

# Relationships define time as SBP

Carson knew how to put people first

BY BRIAN AUSTIN AND KATE SULLIVAN  
STAFF WRITERS

She came in as an unknown candidate.

With almost no student government experience, Eve Carson led her administration with a cheerful demeanor and a passion for students.

"Eve was a person who liked to motivate others, and she was a person who liked to brainstorm a lot," Student Body Secretary Mac Mollison said. "She was always excited about the projects she was working on, and that excitement spread to the people she was working with."

The challenges she faced coming into the position influenced her decision to surround herself with a diverse Cabinet and what became something she described as an "incredibly close-knit group."

Even with a capable staff working with her, she kept a close eye on what was going on in her administration, making sure plans embodied her vision.

"She still had her hand in many of her projects," said Lauren Anderson, Graduate and Professional Student Federation president. "She wanted to know what's going on and if she could help."

Her infectious personality and trademark smile became the characteristics that made her a familiar face to students all across campus — even to those who didn't know her.

"Eve wanted to make sure that you were taken care of as a person before she addressed how your position was," Student Body Treasurer Jordan Myers said.

Carson had three big goals for her administration as student body president, but the largest was to be a voice for the students, bettering the UNC community for her peers.

Her administration has less than a month left in office to finish the goals she outlined more than a year ago, many of which are already in the works. But she recently said she had to re-evaluate her plan so that she could prioritize what she wanted to accomplish before passing the torch.

The team took a firm stance on the issue of priority registration, opposing it on the grounds that it wasn't equal for all students.

"It was sure obvious she had run an aggressive, effective and concerned administration for the students," Chairman of the Board of Trustees Roger Perry said.

She also got involved in town affairs by championing the cause to keep one-stop voting close to campus to make it easier for students to vote in municipal elections in November. One issue — installing blue lights off campus — had been on the student government agenda for years and finally came to fruition under Carson's guidance.

The team also has made strides on all three of Carson's big campaign goals.

The junior-year scholarship Carson wanted to establish will become a reality next year, and Carson's spring music festival was merged with SpringFest to help bring Boz II Men to campus in April.

The speaker for the inaugural big-name lecture series Carson outlined in her platform has not yet been announced, though it was chosen several weeks ago. The series will receive financial backing from the Dean of Students' Office, with the goal of creating an endowment to support it.

Throughout her term, Carson has made the president position her own, imbuing student government with a fresh outlook.

"She wasn't constrained by the conventional ways that we typically attack problems in student government," senior adviser Christie Cunningham said, a sentiment echoed by many in Carson's Cabinet.

That became an asset to Carson because she had to think outside the box. And the way she chose to pursue policy was to seek student input.

From creating online forums to new advisory committees to several student surveys, Carson never stopped asking for participation.

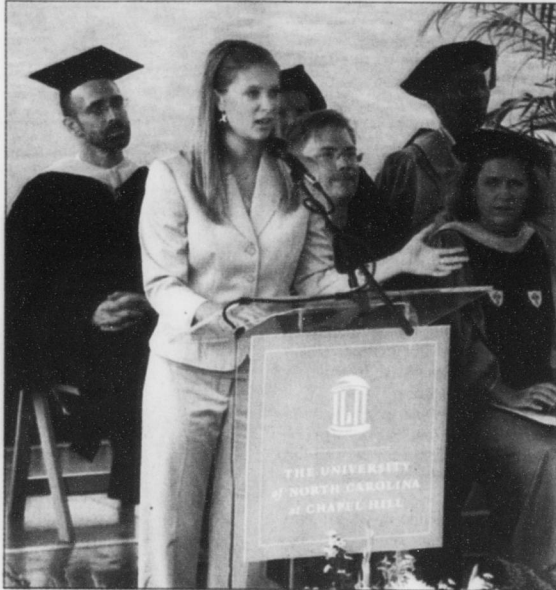
When students disagreed with some faculty about the Achievement Index, Carson's administration coordinated a petition in protest to the proposal.

And after employees and faculty had all but signed off on the smoking policy, Carson still held several forums for students to voice their thoughts on the matter.

Myers said the administration will continue to complete the goals



Eve Carson, pictured during her inauguration as student body president in April 2007, wanted to be the voice for UNC students. Carson's administration now has less than a month left in office to work on her plans.



Carson, pictured at the class of 2010 Convocation in August, was a member of the chancellor search committee and Board of Trustees.

and projects the administration has worked toward in the coming month, while also commemorating her contribution to the University community.

"If the next administration really picks up the issues that Eve picked up, I think that would continue Eve's legacy," Myers said.

Despite not completing all of the projects she intended to, she accomplished her biggest goal of connecting students with student

leaders.

"She really reached out to people, and she touched people. She filled them with a sense that they can accomplish wonderful things," Mollison said.

"She was there to help you do that. I think that Eve was not just a leader, but she was a friend to everyone she worked with."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## There is only one Eve Carson



MARGARET JABLONSKI  
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

It is with a very sad heart that I write this column at the end of a tragic day in Chapel Hill. Over the course of 27 years of working in student affairs, I have had the privilege to get to know and (try to) advise and mentor many student leaders.

There was only one Eve Carson, however, and she touched me deeply. Eve was not just an outstanding student leader at Carolina, involved in too many organizations to begin to list here.

She was a passionate advocate of a holistic education, in and out of the classroom. She learned from engagement with life — through public service projects; travel abroad; creating new programs and initiatives on campus; and by meeting many of you, our students, faculty and staff in her four years at Carolina.

When Eve saw a need on campus, in the local community or somewhere in the world, she brought her intellect, energy and compassion to bear upon the situation.

She believed passionately in making a difference each and every day. She wanted to change the world, and I was convinced that she would. She collaborated with others on campus to form coalitions to get things done. She had such a radiant light within herself that was projected out and around her into everything that she touched.

I have never met anyone quite like Eve, who could be so positive and determined in the face of difficult odds. She was a bright and talented student who had the whole world at her feet. We had recently talked about all her options for her future, and I must admit, I wanted to be 22 again and share her dreams and adventures with her.

Her life and death have touched many thousands, yet so many of us also are touched personally because she took the time to get to know each of us. I am blessed to have known Eve as a friend, as well as the student body president I worked with each and every week.

In the course of our careers we meet many students. There are a few that leave an indelible print upon our souls. Eve is one of those few.

Blessings Eve, until we meet again.

### Carson's committees

As student body president, Eve Carson served as the students' voice on many boards and committees, and in the coming weeks some will have to make important decisions without her.

According to the Student Code, "in the event of the incapacity of the president of the student body to carry out the duties of her office, the student body vice president shall become acting student body president until such time as a special election can be held."

With less than a month until the inauguration of incoming Student Body President J.J. Raynor, there is not enough time for a special election.

Although no committee has a set plan for how to proceed, here are a few ideas some of the committees have come up with:

#### Chancellor search committee

► Position: One of 21 members who will nominate three candidates for UNC's next chancellor.

► What will happen?: Committee Chairman Nelson Schwab said that the committee will move forward with its discussions and that it is considering inviting Raynor to serve in Carson's place.

"It leaves a hole in the committee that can't be replaced," Schwab said. "We have to continue our work... We will move forward, but we will certainly remember her as we do."

#### Cabinet selection committee

► Position: One of three permanent members who nominate students for the incoming student body president's Cabinet.

► What will happen?: The powers given to the student body vice president to serve as acting president include filling the position on the selection committee.

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