

# Speaker of the House Nominee Profiles

*The SGA will hold elections for the Speaker of the House position on Dec . 6 In order to better inform you about the candidates, The Clarion has given each candidate some space to give their platform.*

## Jamie Isserman

This has been a hectic year for not only the college but for SGA as well. With the loss of the SGA Vice President at the start of the year, our current VP had a late start. Chris Dixon has managed to pull his weight and more as the recently elected Vice President of SGA. Once again, we have lost another key cabinet member. Carrie Ann Bowen, Former Speaker of the House, formally resigned a few weeks ago at the last House SGA meeting. As such, Karen Love has filled in as interim Speaker until a new Speaker of the House is elected.

The Speaker of the House is the figurehead of the House. They are charged with running the House meetings set by the SGA constitution. This position is also responsible for representing the voice of the House on the Senate. Also, their primary duty is to keep tabs on all the clubs and organization the SGA sponsors in order to make sure they are following the standards set by the Student Government as well as the school. These are not the only duties that the Speaker of the House is required to fulfill, but it is the core of the position.

I was nominated to run for the position of Speaker of the House on the Executive Board. I happily accepted the nomination in the understanding that SGA has a lot of work ahead of them. A lot of the clubs have to be reminded of their responsibilities to the school and to the SGA, which Ms. Love has already made great strides. I feel that if we discuss our goals for the rest of the school year, decide and compromise on budgeting, and take responsibility that we can make this a successful year. We are in times of economic crisis. This is not just something you read in the papers. The effects of the economic crisis are penetrating our college. As such, I believe we need to budget wisely. I would like to charge the clubs with re-evaluating their current budgets and cut wasteful spending.

I am the current Debate Society/YPA president. With the help of Zach Christy, VP, and Dr. Ralph Hamlett, advisor, we have held several successful events without having to spend tons of money. I know this cannot be done with all clubs, but I think that with the help of club officers we can duplicate this success and help other clubs recover from a lack of organization. As the chair of the Constitution Review and Rules committee, I already see areas that can be improved upon.

When I am elected the next Speaker of the House in Spring 2009, I will continue the revisions Karen Love has started. I will help to unify the House, and work towards strengthening the SGA community.

## Ryan Fiffick

Brevard College has endured trials of character and function throughout its history and this point in time is no exception. This era of growth and change in students' lives is reflected by events in national and international arenas. From the historic Presidential Election of '08, to the local needs of area non-profits, student involvement has proven to be a powerful force for change and a desperately needed addition to this nation's capabilities. Here on B.C. campus, we've a Student Government Association that has suffered from a lack of student involvement, an irresponsible use of funds and poor communication between the student body and staff administrators.

Several weeks ago, acting on the request of several members of S.G.A., I attended a joint session between the House of Representatives and the Senate and was appalled by what I found. Most of the time of the meeting was spent trying to determine how we could best gain enough club representatives to hold a vote on key student government procedures. When the minimum number or quorum was reached, more time was spent establishing what could be done than was allocated to what should be done. I was appalled. Those in attendance were working overtime, wearing as many hats as their heads could hold and receiving little help from the rest of the student body.

Which leads me to why I've decided to run for Speaker of the House: as an 8 year Americorps veteran, I've worked to establish learning centers in inner cities, designed and operated disaster relief centers, renovated homes for the economically disadvantaged, restored national park trails, legally challenged the Department of Homeland Security for rights transgressions, and EVEN taught kindergarten. The leadership skills developed during these treasured and toil-filled years have served me well at Brevard College thus far. However, I feel it is time that I brought the entirety of my capabilities to the table.

I will operate as Speaker of the House in three major ways: 1) restore operational efficacy to S.G.A. by providing a strong voice for the student body to the student congress; 2) cultivate a relationship between club representatives, the Executive Board and the student body to ensure that policies and procedures are both effective and adhered to; and 3) prevent the operations of S.G.A. from falling into disrepair by establishing a degree of transparency in operations that will allow any student to easily become a participant.

I thank you for believing in our school and in my ability to help it become better!