

# Student Body President Candidates

Six camps — including two pairs — are vying for the top post in student government. Students will cast their ballots on Feb. 14.

## Stacey Brandenburg

BY JILL DUNCAN  
STAFF WRITER

Stacey Brandenburg, a junior political science major from Atlanta, said she was running for student body president because of her belief in student empowerment.

"When I entered (Student Body President) George Battle's administration, I saw the potential for student government," she said. "It is about identifying student problems and making them better, no matter how small they may seem."

Brandenburg stressed the importance of cooperation within the branches of student government and with University administrators. "We will have a new chancellor and a new vice chancellor of student affairs. It is imperative that we initiate them with the importance of student voice."

Brandenburg considers herself an "outsider with an insider's opinion."

Although she has served on student government, Brandenburg said she is first and foremost a student.

Brandenburg said that the focus of student government was students and that therefore she considered communication with the student body important.

If elected, Brandenburg said she planned to set up meetings in the Pit as a kind of open forum every week. She also said that she wanted to eat once a week at Lenoir so that students could talk to her.

"Students are important. No idea is too small and no student is insignificant. Their



ideas are valid and will be attended to."

Her experience as co-secretary of the Academic Affairs Committee included serving as a liaison to the Faculty Council. She helped draft the student Bill of Rights, which she said helped give students ownership of their education.

She is now working on — and she said she planned to continue if elected — improving the advising and adviser facilities.

She said she had established the Student Adviser Committee and planned to make sure that this open committee continued.

Advising needs reform, Brandenburg

said. Advisers need to spend more time with students, and students need to have access to advisers earlier, like at C-TOPS, she said.

Brandenburg has a five-plank platform: academics, human relations, environment, University services and student government.

She would also like to introduce a co-op program where students can receive credit for paid internships.

Brandenburg said she hoped to begin a statewide human relations summit.

She also said she wanted to make recycling easier.

"We need more recycling bins. We should have bins for cans, newspapers, glass and plastic in the Union, at least."

If elected, Brandenburg plans to increase security by expanding the lighting between South Campus and Kenan Stadium. She also said she wanted more dorms to be kept open during holidays.

Brandenburg said that if she were elected, she would sit down with every Congress member as soon as everyone was sworn in and would establish relationships because "everyone must work together for the government to be successful."

Brandenburg is a member of the Honor Court, the Committee on Student Conduct and Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. As an N.C. Fellow, she set up a conference for the chancellor selection committee to discuss criteria and qualifications for the new chancellor.

## Calvin Cunningham

BY NANCY FONTI  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Calvin Cunningham said that if he is elected as the next student body president, his goal will be to communicate the needs of the students to the University's new chancellor and to the N.C. General Assembly.

"This is going to be an important year for student government," according to Cunningham, a senior from Lexington who is majoring in political science and philosophy.

"There's a lot of talk of budget cuts and tuition raises coming from the General Assembly, and I think student government needs to be in a strong position to receive a new chancellor."

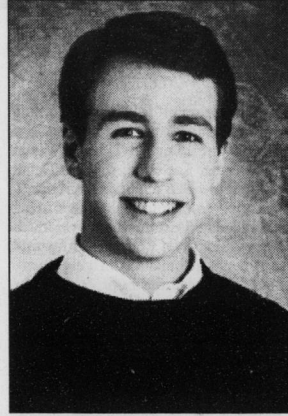
Cunningham, who transferred here from Vanderbilt University, said he had been involved with student government for two years at UNC.

Cunningham is currently the vice president of the Association of Student Governments and acts as the assistant chief of staff to present Student Body President George Battle.

Cunningham also was State Relations Co-coordinator during former Student Body President Jim Copland's administration.

"My ambitions and interests have culminated in my desire to run," Cunningham said.

"Student government doesn't need to



be embodied in conflicts like it was last year," he added.

"With proper communication within student government, we would satisfy a lot of conflicts."

Cunningham said that his platform would include items like re-evaluating the advising system and making the information superhighway more accessible to students.

"There are a lot of problems with the University, and student government has a responsibility to try to communicate the needs of students to the University," he

said. But the biggest responsibility of the student body president, Cunningham said, is maintaining open communication with the students in order for the student body president to represent them all well throughout the year.

"There are two chief roles for student government," he said.

"One is to be an advocate for students, and the other is to be a service provider for students."

"Suite Chas always tried to maintain an open-door policy," according to Cunningham.

"I want to continue to listen to what the concerns are — both personally and as part of the administration."

Cunningham also said that he planned to foster openness through an on-line campus calendar that would be sponsored by the executive branch of student government.

"The increased communication will help student government know what the students want," Cunningham said.

"I think the student body's perception of student government is somewhat ambivalent," he said.

"This year has been bogged down by petty politics, and I think that the student body has tuned student government out," Cunningham said.

He added, "One way to overcome that is to focus on the big problems facing the University."

## Robert Simes

BY ADAM GUSMAN  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Robert Simes, a junior political science major from Shelter Island, N.Y., is running for the student body presidency with a campaign plan to bring marked changes to the way student government is currently run.

A resident assistant in Hinton James, Simes considers himself to be an outsider to student government.

But he said he thought that would help him bring wholesale changes to the way student government operated if he were elected.

Simes said his first goal would be to change the way Suite C operated.

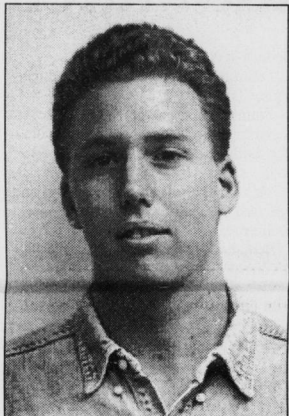
"I would staff Suite C at peak hours — between 10 and 4 — with either Cabinet members or volunteers," according to Simes.

Simes said he thought someone should be there to address student concerns.

"This gives students a feeling of knowing what's going on. Right now, students don't even know where Suite C is, and we need more student involvement," Simes said.

Simes also said that he would also mandate that Student Congress representatives meet twice a semester with their constituents.

Simes also proposed the creation of a liaison position between Student Congress



and the executive branch, which could possibly be in the form of a joint committee.

"I would ensure that the student body president and his liaison staff are at every Student Congress meeting," he said.

"It promotes the idea of caring, of an open student government that's effective."

Simes said that, if he wins the race, he would appoint two vice presidents, one who would focus on undergraduate concerns and one for those of graduate students.

He said he thought the most important issues facing student government were the lack of student involvement and the inaccessibility of leadership.

"The more people I talk to, the more I hear, 'I don't know what's going on.' My concern is the student body, and ensuring that the student government addresses their concerns," Simes said.

He said his administration would also focus on revising the UNC Student Government Code to make it understandable and concise.

As for accessibility, he said he would try to hold talks in the Pit twice a semester and to write monthly columns in The Daily Tar Heel.

"We would make it easier for people to get in touch with Cabinet members so they can get involved."

Simes said the new chancellor should also be accessible to students.

"Let's get the new chancellor down in the Pit talking to students," he said. "The chancellor should be a recognized person on campus."

He also said that faculty salaries needed to be addressed.

"Our peer institutions pay faculty much more than we pay."

In general, Simes said, his administration would stress communication and openness.

"We're going to get people together and share ideas."

## Andrew France

BY NANCY FONTI  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Andrew France said that if he is elected to be the next student body president he will try to set a tone of tolerance toward all ideas within student government leadership.

France, a junior majoring in math and political science, said he is currently a member of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, the Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies, and the Carolina Academic team.

"I have always avoided running for office in those organizations," France said. "This is kind of a paradoxical thing for me."

However, France said that he had followed student government for the past two years.

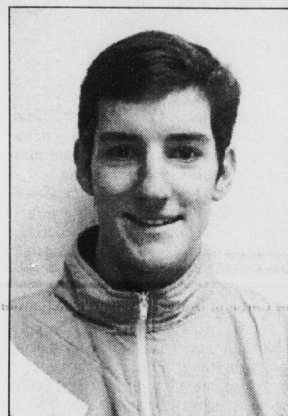
He added that he had noted, from his observations, that most of the members of student government took themselves too seriously.

"As a result, when they don't agree with someone else they bring up ethical charges instead of trying to resolve the problem," he said.

If elected, France said he planned to appoint Jeanne Fugate as his vice president.

Fugate is a junior majoring in English from Ocala, Fla.

He said that although they had different



moral values, ideologies and opinions, they remained friends and were able to share ideas.

France said he hoped tolerance would set the mode of student government under his administration.

"I guess our vision is to follow this type of lead and get things accomplished instead of paralyzing the system by bickering," he said.

"We have different friends from different backgrounds," France said.

"If they see Andrew France and Jeanne

Fugate working together, that may send a message.

"Part of it is inherent within Jeanne and within me," he added.

"We haven't grown into a student government culture that pushes papers around and talks only to certain groups," France added.

France also said that if he were elected he would be open to all students and student organizations.

"I have a lot of friends with no power sways of any type. Most people in student government have run since their freshman year and have only made the friends they need," he said.

Although France did not comment specifically on his platform, he said that if he were elected, he would cooperate with Student Congress.

"We all know that while student body president is a powerful position, it is not to keep huge promises," France said.

"If we are in this position and an avenue opens to make an improvement in student leadership, we will exercise towards it," he said.

He also said he wanted to serve as a voice for students who, like himself, had never been involved with student government.

"I'm very open to talking to people, and I make time for people," France said.

"I don't look at how important a person is before I hang out with them."

## Fiumara and Berkaw

BY NANCY FONTI  
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

When Fiumara and Jeff Berkaw said that if they were elected to serve as joint student body presidents they would be able to represent different viewpoints and keep each other from grabbing for too much personal power.

"It's a big job, but with two people working together, we'll get more accomplished," said Fiumara, a public policy major from Montgomery, Ala.

"The main focus of student government should be the whole campus, and there are many different issues," said Berkaw, a business administration major from Detroit.

"As two candidates, maybe we'll be able to represent both sides of the issues," he added.

Berkaw is a resident assistant in Ehringhaus Residence Hall. Fiumara is a member of the Honor Court and chairwoman of the Honors Advisory Board.

"I think it will be good to have two people as student body president," Fiumara said.

"If for some reason we did come to some conflict, we would have to compromise, and this would only help us to represent the student body better."

Berkaw and Fiumara said their decision to run for joint student body presidents rather than as single candidates had come from their dissatisfaction with past student government issues.

"I was on the Honor Court when John Dervin (was rejected), and I was really upset with the politics," Fiumara said.

"It was then the seed was planted — student government shouldn't be about



politics; it should be about getting things done."

"There is a general stigma attached to student government that there is a lot of bickering," he said.

"It is more like a real government as opposed to a student government," Berkaw added.

If elected, Berkaw and Fiumara said they planned to attend meetings of campus organizations to get an idea of what the organizations needed from student government.

"It is important that we open it up to more people and get more people to care," Berkaw said.

"There are a lot of people who whine about it, and I guess we just decided to do something about it."

Berkaw also said they would try to improve communication between students

and the administration if elected.

"Being co-SBPs we would be more accessible. With two people there are 48 hours in the day as opposed to only 24," he said.

Accountability should be a big concern of the student body president, Berkaw and Fiumara said. Since Berkaw lives on campus and Fiumara lives in an apartment, both off-campus and campus housing issues will be represented, they said.

As co-student body presidents, Fiumara and Berkaw said they would be able to keep the decision-making processes in check.

"I could see some people taking office as student body president and really taking off on a power trip," Berkaw said.

"But with two, I think the consensus really kicks in, and it will make sure both sides of the issue are covered."

## Williams and Garner

BY JAY STONE  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Williams and Kelly Jo Garner hope to serve as the University's first co-student body presidents. They said this campaign might be challenged by some people.

"At this point, we've decided to retain our co-presidency status," Garner said. "If people decide to challenge it, we will defend it."

Williams said that if it were decided that they could not run as co-presidents then he would run for president and Garner would be his vice president.

Williams said they had decided to run as co-presidents because they felt his experience in student government would combine well with Garner's student perspective.

"Kelly and I originally decided to run because ... we both feel that there is a lot that student government can still do for students," Williams said.

"We feel it's important that 'Joe Student' run rather than the stereotypical idea of a politician running," he said.

Williams said that his experience with student government began when he was a freshman and that he had been active ever since.

He worked for student body president Jim Copland on the Committee for Race Relations and Minority Concerns. He also served on the chancellor's committee for minority concerns and disadvantaged students.

Last year, he worked with the Elections Board, assisting and working in the polls.

"Under George Battle, I was a member of the information and technology task force and assisted on various other techno-



logically oriented projects in Suite C," he said.

Garner said that she had no formal experience with student government but that she could help to bring a student's perspective to the position.

"Michael and I can bring a different perspective and be the unifiers of this campus."

Williams and Garner do plan some sweeping changes in student government but want to fine-tune their ideas, they said.

"We're believers in the system," Williams said. "We believe reform can happen within the system and that student government has the potential to do more for students."

One idea Williams and Garner will lobby for is what they call e-mail advising. They said that if they could bring this idea to UNC, students would have greater acces-

sibility to information they currently received from their advisers. They also plan to publish a monthly newsletter that keeps the students informed on the "state of the campus."

Williams and Garner said they had been active in many different student groups that fought for student rights.

Williams served as the advertising manager of the Lambda in 1991 and is an active member of B-GLAD.

He said he had worked on several projects with the Asian Students Association. Both are N.C. Teaching Fellows, and Garner serves as a secretary in that program.

Williams, from Horse Shoe, is a junior middle grades education major specializing in mathematics and social studies.

Garner is a junior French education major from Winston-Salem.