to different projects for events on campus. I would like to find out what you would like to see happen on campus and help make that happen.

What is the No. 1 issue you think the House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

House should address the issue of how we are allocating our money. There are some programs in SGA that have a larger budget than they need and others that need a larger budget. I would like to make sure that the money that is not needed for some programs is given to those programs that do need it. Also, excess money in the reserve should be used to fund projects instead of just sitting there.

David Watson



Major: Entrepreneurial Management • **Year:** Sophomore • **Semesters in SGA:** Two semesters (spring and fall of 2003)

Activities in which you are most active on campus:

I am highly involved in SGA, having served as a representative and member of the Finance committee • In addition, I am currently serving as the Permanent Improvements Chairperson • I am also involved in Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, with my membership beginning in the fall of 2002 • Lastly, I am actively involved in the Christ Chapel College Program and participate in a small-group Bible study.

What are your qualifications for the position you are running for?

Owning and operating a lawn care business has provided me with the qualities to be a good Treasurer. This required money management, effective communication, and strong leadership skills including team building and motivating. In addition, I served as the Finance Officer of a Junior Achievement company and received the "Finance Officer of the Year" award. Finally, my experience in Student Government has prepared me to fulfill the expectations associated with the Treasurer position.

What are your goals if elected?

As Treasurer, my primary goal is to be a good steward of every dollar in the Student Government Association. I will work to wisely spend our money by increasing awareness among organizations of the opportunity for SGA funding and will make sure money is distributed to organizations that positively benefit TCU.

What is the No. 1 issue you think the House should address next year and how do you suggest to handle the issue?

My highest priority is to make more TCU organizations aware of SGA as a source of funding. Effective communication with these organizations will both foster ideas and bring the student body together. This unity will provide for an even greater impact on the TCU campus.

How to vote

Voting will take place from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. To vote online, visit my.tcu.edu, and click on "Student Government Association Officer Elections." Computers will also be set up in the Student Center Lounge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Voters who arrive around lunchtime will receive a coupon for a free smoothie from Smoothie King.

Students can also vote for the band they would like to see play at a campus concert in Spring 2004. There are 12 choices, and students can select up to three bands. Band options include the following:

- Michelle Branch
- Jack Johnson
- Counting Crows
- Jimmy Eat World
- Blackeyed Peas
- Ben Harper
- Jason Mraz
- Jurassic Five
- Moby
- Ben Folds
- Busta Rhymes
- Cross Canadian Ragweed



Ty Halasz/Staff Photographer
This SGA logo is painted on the wall of room 222 in the Student Center where the House holds its meetings every Tuesday. The meetings are open to the public.

Treasurer

There is hope

There is Volunteers of America

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THE SKIFF
WE WOULD READ IT TO YOU, BUT WE'RE BUSY MAKING TOMORROW'S PAPER.

Read it. Enjoy it. Don't make us have to give a quiz.