

# Student Government Association Candidate Profiles



Next week, SGA elections will be held online at [www.elections.gatech.edu](http://www.elections.gatech.edu) between Monday, April 11 and Wednesday, April 13. On the following three pages, you will find profiles of the candidates for the four executive offices of SGA. The content on these pages was written by the candidates themselves to communicate why they believe they should be elected as the next leaders of Tech's student body.

## Candidates for Undergraduate Vice President

**Aaron Bolduc**



[www.Aaron4VP.com](http://www.Aaron4VP.com)

**Major:** Biology

**Year:** Junior

**Related Experience:**

**Biology Representative, Science Caucus Chair, SGA Executive Secretary, Georgia Tech Night at Six-Flags Volunteer, SGA Advisory Board, Lambda Sigma Co-service Chair, Member of NSCS, Connect With Tech Host, MS Walk Volunteer, Team Buzz Volunteer, Battered Women's Shelter Volunteer, InnerMission Program Volunteer, Relay for Life Volunteer, Feed the Hungry Volunteer, Connect With Tech host, Salvation Army Shelter of Atlanta Volunteer Group Leader.**

I'm running for Student Body Vice President because, as the only candidate who has served as an executive position, I have seen what is expected of the vice president. This experience is what has set me apart and prepared me for this position. I desire to be a part of improving Tech, and as Vice President I would be able to work with the SGA President and Administration by voicing your opinions on current issues and changing policies that affect us as a student body.

As SGA's Secretary, I have worked closely with the Vice President and President on the bill process, in making amendments and recording vote totals, as well as taking minutes. While in this position, I have experienced the three main duties of the Vice President, running the house meetings, assisting SGA's President with his/her duties and initiatives, and to be another voice, besides the President, for the student body.

As biology representative in SGA, I worked with the faculty to get over \$35,000 worth of lab equipment for the biology department. I have been directly involved with Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags, Sting Break, and One Night Stand. I believe in Georgia Tech's motto, "Progress and Service." I believe one of the ways we can progress is to get wireless Internet for our entire campus. I also want service projects to continue through SGA funding.

I love Georgia Tech and am very passionate about improving this place as SGA Vice President. I want to work on issues like priority registration, campus safety, and making Georgia Tech Atlanta's team once again. I want to run SGA meetings efficiently in order to give every organization the funding that they deserve.

Also, I want to represent the student body, to voice their opinion, while working with the SGA president and the administration of Georgia Tech to change policies and work on issues that affect us. One of the ways I plan to do this is to implement a monthly address to the campus by SGA's President or Vice President. This will be a public speech where students can come and get updates the topics and issues that Georgia Tech administration and SGA are working on. This will provide a time where students can ask questions and give feedback. I would like to make it where the students have an opportunity to write down ideas on these issues at the event. The address would also be printed in the Technique so that all students are kept up to date even if they cannot attend the meeting. Finally, there will also be a link to an online poll, and the emails that are currently used for the polls will continue.

**Paul Byrne**



[www.pb4vp.com](http://www.pb4vp.com)

**Related Experience:**

**Founder, Student Lobby Board Chair, Student Lobby Board Member, Student Lobby Board Sophomore Class President Junior Class Representative Member-at-Large Representative Governmental & External Affairs Committee Academic Affairs Committee Internal Affairs Committee Joint Finance Committee Executive Nominations Committee Special Committee on Music Licensing Administrative Affairs Board Honors Recognition Committee College of Management Dean Candidate Interview Committee Student Publications Board Georgia Tech Legislative Network**

I am running for SGA Vice President this year because I want to make the changes students want and need in the coming year. Every year, candidates and elected leaders talk about making real changes but rarely make good on their promises. I pride myself on following through with everything I discuss in my platform.

Since the #1 job of the Vice President is to run the undergraduate House of Representatives, experience is a necessity for any candidate. Of all the candidates for VP, I clearly have the most experience. My four years of extensive experience have allowed me to learn the intricacies of Institute and SGA policy and to meet the movers and shakers on campus which would be an invaluable asset as Vice President.

The first part of my platform is to establish a Student Life Endowment and tie it to the \$1.2 billion Institute Capital Campaign that was just started. This endowment would alleviate the pressure to cut funding from Tier III organizations and allow for the large-scale funding of campus wide events such as Sting Break and the various comedians and entertainers that students would like to see. The financial future of these events and organizations would be greatly protected by this endowment.

Second, I have worked very hard with the Student Lobby Board that I founded to have the Georgia State Legislature cut all taxes off all textbooks in GA. This would save each student \$60-\$75 a year and students in this state would save an estimated \$20 million every year.

Third, I want to open the Student Center Food Court for dinner and give students a meal plan option they can use there. This would give students an added choice in the evening. I have already spoken with the Student Center leadership and they are open to making this a reality.

Fourth, I want to overhaul the Online Parking System to not only improve the online ticket appeals process, but also to give students the ability to pay their tickets online, saving them time and money when they can avoid the late fees.

I have spent all four years of my time at Tech working in SGA to make Tech a better place, a place that students are happy and willing to call home. It would be an honor to be your next Student Body Vice President and I thank you for your support.

**Toyo Sarah Okanlawon**



[www.vote4toyo.com](http://www.vote4toyo.com)

My name is Toyo S. Okanlawon and I am overwhelmed and excited at the very real possibility of serving you as the SGA vice-president for the term 2006-2007. I would like to begin by saying that I love Georgia Tech; I believe this institution is possibly among the best in the world and want to work to maintain that reality in my service as vice-president. Although I believe this Institution is amazing, I realize there are a few changes that could be implemented to improve the experience of every student.

In the course of my speaking engagements, I found that an astonishing number of students had no general understanding of the responsibilities of the vice-president; so, I think it is important to begin here. The chief task of the vice president is to lead the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) in the proper allocation of student activity funds; though this definition may seem rigid, the reality is that this task requires an extreme time commitment.

When establishing my platform, I made a firm decision to refrain from introducing enticing promises just to glean votes. In fact, I refused to introduce any notions that I knew were impossible to follow up with plans of execution. There are three main components to my agenda:

To lead the House of Representatives in properly allocating nearly 3.7 million dollars of student activity money to student organizations.

To ensure the just execution of the Student Constitution; also, to remain open to new methods of implementing it to the betterment of Georgia Tech Students.

To fully assist the President and join him or her in partnering with leaders of various administrations, student organizations, and departments to improve student life.

While these will be my primary tasks in administration, I promise to hear to the student voice and offer myself as a mediator between the student and legislature.

I feel it is necessary to mention that I made it a point to meet with previous vice-presidents to ask them about their experiences in office. When talking about campaign agendas in general, one questioned how reasonable it was to propose the completion of a multitude of projects, saying that the primary assignment of the vice-president in leading the House of Representatives alone was a time demanding task. The other agreed stating that the job was the most time consuming venture that he had ever attained. In hearing them speak, I gathered that the job required dedication, passion, and focus.

I believe I have the passion, experience, and conviction to execute this job right! I believe I am qualified for this position due to serving as a senator at my previous institution and currently serving as the Junior Class Representative in the Undergraduate House of Representatives at Tech. In addition to bringing my experience to the table, I promise to refer to and learn from the mistakes and accomplishments of past administrations. I assure you that I am fully committed to putting forth the time, dedication and zeal needed to make sure I serve with all the excellence and efficiency you deserve.

**Mark Youngblood**



[www.MarkYoungblood.org](http://www.MarkYoungblood.org)

**Related Experience:**

**School of Mathematics Representative Freshman Representative Chair, Parking and Transportation Committee Member, Nominations Committee Member, Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee Member, Campus Affairs Board Member, National Society of Collegiate Scholars Inductee, Tau Beta Pi (Engineering honor Society) Inductee, Eta Kappa Nu (Comp. Eng. Honor Society) Walk-on Linebacker for GT Football Team**

My name is Mark Youngblood and I'm running to be your next SGA vice-president. I'm a third year Computer Engineering Major who has extensive experience serving in the Undergraduate House of Representatives, as well as Chairman of the Parking and Transportation Committee. The vice-president serves as the Chairman of the House of Representatives, which is responsible for allocating over 3 Millions dollars of your Student Activity Fee. I believe both students, and campus organizations should be better informed as to where this money is going, and how to seek funding for their events from SGA.

The role of Vice-President also includes listening to students and converting their ideas into action. After gathering Student input over the last year, there are several initiatives which I would like to pursue if elected:

**Creating a Stinger Route to Buckhead on the Weekends** - Creating a route to Buckhead on the weekends would benefit both Georgia Tech and the entire Atlanta community. Besides the obvious benefits of increased safety and convenience for students, this route would economically benefit local clubs and restaurants. For this reason, I plan to seek funding for this route from area businesses instead of increasing the transportation fee.

**Fixing the Complaints with the Online Ticket Distribution System** - Many students feel that the current Ticket Distribution system is a hassle. I believe that in principle the system is an efficient way to allocate tickets for highly demanded games. However, I will change the system so that games which are not sold out do not require an online ticket can be entered using a buzzcard.

**Creating a Fraternity / Sorority Seat in the House of Representatives** - Greek Students represent 22% of the students on campus. These students should have a voice in deciding how the mandatory student activity fee is to be allocated.

**Getting Off-Campus Stingerette Service Back to Students** - In a survey given to students last fall, a clear majority of students responded that they would be in favor of returning the stingerette off campus, even if it meant an increase in wait time. Students who live in Homepark and Centennial must jeopardize their safety in order to make after dark commutes onto campus. I will fight to ensure that this service returns to students.

These are some of the initiatives I will work hard to bring to Tech. I ask for your vote because I would like to create an SGA in which student concerns are a top priority.

## Candidates for Undergraduate Student Body President

## Patrick Cook



[www.cookforpresident.com](http://www.cookforpresident.com)

**Related Experience:**

Freshman Class President  
Freshman Caucus Leader  
Sophomore Class President  
Sophomore Caucus Leader  
Chair, Public Relations  
Chair, Student Lobby Board  
Coordinator, Georgia Tech Night at Six Flags  
Co-chair, Honor's Recognition Program Steering Committee  
2005-06 Student Advisory Council Delegate  
2005 ACC Leadership Conference Delegate  
2006 IMPACT Scholarship Winner  
Member: Georgia Tech Legislative Network, Undergraduate Advisory Board, freShGA  
RATS Week Advisory Committee  
Sting Break Steering Committee  
Welcome Home Week Committee  
Ramblin' Nights Events Board  
FASET Orientation Leader

I'm running for SGA President because I have a strong desire to make Georgia Tech an even better community. As a senior member of Student Government, I bring the most experience to the table, and I have taken an active role in each position I've held to make Georgia Tech a better place. I have developed great relationships with the administration and with the Georgia General Assembly, and I have provided a professional, pro-student voice to both. Georgia Tech is a college run for its students, and I will ensure that we have pro-student input in pertinent decisions concerning the Georgia Tech and Atlanta communities.

Here are some priorities that I would like to address as your next SGA President. I want to save you money. Being Georgia Tech's delegate to the Student Advisory Council of the Board of Regents, I have already rallied the Georgia colleges behind the coined 'tax-free textbooks' initiative. By simultaneously working as the Student Lobby Board Chairman, I've helped to place a bill on the legislative docket, which eliminates sales-tax from textbooks and will put \$65-70 per year back in the pockets of Georgia Tech students.

Secondly, I want to keep your software up-to-date. I will work with RHA and OIT to provide Windows Vista to all Tech students. Due to the Tech's academic rigor, it is important that we all have the latest and best equipment to aid our education. I also strongly support the establishment of a free and legal music downloading agreement.

I am a huge advocate of Georgia Tech school spirit and the further funding of student-life initiatives. As the coordinator of GT Night at Six Flags this year, I was able to provide a free return pass to anyone wearing gold Georgia Tech apparel during the night. For a long time, I have wanted to copyright a single Georgia Tech gold that our students can unite behind. I am also on the Sting Break Steering Committee this year, and I've written the financial bills for GT Night at Six Flags, Homecoming, and Sting Break, among many others. With the help of the upcoming Capital Campaign, I would like to set the groundwork for funding more campus-wide events. We can do this by assembling a Student Life Perpetuity that funnels from the Capital Campaign. This will single-handedly generate the money needed to provide more exciting opportunities that we will remember for years to come.

Most importantly, I want to make sure that our degree is valuable. I would like to create Student Advisory Boards and Curriculum Committee seats for every major at Georgia Tech. This will allow students to decide on the composition of their majors, which will enrich their education. I also want to make sure that we receive adequate state funding to keep our tuition price as low as possible.

These are just some of the components of my platform, which can be found in its entirety on my website. I would be truly honored to serve as your next SGA President, and I will be a strong advocate for our student body in the year to come.

## Alison Graab



[www.alisongraab.com](http://www.alisongraab.com)

**SGA Experience:**

Vice President of Administrative Affairs summer 2005-spring 2005  
Member, Undergraduate Executive Committee  
Member, Undergraduate Advisory Board  
Member, Search Committee for Dean of Students  
Member, Mandatory Student Fee Allocation Committee  
Member, Honors Program Committee  
Member, Earth Day Committee  
Member, Academic Affairs Committee  
Co-chair, Environmental Policy Major Committee  
FreShGA Advisor summer 2004-spring 2005  
Member, freShGA  
Helped Found Academic Advising Committee  
Helped bring Grade Substitution to Georgia Tech  
ACC Leadership Retreat Delegate 2006

I'm running for Student Government President because I am passionate about representing you. As the only candidate who has been a member of the SGA executive committee, I have already worked to represent students in issues such as improving academic advising and preventing plus and minus grading.

My executive experience has given me skills that are vital for the president to possess and insight into pressing issues at Tech.

Over the past three years, I have dedicated my integrity, passion, and enthusiasm to all of my positions in Student Government.

I will bring these crucial skills to the president position and work with other talented leaders to represent your voice.

As Vice President of Administrative Affairs, I oversee six committees including public relations, information technology, freShGA, and student lobby board. Through this position, I have extensively utilized my communication skills, delegation skills, and my ability to stand up for your rights.

The key issues that I will undertake if elected president are improving academic life, improving campus life, and making sure that SGA serves you.

To improve academic life I will fight to make sure professors post grades before finals. This is a rule at Georgia Tech, but I am committed to making sure it is strictly enforced in the future. Students have a right to know their grade in a class before finals so that they can prioritize and focus on excelling.

To improve campus life, I will make it a priority to increase the quantity and quality of campus events at Georgia Tech. I have already worked towards this goal in my current SGA position.

With SGA's executive branch, I have fought to create a committee that will be given more funding with which to book bands, comedians, and other entertainment. This committee will actively seek out student input when making its decisions and incorporate all the different opinions of Tech students.

My first priority as your next president will be to make sure Student Government serves you. I will listen to your needs and represent your voice assertively. I will continue to fight for freedom of speech for all students and seek out your opinion on important issues.

Specifically, I will work to make sure that all students can attend the career fair without being prohibited due to a test or quiz.

You have worked diligently for your Georgia Tech degree and you deserve to take advantage of all opportunities that maximize your career options.

I would be truly honored to serve as your Student Government president. Know that I would always serve you with the utmost passion and integrity.

## William G. Ferguson



[www.beerchamp.com/ferg](http://www.beerchamp.com/ferg)

My name is William G. Ferguson, and I am running for SGA president on a bit of different platform. First and for most, I'd like to address the fact that have no SGA experience. 0. However, I did not enter this campaign as joke, and it is something that I had been thinking about doing for while.

I believe my experiences as a student at Georgia Tech are unique in that I have tried to focus more on running my own business rather than being heavily involved in campus organizations, and that is what I would like to bring to SGA next year. Business experience instead of SGA or campus involvement experience.

First and foremost, if I am elected SGA president, I would like to be the most accessible SGA president that SGA has ever had. By this, I mean that I will literally be available three times a week at the Student Center, Junior's, or perhaps another on-campus lunch location to eat lunch with whoever decides to show up.

No appointment will be necessary or even honored for these particular meetings. The conversation would not be limited by even SGA specific business.

I would be open to hear a first-year's complaints, a sixth-year's excitement and reflection as graduation approaches, or even politics, advances in technology, sports, business news, literally anything and everything.

As the second point in my agenda, I am against the recent movement by the student lobby board to attempt to remove the sales-tax that students pay on textbooks.

This may seem like a shock to many people because on the surface it seems like a good idea. However, consider this: all of the money that goes into the state sales tax contributes directly to the general state budget.

A large portion of our tuition depends directly on the amount of money in the state budget. If we decrease that amount of money, it stands to reason that our tuition would not be protected against the decrease even if such was promised by the politicians.

The strongest point against this tax-cut, though, is the fact that Georgia has a large number of private college and university students and also private K-12 students (who typically must buy their own textbooks). These students would be the real beneficiaries of this tax-cut because their private school tuition rates are not affected in the direct manner that our tuition is by the size of the state budget.

Finally, my largest, and I believe the most beneficial, project I would embark on as SGA President: the formation of a student-owned, student-operated company to pool our collective campus organization money for the purchase of everyday supplies.

With this significant purchasing power, we could collectively reduce the cost of your student organization's or fraternity or sorority's everyday supplies (such as paper plates, paper towels, Cokes, soap, cleaning products, etc.) by what I estimate to be a 25% savings.

This would be a real and significant savings that would even benefit someone who never participates in a student organization of any kind because it would reduce or at least maintain student activity fees.

In conclusion, please visit my website, an example of a business venture of mine, [www.beerchamp.com](http://www.beerchamp.com), or feel free to contact me via email at [ferg@gatech.edu](mailto:ferg@gatech.edu).

Thank you very much for reading, and please vote William G. Ferguson for SGA President.

## Richard Wright



[www.richardwright.com](http://www.richardwright.com)

**Your SGA**

SGA has a very influential role with Tech's administration, and it has advised the administration on things such as the honors program and priority registration. However, how much of your opinion was sought to address these issues? SGA has relied on a small group of individuals to make decisions; however, a few people are less able to make a decision than a diverse group. I will work for SGA to be the voice of the students.

**Quick Points**

- Use ad-hoc committees of eleven members on specific issues such as the honors program
- Invite administrators to house meetings and have the event publicized so that individuals can give their opinion on the topic and discuss it.
- Restructure the executive branch replacing the VP of Campus Affairs with a VP of Student Service, VP of Auxiliary Services, and VP of Academics

**Growing Community**

Tech has made great strides in building a better community; however, it still has progress to make. I would like to see Tech develop better policies in housing to promote community and work to make FASET better suited to nucleate community.

**Quick Points**

- Develop a better matching system for roommates for incoming freshman
- Allow students to form housing blocks after meeting individuals at FASET
- Create better community spaces; in the quads by adding more benches, swings, and lawn chairs; in dorms, make lounges aesthetically pleasing
- Work to provide funding for a FASET reunion party when students get back to Tech for each session
- Provide a centralized resource for campus events, news, and resources

**Improving Teaching**

Many students feel like professors are simply out to get them or do not care about what they are doing. By increasing faculty-student interaction and by holding professors accountable for results, we should see improvements.

**Quick Points**

- If professors consistently get low marks in course surveys, have CETL initiate an evaluation to improve their teaching
- Renovate GT1000
  - o Make it with more faculty and decrease class size
  - o Continue to support the summer reading program as a basis for initial discussion
  - o Make the course challenge individuals to decide what they want from Tech
- Change academic advising
  - o Common advising in the first year where advisors would be more aware of all the opportunities available
  - o Use faculty advisors to provide insight into opportunities, such as jobs and research

**Experience****MOVE - President**

Working with MOVE taught me a great deal about setting expectations from the beginning and how to and how not to work with groups. Furthermore, overseeing ten committees gave me experience in running a large organization!

**Course Critique - Chair**

Developed the current revision of the site and worked with CETL to truly make course survey data available to the students.

**SGA House - Freshman Representative**

Helped to allocate money to student organizations by supporting and sponsoring numerous bills. I developed a great understanding of the financial needs of student organizations and the numerous activities that occur on Tech's campus.

### Candidates for undergraduate representative positions

#### Freshman Representative

Jonghwa Ahn  
Austin Rahn  
Vik Ramaswamy  
George Ray  
Sarang Shah  
John Vaughns  
Katie Viscelli

#### Sophomore Representative

Scott Bancroft  
Charlene D'Souza  
Brian M. Lee  
Matt Peeples

#### Junior Representative

Tim Gallagher  
Anna Griffith  
Laura Griffith  
Kelly Michaud  
Brittany Young

#### Senior Representative

Elizabeth Burchfield  
Vickie Cherry  
Steven K. Hardy  
William Welch  
Kevin Sinha

#### Architecture/BC/ID

Thomas Fink

#### Aerospace Engineering

Raj Ghosh Dastidar

#### Biomedical Engineering

Chris Zhang

#### Computer Science

Priyanka Mahalanabis  
Gary Mann  
Jeff Wei

#### Chemistry

Linh Son  
Brian W. Tomaschik

#### Civil and Environmental Engineering

Yunita Tjong Fu  
Perrin Quarshie

#### EAS

Grant Farmer

#### Electrical & Computer Eng.

Derek Greene  
Kevin Kung  
Jonathan Hong

#### Industrial & System Engineering

Andrea Huber  
Radhika Kumar  
Stephen Kump  
Tina Sweeder

#### International Affairs

Meena Nabavi

#### Management

Suzie Holmes  
Leah McCormick  
Michael Warwick

#### Mechanical Engineering

Dave Coleman

#### Public Policy

Doug Gladden

#### Co-Op

Varun Prasad

### Candidate for Graduate Student Body President

#### Mitch Keller

When I was elected vice president of the graduate student body last year, I immediately set out to delve into the issues surrounding graduate student health insurance. I quickly found myself sitting on a Board of Regents task force that was procuring a system-wide health insurance plan. We succeeded in that goal, and beginning in Fall 2006, graduate students will have access to an improved health insurance plan with reasonable premiums. However, the battle has just begun. Now that we have procured quality health insurance for our graduate students, we need to help make Georgia Tech's offerings as competitive as those provided at other institutions across the country. Namely, we must secure funding from the State of Georgia to subsidize graduate assistant health insurance premiums. If elected, from my first day on the job as graduate student body president, I will work with the Georgia Tech administration, the Board of Regents, and the Georgia legislature to secure the funding that we need in this area.

Another problem facing graduate students here at Tech is high semester start up costs. Each semester, we must pay for tuition, fees, and health insurance all up front. Not to mention that students residing on campus must pay for an entire semester's rent, and those having cars to park on campus must pay for parking in August. If elected, I will work to reduce the semester start up cost as much as possible by allowing graduate assistants to opt



for monthly payroll deduction for some of these expenses. Many steps were taken in this direction during the past year, and I feel that my continued involvement will be essential to succeeding in this important area.

Health insurance and semester start up costs are only two of the issues facing Georgia Tech graduate students. If elected, I will improve lines of communication with graduate students across campus to learn about their concerns. I will also ensure that Graduate SGA works with the administration to resolve those issues and make Georgia Tech a better place to pursue graduate studies. We are on our way to establishing a graduate student ombuds-

man, a neutral third party graduate students can consult if they are uncomfortable speaking with an administrator in their department. We must also work to ensure that graduate assistant stipends keep pace with the cost of attending Georgia Tech and the cost of living in Atlanta.

Of course not everything that we as graduate students do here at Georgia Tech involves academics. The Graduate SGA plays an important role in fostering interdepartmental interactions between our graduate students. The Graduate Student Picnic has been a long term success, and the Graduate Student Research Symposium is off to a good start. If elected, I will not only ensure that these programs continue but that they get even better. Graduate SGA should also work with groups on campus that plan events to ensure that thought is given to how campus-wide events can best include graduate students and their families.

I have spent the last two years working on behalf of graduate students here at Georgia Tech and believe that I am uniquely qualified to serve as your next graduate student body president. During the past two years, I have developed relationships with administrators across the campus and the university system that will enable me to achieve many things on behalf of graduate students. If graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators work together, we can accomplish much in the coming year. I'm ready to take the next step in working for graduate students and sincerely hope to have your support April 10-12.

### Candidate for Graduate Student Body Vice President

#### Ryan Bechtel

Major: NRE Ph.D. Student

SGA Involvement:  
Graduate Senate Coordinating Officer  
ME Senator  
Graduate Housing Committee Chair

Website: [www.pb4vp.com](http://www.pb4vp.com)



One of the most persistent problems affecting graduate students, particularly incoming and foreign national students, are the payment policies of campus housing. Currently graduate students living on campus are required to pay an entire semester's rent at the beginning of each semester, despite that graduate student stipends are awarded monthly. This upfront payment places an undue financial burden on my fellow graduate students. As Graduate Vice President I will continue my efforts to work with campus housing to change the policy to allow graduate students the option of paying their rent/housing fees monthly as this best fits our financial situation. Once that goal is achieved I will also try to work with the administration to allow graduate students the option of having their rent deducted from their monthly stipends.

Furthermore I will continue to try to amend the pricing policy for single students sharing a two bedroom apartment at TenthandHome. Currently the combined housing fees paid by both students greatly exceed the rent charged to a family renting a similar two bedroom apartment. As Graduate Vice President I will work with campus housing

to change this billing policy.

I also intend to follow in the footsteps of Graduate Vice President Mitch Keller with his outstanding work to achieve better health coverage for graduate students. I believe a long term objective of the graduate senate should be to lobby the Georgia State Congress and other governmental bodies to help subsidize our health coverage. Since so many graduate students are also employees of the State of Georgia, we should be allowed be entitled to similar benefits as other state employees. This will not be an overnight occurrence, but I intend to set up and follow through to the best of my ability the process of achieving subsidized health coverage.

The office of Graduate Vice President is to preside over the Graduate Senate. My goals as chair

of the senate meetings are to run the meetings as expediently as possible whilst ensuring that concerns of the senators and their constituents are addressed. I would like to place more emphasis on the open forum part of the senate meetings as this is the best opportunity for the concerns of the graduate student body to be heard and addressed.

I am currently the Graduate Coordinating Officer, and my responsibilities are to act as the Senate's liaison to the Undergraduate House of Representatives. I am required to attend and participate at the meetings of both houses, and as a result I have learned how to expertly navigate the bureaucracies of both houses of SGA. With this knowledge I feel that I am up to the task of acting both as chair of the senate meetings and an impartial contributor to the next Joint Finance Committee policy.

I seek to actively contribute to a new JFC policy. In keeping with recent Supreme Court Decisions, these new regulations will be completely viewpoint neutral, but I will try to make sure the new system does not marginalize the role of student government.

Additionally I will help design protections within the policy to prevent abuses of the new system that might allow a few organizations that ability to take a disproportionate amount of the student activities fees.

While these are short list of my goals and qualifications for the office of Graduate Vice President, I am eager to hear suggestions from everyone to help improve the life of all graduate students. I look forward to better serving the graduate student body.

**The SGA election begins Monday, April 10 and runs through Wednesday, April 12. Voting is online at [www.elections.gatech.edu](http://www.elections.gatech.edu). If there is a runoff, IFC will host a debate between the candidates Thursday, April 13 in the Free Speech Area.**

Thank you for attending the 2006 Black Leadership Conference!

The African American Student Union would like to thank everyone for supporting our third annual conference. You're continued support made this event an amazing success and we would like to extend an invitation for all students to attend our fourth annual conference.

# B L C 2007

**2006  
Isn't over  
yet!**

## STEP SHOW

**April 15th 2006**

**Ga Tech's O'keefe Gym @ 7pm  
\$10 for Advanced Tickets \$15 @ the door**

1st Place Prize \$1200

2nd Place Prize \$500

LOW  
DOWN

Step Show

ΦΒΣ ΑΦΑ ΩΨΦ ΔΣΘ ΚΑΨ ΣΓΡ ΑΚΑ ΖΦΒ

For more info: To register your team or become a sponsor Call (404) 460-8658 [THELOWDOWNSTEPSHOW.COM](http://THELOWDOWNSTEPSHOW.COM)

## GTAASU History In The Making Since 1968

The Lambda Delta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi