



# Congress hopefuls want to make changes

### District 1

Mark Kleinschmidt, a first-year law student from Carrboro, is the only student running for Student Congress in the district. District 1 has two seats which represent the School of Law and the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Kleinschmidt said he wanted to improve communication between Congress and professional students.

"The lack of communication keeps professional students unknowledgeable of campus issues," he said.

Kleinschmidt also said he wanted Congress to distribute funds to students and organizations in the most responsible and efficient manner.

### District 2

David Ruddell and Punita Hanspal are running for the one available seat in District 2, which represents the graduate schools of Education, Social Work and Journalism and Mass Communication.

Ruddell is a first-year graduate student from Ontario, Canada. His major is material science. He said his service in the University of Toronto's student government was good experience.

One of Ruddell's goals is to improve the voice of graduate students in Congress. Ruddell said because many issues considered in Congress affected graduate students, he wanted to ensure that graduate students were represented.

Hanspal is a first-year graduate student studying social work.

Hanspal said she wanted to decrease factions within Congress to make it more productive. She also said she wanted graduate students to remain involved in student government.

"It will be a major task to ensure graduate students participate and remain active within the University's student government," Hanspal said.

### District 10

Cianti Stewart-Reid is the lone student running for the one available seat in District 10, which represents Spencer, Alderman, Kenan, McIver, Graham and Stacey residence halls.

Stewart-Reid is a freshman from Charlotte. She is majoring in political science and international studies.

She said her leadership roles in her high school's National Honor Society chapter and student government qualified her for the position.

Stewart-Reid said there was a lack of communication between students and Congress. She said she would like to increase communication through newsletters and forums, increase lighting on campus and increase patrols Point-2-Point shuttle stops.

### District 11

Morayo Orija, a junior political science major from Gastonia, is the only student running for the one seat in District 11. The district represents Cobb, Everett and Lewis residence halls.

She said she had the ability to communicate with all types of people and could relate to others with different

views and goals.

Orija said she wanted more students to have a voice in student government.

She said she took pride in self-governance and wanted to encourage other students to take an initiative. One of her goals is to make students aware of the "pool of information and opportunities they have in student government."

### District 12

Nathan Stowe is the only student running for the one available seat in District 12. The district includes Alexander, Joyner, Winston, Aycock and Connor residence halls. Stowe could not be reached for comment.

### District 13

Three students are running for the one available seat in District 13 which represents Grimes, Manly, Mangum, Ruffin, Old East, Old West and Whitehead residence halls.

John Henning Jr. is a sophomore from Franklin. Henning said he is interested in the Division of Student Affairs and would like to make improvements.

Henning said he opposed a suggestion to convert Old East and Old West residence halls into merit-based housing. "Everybody deserves a shot to live there, including women," he said.

Henning also said he wanted to reform the Caroline registration system.

"Caroline is an enemy and hindrance to students," he said. Henning said his goal was to make registration easier for students and would consider other options, such as online registration.

Arnold also said he wanted to improve familiarity and accessibility of Congress members. "The problem with Congress and its image is that among most of the student body, it doesn't have one (an image)," he said.

Rashad Hussain is a freshman philosophy major. Hussain said he had the ability to recognize students' needs.

He said his main goal was to establish a more visible Congress. He also wanted to ensure that the main concerns of the students were addressed.

One possible way of approaching this issue is to publicize the issues Congress discusses, he said.

### District 14

Seven students are running for the two available seats in District 14. The district represents Parker, Carmichael, Teague and Avery residence halls.

Joy Ganes is a freshman from Bay Shore, N.Y. She is a political science and English double-major. "I'm new to the system, but I'm willing to work hard to make (Congress) better," she said.

She said one of her goals was to improve security on campus. She also said she wanted to improve poorly lit areas and increase the number of emergency call boxes.

Ganes said she wanted to amend

some of the procedures for fund allocation to organizations.

She said Congress should host an open session each semester for students.

Luke Meisner is a junior from Bangladesh. He is majoring in philosophy and religion.

He serves as secretary of the UNITAS living/learning program and said the experience made him qualified for a Congress seat. Meisner said he wanted to improve the process of fund allocation to organizations.

He said he would like to extend the time Congress takes to make these decisions, publicize the time allotments to organizations and improve communication with the Finance Committee.

Mandy Greene is a sophomore philosophy and physics major from Raleigh. She said she wanted to introduce resolutions that would make a difference. One issue she said she would like to address is student fee allocation. Greene said she wanted the fee allocation process to be fair and respectful.

"I will work long and hard in committee to ensure that Congress passes well-thought, well-researched and beneficial resolutions," she said.

Casey Privette is a freshman from Nashville majoring in political science.

Privette said his participation in sports and student organizations has prepared him for this position.

He said one problem in Congress is voter bias. "People are not voting for the good of the school, just their particular group," he said.

Privette said he wanted to improve the dispersion of funds to student groups. One goal is to help the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center raise funds.

Neil Vendrick is a sophomore from New Bern majoring in political science.

Vendrick said good communication between students and their representatives was crucial. He said his ideas included setting up an e-mail listserv and suggestion boxes in the four District 14 residence halls.

"I believe increased accessibility to the press and those Congress represents are key in improving Congress' image and effectiveness," Vendrick said.

He also wanted to improve the fee allocation process by extending its duration and increase the accountability of organizations' use of funds, he said.

Rebecca Gumbiner is a junior international studies major from Greensboro. She said her training in counseling and mediation made her qualified for the position.

Her main goal is to represent the concerns of students fairly and make the campus a better place for everyone. Some of her ideas for achieving this are hosting open houses, Internet posting and press releases.

"Students need to know what their representatives are doing in their behalf. By letting students know what is going on, the students will be able to get involved," she said.

Candidate Shervin Shafa could not be reached for comment.

### District 15

One student is running for one of the two available seats in District 15 which represents Ehringhaus and Craig residence halls.

Brad Morrison is a junior from Vidalia, Ga. He has served in Congress for two years. He said that as a South Campus resident, he knew what was needed. Morrison also said he wanted to keep student fees increases minimal and eliminate political bickering.

### District 16

Seven students are running for three available seats in District 16. This district includes Hinton James and

Morrison residence halls and Odum Village.

Matt Martin is a freshman business major from Raleigh. Martin said he wanted to give students more power in deciding where their student fees go.

"The current system needs to be revised to keep up with changing times," Martin said.

The first step in reform was to make students aware of important campus issues, he said. One possible suggestion was for members of Congress to go door-to-door when important issues are discussed in Congress, he said.

"I will work to increase awareness of upcoming issues, so students will have an opportunity to express themselves before it is too late," Martin said.

Evan Sloan is a freshman from Reidsville. His major is undecided. He said one of his goals was to make fund allocation fair and unbiased.

"It is time for Congress to stop being secretive and devious and start listening to how the people want their money to be spent," Sloan said.

He also said he wanted to expand the role of Congress and make the Student Code more understandable and concise.

Sloan said he planned to make Congress representative of all students and hold forums to determine the interests of students. "I hope that Student Congress can once again participate in the true form of democracy, which is service to the people."

Preston Smith is a freshman political science major from Rialto, Calif. He said he is running to put student government in touch with the needs of Hinton James and Morrison residents.

"My mission is to get what Hinton James and Morrison want," Smith said. "If I can get people involved, then they will be happy about what is going on in their community."

Smith said he was dedicated to his constituents and would hold general meetings in the first-floor lounge of Hinton James if elected. He also said he planned to distribute mail to students in the district to keep them informed.

Hassan Kingsberry is a freshman public policy major from Henderson. He said he is running because he is concerned about what is going on in student government and he wants to join.

"Student government is an important part of our way of life, and I want to make it highly visible," Kingsberry said.

Frank Torti is a freshman from Winston-Salem. His major is undecided. Torti wants to improve student government, particularly in the area of distributing student fees. "We all pay student fees, and so I think they should be distributed to more groups," Torti said.

Torti said he would also like to improve communication between Congress members and constituents and publicize Congress' activities.

Patrick Frye, a freshman political science major from Charlotte, said he became interested in running for Student Congress by being treasurer for the Catalyst literary magazine.

"I've been going through the process of requesting money from Congress, and it's very complicated," Frye said. "I think I could simplify it, even if it meant re-writing the Student Code."

Frye said it bothered him that there was often a surplus of money.

"I really think I could help with finances," he said. "It's what I know."

Joanna Agosta, a junior journalism and mass communication major from Catawba, said she decided to run after living on South Campus for three years and concluding the area was neglected.

Agosta said the housekeeping situation posed a real problem.

"From talking to the housekeepers, I understand the University tries to limit

the number of housekeepers they hire," she said. "There's also a high absentee rate. Things just don't get clean, and it needs to be addressed."

Agosta said she would also like to institute a reverse U-Bus route.

"We even still have Hurricane Fran problems that have not been cleared up," she said. "I think the administrators have forgotten that we're here."

### District 17

There are three students running for the two seats in District 17, which includes Granville Towers.

Martin Warf is a sophomore biology and political science double-major from Winston-Salem.

He said he became interested in Congress after talking to the district's two representatives this year. "I've always enjoyed government, and I thought I'd give running a try," he said.

Warf said he would like to see the partisan politics in Congress resolved.

"They just don't need to be a part of student government," he said. "It is best to set political differences aside and get to the issues. Congress needs to be less coalitionist."

Brad Worley, a junior political science and American studies major from Henderson, said he was running because he wanted to get involved and hoped it would be a good experience.

Worley said he would work to get more left-handed desks in classrooms if he were elected.

Rebecca Richardson, a freshman biology major from Winston-Salem, said she thought running for Congress would be the best way to have an impact on a big school.

"I'd like to make Granville more of a part of Congress," she said. "It's a lot more isolated than it really should be, and I'd like to see it get more involved."

### District 19

There are five candidates running for three seats in District 19. This includes the area north of East Franklin Street, east of Columbia Street/Airport Road and south of Estes Drive.

Al Adams is a sophomore communication studies major from Fayetteville.

Adams said he was running because he saw a need for off-campus leadership in Congress.

"I just didn't see any leadership coming forward from off-campus districts," he said. "Some districts didn't even have anyone running. I feel I could make a contribution."

Adams said that if elected, he would dedicate himself to being accessible to the people of his district. Adams said he had no specific plans for Congress but wanted to alleviate factional battles.

"Of times Congress gets mired down in factional battles," he said. "This happens in any type of leadership, but it needs to be alleviated in order to be more effective."

David Fleming is a sophomore English and communication studies major from New Bern.

Fleming said he would like to improve communication between students and the University administration.

"We don't have much of a voice, which is not as it should be, since we are the ones paying the bills," he said.

He said he thought publicizing student candidate forums was a step in the right direction.

"A way Congress could improve communication would be to create a bi-weekly newsletter about Student Congress activities," Fleming said.

Fleming also said there needed to be some answers, rather than just questions, about the intellectual climate. He said he thought Congress could assist by giving freshmen an orientation to all the activities they could join.

Monica Lowe, a junior psychology major from Asheville, said she would like to experience political life on campus. "I'm curious what goes on behind the scenes in student government."

Lowe said she wants to smooth tur-

moil along party lines in Congress, especially between graduate and undergraduate students.

"A lot of things going on within Congress are self-defeating, and partisanship is one of them," she said.

Lindsay Whitfield is a sophomore political science major from Baton Rouge, La. She would like to get experience by serving in a public body.

Whitfield said one of her ideas was to place a bulletin board at a strategic location where members of the constituency could voice concerns and stay informed about Congressional activities.

Whitfield said she would also like to work on the appropriation process to ensure groups knew the process before the budget hearings began.

Clayton Voignier, a political science and economics major from Winston-Salem, said he was running for Congress because of his interest in government. "I plan to go to law school and become a state senator, or even a federal one," he said. "It's an area of work I really feel called to."

Voignier said one of his plans was to institute a voucher system, which would allow each student discretion about where to spend \$5 of his student funds that go to student government.

### District 21

Two candidates are running for three seats in District 21. This district includes the area bound by Columbia Street, West Franklin Street, Jones Ferry Road and Highway 54 Bypass.

Jason Cowley is a freshman political science major from Charlotte.

Cowley said he would like to work on making the fund allocation process run more fairly and smoothly.

"I would like to institute some sort of budget reform," he said. "Also, I would like to see Congress as a whole break out of its traditional role as keeper of the purse strings and move to more positive, activist ideas."

Cowley said he would like to use the Internet to enhance communication between himself and constituents.

Ryan Schlitt is a sophomore political science major from Memphis, Tenn. He currently represents District 21.

Schlitt said his experience in Congress has been a good one and that he would like to continue his role on the Finance Committee next year. "I feel that I have had one year to learn the ropes, and I would like another one to really make a difference and lead the newly elected members," he said.

Schlitt said his experience on the Finance Committee had given him some ideas for next year.

He said he would like to institute a speaker fund for money to draw big-name speakers to campus. The fund would be different from the normal student fund allocation.

"We also just need to find some other sources of funding for student groups," Schlitt said. "This year we had 90 groups request \$430,000 in funds and only had \$196,000 to allocate."

### District 23

Two candidates are running in District 23, which includes the area east of Columbia Street and Airport Road and north of East Franklin Street, with the exception of District 19.

Kory Flowers is a junior political science major from Madison. He said he would like the experience of being involved in Student Congress. "I'd like to say I know where my dad's money is spent," he said. "I'm also just looking to get involved as a resume builder."

Flowers said he was looking forward to working with the upcoming student fee allocation.

Emily Waldon is a sophomore history major. She could not be reached for comment.

The following districts have no candidates running: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18, 20 and 22.

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