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## Hilltopics: Volume 4, Issue 9

Hilltopics Staff

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# HILLTOPICS

SPECIAL EXTENDED ELECTIONS EDITION  
<http://www.smu.edu/univhonors/Hilltopics>

volume four, issue 9  
week of february 18, 2008

## INSIDE this issue

**Senate:** Ever wonder what Student Senate does for you? The current President and Vice-President explain why it's important to vote, page 2.

**Candidates:** Don't know many of the candidates? *Hilltopics* is here to help. Inside this issue we have listed bio's submitted by this years candidates.

**Elections:** Don't like to make decisions? That's okay; *Hilltopics* endorsements will tell you who to vote for, page 8.

## SENATE

SMU's future is in your hands, so don't drop the ball. Vote in the Student Body Elections this Wednesday-Thursday!

[www.smu.edu/elections](http://www.smu.edu/elections)



## A letter from the *Hilltopics* Editorial Board

For the second year in a row, *Hilltopics* has decided to devote an entire issue to the upcoming student body elections. In this issue you will find endorsements, commentary from our current student body president and vice president, and the words of the candidates themselves. As I type this, candidates are now spending a significant amount of their own time and money in search of votes and a seat among the putative decision makers at this university. Yet in spite of all the enthusiasm and effort of these candidates, a majority of SMU students will fail to take two minutes to vote. So why is *Hilltopics* spilling so much ink over something that so many students will ignore?

For better or worse, the people elected this week will represent the student body to administrators, to faculty members, and to the larger world. The winners of these elections, especially the new president, vice-president, and secretary, will be asked to become the face of SMU students. They will be asked to provide input and ideas to improve our university and our lives. For these reasons, the *Hilltopics* editorial board has decided that it our responsibility to make sure that each student is informed about the elections. To this end we have given each candidate space in this issue to explain their qualifications and their goals if they are elected to office. The editorial board also met with every candidate running for the three student body officer positions of president, vice president, and secretary in order to see if there were any that we could endorse. Those interviews were enlightening and formed the basis of our endorsements. As always, we focused on academics and student life at SMU by asking about the recommendations of the Task Force, academic standards, and social life at SMU. Ultimately, we found a candidate for each position that we could confidently endorse.

This special issue is meant help you make an informed decision about who you want to represent SMU. The people that we elect this week will become the face of the student body, and so we need to ensure we choose wisely. Read the qualifications and promises of each candidate. Think about whether they seem like someone you can trust. Seek out other people's opinions. Decide if any of these candidates are capable of truly representing needs and concerns. Finally and most importantly, remember to vote.

*Hilltopics* Editorial Board

Special Note: James Longhofer, the Editor-in-Chief, excused himself from all endorsement interviews and deliberations because of his position as Student Senate Parliamentarian. Because of his position in Senate and personal knowledge of the candidates, Mr. Longhofer did not think it would be fair to be involved in the endorsement process.

## Current Student Body Officers Encourage Students to Get Out and Vote in the Upcoming SBO Elections

by Katherine Tullos and Bethany Peters

We, as student leaders, often hear people complain about a certain aspect of SMU or that they would like something to be changed. However, the problem is that some students don't step up and change something when we, the students, actually have so much power. Everyone should vote for those students that implement change for all students on campus.

Take a second to think about something you would like to change at SMU. Have you ever thought about how high the tuition increases are? Would you like to have a pub on campus? Do you like having a Fall Break? If you care about any of these issues or any other issues, then you should vote. Research your candidates. Think of what you would do if you had the power to change anything on campus. Vote for the candidates that have similar goals. Why? Because it affects you. And knowing who you're voting for is just as important as voting.

Additionally, our university is at a time of change and this is an integral time to vote for your next Student Senate representatives. Considering all the exciting things at SMU, such as the Centennial Campaign, the Bush library, and the Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention, this is



the time to have student leaders that are committed to representing YOU and your interests. There are many different ways for your next Student Body Officers and senators to make a difference on our campus. Become part of the solution for change on our campus and vote for your student leaders.

This past year, Student Senate has initiated having fall break again for next year. We have addressed your concerns about alcohol and drug use on campus. We communicated your issues about your experiences with academic advising. We have brought in numerous administrators, faculty, and staff to discuss these topics and more in Student Senate.

Take a five minute break from that philosophy essay and vote. Go out five minutes later next week so you can vote. Vote instead of looking at facebook in your next class. Vote for your friends. Vote for that person in your economics class. JUST VOTE.

VOTE OR DIE. BECAUSE IT CAN'T HURT TO TRY. That's what they said. - Vote online at [smu.edu/elections](http://smu.edu/elections) on February 20th at 12:00 am to February 21st at 7:00 pm.

Katherine Tullos is the current Student Body President and Bethany Peters is the current Student Body Vice-President.

**Do you have an opinion about...** politics, music, class, television, football, shopping, intramurals, fraternities, movies, tests, the Mavs, sex, restaurants, religion, sororities, driving, study abroad, Umphrey Lee, fashion, news, the war, parking, technology, magazines, bars, baseball, the weather, professors, the Mustang Band, dating, books, nightclubs, Texas, the Daily Campus, pets, club sports, or anything else ?

**we're listening at [hilltopics@gmail.com](mailto:hilltopics@gmail.com)**

## Candidates for Student Senate Body Officers

*Hilltopics invited each Student Body Officer candidate to submit a 500 word biography. We've published exactly what they sent us.*

### **Student Body President**

#### **Lamar Dowling**

Hello my fellow SMU students. My name is Lamar Dowling and I am currently running for Student Body President. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of serving SMU as the Student Body Secretary. This position has allowed me to learn a great deal about myself, grow a burning passion for SMU, and truly see how to effect positive change at our wonderful university. Throughout my involvement on campus, I have gained the experience, vision, and relational skills needed to properly carry out the duties of Student Body President. While being Student Body Secretary, I have been able to build close relationships with many organizations and members of the administration. Moreover, I have been able to meet and work with students from all walks of life and see the soul of the student body, the voice that can make a difference.



While there are many issues that need attention, there are three main issues that I want to address next year as Student Body President. First, we need to work to lower tuition and fees increases. Every year, our tuition and fees are raised almost 8%! While much of the money is going to make our university a better place, we have to work with the administration to find ways to creatively cut spending and make it more affordable for students to attend our great school. While some may think that this is impossible, I have learned much about the power of the student voice this year. After seeing the harsh effects of not having a Fall Break, I and the other Student Body Officers shared this student concern with the Faculty Senate, Provost, and the President and they listened! We got Fall Break back!! Our voice can be heard and we can make a difference.

Secondly we need an expansion/renovation of Hughes-Trigg Student Center. We truly need a student center that is not just a place we go for

meetings, but also a place that students can hang out - a true hub of student activities. While it is a wonderful facility, it does not foster an environment for "student life." Where are the couches, TV's, bowling lanes, late-night restaurants?

Lastly, we need to look at retention rates.

Too often we attract wonderful students to SMU but lose them after their first-year. This not only affects our monetary budget, but also our livelihood as an institution. We need to find ways not only to attract the smartest and brightest, but also keep them here to make a great impact on SMU and the future.

I do have many other issues I want to address. These are just a few that I feel need immediate attention

and will do a great deal to make our university a better place! With your support, you and I WILL make a difference at SMU. I would appreciate your support this Wednesday and Thursday and when voting remember, LAMAR is Raising the Bar... even HIGHER!

#### **Rob Hayden**

I charge each and every voter with three things for this election. The first is to vote! Exercise your right. The second and third are as follows; Elect Experience and Elect Your Issues. Once you have this down you can weigh the options and chose effectively.

When it comes to experiences on this campus, I have many. In service to the campus, I have fulfilled duties as a First-Year Senator, Dedman I Senator, and I currently serve as the Senate Chief of Staff. I sit on the Senate Executive Committee, the Dedman Undergraduate Curriculum Council and numerous other boards and committees. As far as personal work, I am a Hunt Leadership Scholar and member of the University Honors Program. This said, I do not truly believe that titles speak for

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the entirety of a person's ability to lead. They are concrete examples of aptitude but there's certainly more to it. I believe that the Student Body President must be a person with strong convictions, an understanding of the position's power, a passion for the University, and a willingness to properly and effectively represent student interest in any arena. I believe that I am that person; I believe that I am that candidate.

There are many goals that I would like to accomplish if I am elected and they are as follows. Make scholarships increase proportionally to tuition increases. If you arrive at SMU with a \$10,000 per year scholarship it is almost 1/3 of what you pay for the year, but if tuition increases so much that by the time you are a senior your scholarship is only worth 1/4 of what you must pay, something is wrong. Bait and switch? We're pricing our students out of an education. Second, I would like to get more out of the Health Center. In the Drug and Alcohol Task Force Recommendation H1) we begin to discuss this issue. It's a great start. We have to ask ourselves realistic questions. When are most SMU students going to the hospital? Thursday-Saturday nights. There are many other Universities that have 24 hour health centers so that students do not have to debate the severity of calling an ambulance when in a frightening situation, usually regarding alcohol. Why can't SMU offer a life saving service for students that is only feet from any residence hall on campus? Sometimes it's such a simple solution that can save a life. I want to address Retention Rates, Academic Advising, National Rankings, and the recruitment of minority students. Lastly, I want to form a complete breakdown of all of the other recommendations on the DATF list, but unfortunately I do not have space to here. Please visit my FACEBOOK.com group "Vote ROB HAYDEN! SMU Student Body President" to read more information.



Join! Invite friends! Feel free to prompt discussion by posting questions or comments regarding any of the material on my page. Email me with any questions (rhayden@smu.edu). I look forward to the opportunity to earn your vote!

Sincerely,

Rob

### Taylor Thornley

Taylor Thornley is TAYLORMade for Student Body President. Student life has always been important to me. I am currently a Student Senate Meadows

Senator. Last year I was SMU's Family Weekend Chair for Student Foundation. I have been involved with Alternative Spring Break and am on the executive board for my sorority, Pi Beta Phi. The summer after freshman year I was an AARO leader for the Office of New Student Programs and last year I was a Hilltop Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Through

my involvement in student activities I have had the opportunity to interact with faculty and students from across campus.

I believe every student needs to feel a sense of ownership in our university and finding out how to do so is essential to creating an active and engaged student body. It shouldn't just be about the first year experience, it should be about the four-year experience. We need to find out what needs to be done to shift students out of isolated groups and into one student body, from off-campus back onto campus and from an attitude of apathy to ownership. More emphasis on a four-year experience at SMU will help to foster a change in the campus culture and can be done a number of ways.

#### Advising

Advising programs should be consistent within every college, with advisors that are knowledgeable not only about their given department but

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how to advise outside of the department as well. Within the first year every student should create a four-year plan that is reviewed every semester with the advisor and updated as needed.

### *First Year Guidance Program*

SMU needs to create a new program in place of Week of Welcome - a year-long mentoring program between upperclassmen and new students. Having an older mentor will help keep new students engaged with campus life the entire year as they become more accustomed to college life and face greater challenges. And with older students more connected with new students it will keep upperclassmen engaged with the student body.

### *Creating a Gathering Place on Campus*

Hughes-Trigg has the potential to be a perfect gathering place for students outside of the classroom. Transforming SMU's student center from a place of business into a place for students can help create a campus culture that keeps students on campus and active in the student body. Encouraging students to use Hughes-Trigg and providing a welcoming gather place will bring students back onto campus and active in a building designed to be the home of student activities.

### *Bringing Students Back to Campus*

Students need to feel wanted and important. Every student needs to feel a sense of ownership in their education. We need to get the student body back onto campus and active and engaged in student life and the life of the university. And it starts the first day of school. Not just with the first year but with everyone.

For more information about my campaign please visit: <http://web.mac.com/taylorthornley>

## **Student Body Vice-President**

**Patrick Kobler**

**PATRICK KOBLER FOR STUDENT BODY VICE-PRESIDENT**

**PUTTING THE YOU BACK IN SMU!!!**

My name is Patrick Kobler and I am running for Student Body Vice-President to give everything I can back to the community and student body that has given me so much!

Over the past year and a half I have had the privilege of serving in many diverse organizations on campus. Currently, I serve as the Student Concerns Chair of the Student Senate. This position has afforded me the unique opportunity of hearing the many needs and desires of the student body. Whether an organization of 100 students approached me or one individual, I was able to hear the voices of the student body and make positive changes on campus. Today, I am ready to take that positive change to a new level by serving as YOUR

student body Vice-President. Additionally, I currently serve as the Vice-President of Operations for IFC, a position that has allowed me to gain a unique perspective of the Greek community, a community that, along with the rest of the student body, deserves strong leadership. While serving in these roles I:

1. Planned and moderated a town hall forum with the Task Force, an event that offered the Task Force a truthful perspective of the student body.
2. Researched and fought for implementation of the Good Samaritan Act and Medical Amnesty, two policies that would protect the safety of every student.
3. Pushed for an on-campus bar to be established!
4. Fought to improve the quality and healthiness of on campus food.
5. Pushed for fairer and better parking.
6. Smoothly ran a new committee that had absorbed both the Environmental and Diversity Committees. But this is only the beginning because as Student Body Vice-President I plan to:

1. IMPROVE CAMPUS SAFETY THROUGH REALISTIC APPROACHES including:

Implementing the Good Samaritan Act and Medical Amnesty Policy.

Fight to keep bus parties because they are not only fun but, more importantly, they are SAFE! Doing away with passive participation because punishing responsibility is wrong!

Fighting for the establishment of an on-campus bar

2. HOLD UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE STUDENT BODY by:

Improving the advising program once and for all.

Fighting to lower the rate of tuition increases

Pushing for a program to allow students to take an online driver defense course as opposed to paying hefty and unreasonable fines.

3. ENSURING THAT HEARING THE VOICES OF THE STUDENT BODY IS STUDENT SENATE'S 1st PRIORITY by :

Ensuring the existence of special interest senators and their right to vote.

Creating a liaison program between Student Senate and chartered organizations.

Allocating more funds to deserving academic organizations - Student Senate currently has a surplus and we should use it to better the interests of the student body!

Thank you very much for your time and I look

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forward to working with all of you to better the entire SMU community.

### Ryan Pitts

My name is Ryan Pitts and as a two-year member of the SMU Student Senate, I decided to place my name as a candidate for Student Body Vice-President because I feel I have a lot to contribute to the Senate and to you, the student body. I believe the university is at a critical point. There are changes going on across campus every day, and I want to be involved, as Student Senate Vice-President, is seeing that any changes will benefit each of us, as students.

One of the main needs is for the student body to be kept informed about the decisions our administration makes and the actions of the Student Senate. Opening the lines of communication is one of my main objectives. We need to ensure that the administration knows the needs and wants of the students.

There is little doubt that we need to address the growing concerns of drugs and alcohol on campus. We have seen the report from the Task Force that was created recently, and some of these suggestions are very worthwhile. As a senator I met with various administrators concerning the drug and alcohol issues, and I helped author two pieces of legislation concerning the Medical Amnesty policy and the Good Samaritan Act. I was pleased that both pieces of legislation were unanimously adopted by the Student Senate at the beginning of this semester. As you know, the Medical Amnesty

Policy and the Good Samaritan Act were included in the Task Force recommendations and I will continue to fight to make sure these policies are implemented before next year.

I would like to see more organizations on campus that are readily available to others. To coincide with that idea, the Student Senate needs to work with the finance committee to give organizations fair and equal budgets. I feel offering more opportunities for students to be involved in campus activities will have a positive impact on retention rates. I am willing to work to promote more events on campus for chartered organizations.

Our university has an exciting future. As Student Body Vice-President I pledge to work with you to keep you more informed of the plans being implemented by the administration. I would like to encourage the college to expand its list of majors and to look at additional courses and classes. I feel improving the student center, to make it the core of student activity, would be a positive step. The lighting on campus needs to be improved; I am willing to work on that issue. We have some outstanding athletic programs on campus; I would like to see an increased enthusiasm for our sports teams among the student body.

I am committed to Southern Methodist University. I am the fourth generation of my family to attend SMU, and I promise to work hard to keep it a quality educational institution. I am asking for your vote for Student Body Vice-President because, by working together, we can make positive things happen.

### Student Body Secretary Marc Bullock

My name is Marc Bullock and I am currently a sophomore from Tulsa, Oklahoma. I am a double major in Finance and Foreign Languages. I have been a Student Senator for two years and for this upcoming election on February 20-21, I am running for STUDENT BODY SECRETARY.

I believe I have the experience necessary to help serve you, my fellow students, and follow through with the changes needed to improve our university for the better. I am involved in many campus organizations and committees and believe I can relay the information of the student body to the proper areas on campus.

In Student Senate I have authored important pieces of legislation, including two very influential pieces: A Medical Amnesty Policy and The Good Samaritan Act, as well as served on multiple committees and met with many administrators.

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*Everyone feels that somehow advertising plays a role in how we think about ourselves, but how do we think about advertising? Why did this massive industry happen? What did the feeling start? What environment shaped the ways people came to be depicted in advertising? What can be said about the international scope of the early advertising industry? And why did generic female images play such a central role in the advertising culture of China and its trade partners in the 1920s and 1930s? In this talk Barlow considers iconic modern girl images from three Chinese ad markets, Shanghai, Tianjin and Shenyang. Visual evidence - we will look at the ads themselves - is one way to see how corporate marketing in modern China worked through the new Chinese social relations and modern practices of womanhood.*

**Iconicity and Advertising:  
Shanghai, Mukden, Tianjin and  
the Modern Girl Icon**

**Tani E. Barlow  
Speaks**

**3:30 pm Monday, 25 February 2008  
DeGolyer Library; Texana Room**

**Presented by:  
The Al and Sadye Garter  
Honors Lecture Series**

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I am focusing my attention towards improving the student's lives on campus, with changes in public safety, campus safety and academic advising. I believe that our campus is changing and I would hope that as Student Body Secretary I can help SMU change for the better. As Secretary, I will have the opportunity to review and compile changes too the SMU Student Code, as well as serve as chairperson of the Student Senate Code of Conduct Revision Committee. Hopefully, through my enhanced interaction with the SMU Student Body, I will be able to take the changes to the appropriate administrators and resolve any issue.

Additionally, I would like to see SMU offering more student organizations for students to become involved in, so that students can become more involved and enjoy their time here at SMU. I have served on Organization's committee for two years, and I have seen the excitement and dedication that students have towards certain subjects. I believe that involvement is a key to a successful college career.

I would also hope that as Student Body Secretary I can work closely with the Task Force Recommendations and implement certain recommendations made that students believe in and would like to see implemented.

I am committed to serving SMU and have proven this through my two years at SMU and my involvement so far in the University. I am running for Student Body Secretary to make an impact and a positive change in the areas of student life at SMU. I am an experienced, trustworthy and dedicated individual that will work with you, the student body, for the betterment of SMU.

I am qualified for the position of STUDENT BODY SECRETARY and would like to ask for your vote next Wednesday and Thursday, February 20-21.

**Erika Briceno**

My name is Erika Briceno, and I want to be the next Student Body Secretary! I am currently a first year student triple majoring in International Studies, Foreign Languages and Economics with a minor in Human Rights. As a first year senator, I have been

a very active member of Student Senate. In my first semester at SMU and more importantly within senate, I sat on two committees including membership and scholarship and am currently in the process of organizing a committee on academic advising. My drive and dedication have allowed me to attain the respect of others within senate, who recently voted for me to be a part of a joint effort between faculty and student senate. There are many things I hope to accomplish within senate; however, one thing must take precedence: communication. It is critical that senate improve the communication between the senators and their constituents. As



Student Body Secretary, I hope to improve the visibility of senate to the student body. I find it alarming that such a high percentage of students are unaware of what student senate does and about who their senators are. This is a big issue that needs to be corrected within this campus in order for senate to fully accomplish their purpose. The contact between senators

and constituents would be easiest through an e-mail list serve, which would allow the senators to contact every one of their constituents. Another big problem that I began addressing during the Alcohol Town Hall Forum in the fall semester is in regards to the lack of a student center. I believe the University could greatly benefit from a gathering place for students. This facility would be open late and on weekends for students to get some food and drinks, play some games or even watch television. I believe a center like this within the university would further improve the atmosphere on campus and become a great place for students to enjoy themselves and interact. There are so many things that could and should be accomplished within student senate. As Student Body Secretary I want to make sure that all of these things and more, DO get accomplished. Remember, on February 20th and 21st,

VOTE ERIKA FOR STUDENT BODY SECRETARY!



## Still not quite sure who you should vote for?

Last Tuesday, the Hilltopics Editorial Board interviewed all seven Student Body Officer candidates. We talked with each candidate about his or her take on the many pressing issues at SMU: drug abuse, Task Force recommendations, safety, etc. But the most important issue that this publication is dedicated to advocating is the advancement of academic life at SMU. We grilled these candidates on their ability and vision to augment SMU's life of the mind, and based on their responses, we gladly present the following endorsements.

### Secretary Endorsement: Erika Briceno

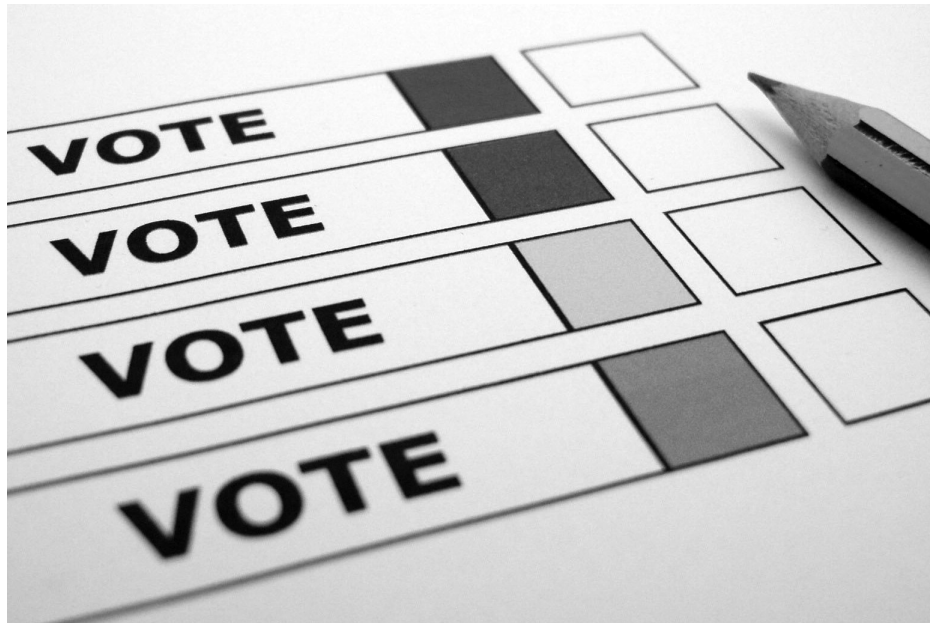
In race for Student Body Secretary, the *Hilltopics* Editorial Board endorses Erika Briceno. Although she may only be a first-year student, she charmed the Ed Board with her enthusiasm and commitment to change. Erika was especially articulate in how she wanted to impact the academic life on this campus. Like the other SBO candidates, she recognizes the need for significant change in the academic advising department; however, the thing that really set her apart from the others was her recognition for greater faculty-student interaction. Erika proposed creating a faculty mentorship program that would help students engage professors outside of the classroom. Erika told the Ed Board the impact and importance of her own personal experiences with SMU faculty members, valuable insight she will certainly use to realize her goals, if elected.

Erika is also a strong advocate for changing Hughes-Trigg. Erika rightfully recognizes that our supposed "student center" does not do enough to provide student with a place to socialize, especially on the weekends. Pool tables, air hockey, board games, and other services need to

be provided so that students have an alternative to off-campus parties. The *Hilltopics* Ed Board thinks this is an awesome idea. Hughes-Trigg is great if you want to hold a meeting or grab lunch, but it is a ghost town after 5 p.m. Erika has already been working hard on this issue, raising awareness with the Task Force on Substance Abuse and working with the director of the Catholic Student Center to secure funds. That leads us to perhaps the most impressive quality Erika possess: the determination to get things done. During the interview, the Ed Board got the sense that Erika was going to fight for her campus changes regardless of whether she won the election. Erika's can-do attitude and passion are refreshing. She may be young, but what she lacks in experience is outweighed by the clarity of her vision.

### Vice-President: Patrick Kobler

In the race for Student Body Vice-President the *Hilltopics* Editorial Board endorses Patrick Kobler. Kobler has distinguished himself in the last year in his position as Student Senate Student Concerns Chair. In this position, Kobler has led a committee of 25 people in planning and moderating a Town Hall forum to discuss the Task Force on Substance Abuse, opening committee meetings to the public to increase senate transparency, and initiating online student polls. Kobler's devotion to making SMU students' voices heard showed in our discussion of his policy goals. Kobler explained to the Board that he wants to keep Student Senate's special interest seats and facilitate communication between Senate and chartered organizations through a liaison program. As Vice President, Kobler will be in charge of Senate's internal affairs, and the Ed Board believes that focusing on increasing interaction between student groups and Senate will improve



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academic life on campus and make it easier for deserving student organizations to receive funding without having to jump through hoops.

Of some concern to the board was Kobler's somewhat contradictory stance on student responsibility. Kobler is a proponent of students' rights to make their own responsible decisions, and as such vehemently disagrees with the Task Force's recommendations of more Friday morning classes and the elimination of bus parties. However, Kobler also advocates a more comprehensive academic advising program to keep students in line and focused on their degrees. It is not entirely clear in which situations Kobler believes it is appropriate for the administration to "hold students' hands". That being said, the Ed Board recognizes the distinction between social and academic choices. Finally, Kobler spoke with greater confidence and coherence of opinion than his opponent about the main issues affecting students. The *Hilltopics* editorial board gives the VP nod to Kobler with high hopes for his performance.

**President: Rob Hayden**

In the race for Student Body President, the *Hilltopics* Editorial Board endorses Rob Hayden. Rob Hayden is a sophomore public policy and political science major and is currently the Student Senate Chief of Staff. Rob is the youngest candidate running for President, but the *Hilltopics* staff feels his realistic approach and unique ideas were above par. While Rob has multiple eclectic goals for the improvement of life at SMU, two really stuck out to the *Hilltopics* staff.

Rob is very passionate about fully advertising and exposing all SMU students to the multitude of diverse student organizations on our campus. His idea to achieve this goal includes possibly providing tents to chartered student groups on the boulevard, so first years and upper classman have more social contact with a variety of organizations on the SMU campus.

Another situation Rob feels compelled to improve is the academic advising system at SMU. Rob's goal is to bridge the communication between advisors for non-declared majors and advisors in the departments for declared majors. Many students get lost once they declare their major at SMU because the new advisors in their academic department are not aware of the previous "four-year plan" they have received. Rob wants to emphasize the importance of communication between students, advisors and professors within their majors. This goal can only benefit SMU students. The *Hilltopics* Editorial Board was also impressed with his overall demeanor and presentation. Since the Student Body President

must regularly meet with administrators to represent the opinions of the student body, this is a very important skill. Even though Rob will only be a junior next year, we feel that his youth could be an asset since he will be able to oversee his proposals for two years before he graduates. For these reasons, the Ed Board feels confident that Rob will be a strong president who can do much to change SMU for the better.

***We hope you'll vote for the candidates we've endorsed, but most of all we just hope you'll vote.***

***Don't forget: Wednesday and Thursday,  
[www.smu.edu/elections](http://www.smu.edu/elections)***

## "The Legend of the JFK Assassination"

Tom Stone Speaks

3:30 pm. Wednesday, 20 February 2008  
DeGolyer Library: Texana Room



Presented by: The Al and Sadye Garter  
Honors Lecture Series

## Candidates for Senate and SMC Board introduce themselves to the electorate

*Hilltopics invited each Senate candidate to submit a 150 word biography. We've published exactly what they sent us.*

### **Dedman I**

#### **Nick Errichetto**

Well hello there, my name is Nick Errichetto and I am running for Dedman I Senator. I currently hold the position of First Year Senator and am very passionate about representing the students of SMU. I have strong aspirations to make SMU a more prestigious university and a better place to live for my fellow students. I know that I am the most capable candidate to do so as a result of my "go getter" attitude, and mindset to take the issues to the source of the problem and refuse to take no for an answer. As the senate representative to dining services, I successfully petitioned instituting an organic foods station in the Umphrey Lee Center. I know that I can accomplish so much more to better the lives of my constituents, so please, vote this Tuesday, and if you're are a Dedman I student, vote for me.

#### **Alexander Holland**

Hey, my name is Alex Holland, and would love to represent the student body as Dedman I Senator.

For this past year I have been on Student Senate as a member of the Communications Committee and met on a weekly basis to discuss numerous issues that arose involving the school. Along with the other members of the committee, I contributed with great input and made some positive changes that definitely helped the image of the student body and the school itself.

One of my goals as a Senator would be to get the Student Body more lively and spirited. If elected, I would do everything in my power to make more of these positive changes.

As Senator, I will represent the student body in great fashion and encourage the student body to speak up about any issues, concerns, or uproars involving the school.

Furthermore, I am an extremely proud member...

#### **John Steitz**

My name is John Steitz, and I am seeking the Dedman I position in the Student Senate for 2008. As an elected Senator, my main goals are to improve student life and to increase student involvement within the SMU community. I will strive to increase attendance at SMU sporting events, push for better student parking options, and improve the current health center. My leadership abilities and involvement with organizations on campus make me a very qualified candidate. I work well with many different types of people to plan and execute programs aimed to help the student body. Without a doubt, I will work hard to accomplish my goals and

to represent STUDENTS in the Senate. With regard to the Task Force report, I will work to implement the Good Samaritan and Medical Amnesty Acts, two ideas I agree with and believe will help make SMU's campus safer and more student-friendly.

### **Dedman II**

#### **Robert Krupp**

My name is Robert Krupp and I am running for Dedman II Senator. As an A student with a double major in Finance and Economics, minor in Spanish, I meet many unique people that I would like to lead and represent. Also, as an active member of the Greek community I will provide a well-rounded perspective for all students. During my term, I hope to provide a better link between the Dedman students and Student Senate in order to satisfy their needs. I want the SMU student body to become aware of the issues going on around campus. I am sure that my obligations will be more than fulfilled and that I could be a great asset for the student body. As a representative of the Dedman School, I will show integrity, dedication, and motivation to support Southern Methodist University student body.

#### **Allison Reyes**

Being a student at SMU is a privilege that I am extremely proud of. I feel that it is my duty as a proud SMU student to give back to our community by serving Dedman II as a senator. I want to not only improve the connection between the SMU student body and the student senate, but also to make the SMU community a better place. While I do not wish to drastically alter the existing feeling of community here at SMU, my ultimate hope is to improve on the already great institution by improving each and every student's overall experience through the creation of common goals. Born and raised in Texas, I am a sophomore history major and Italian Area Studies and Art History minor, and am undeniably proud to embody the spirit of SMU. I hope for Dedman II major's to join me in building on the potential...

#### **Derek Sangston**

Join the Revolution! I bet you have interests that have not been pursued by the Senate and that is why I am running for a seat as a Dedman College 2 Senator. Once elected I will give you, the Student, a voice in the important matters concerning your school. My platform consists of the following three planks: creating more dining options

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around campus and working to keep our current establishments open longer; ending the new way of receiving tickets for sporting events at the gate and going back to the previous way; keeping bus parties around campus and broadening the scope of such parties.

At my previous college I was elected to the position of Student Body President. Through that position I gained leadership experience that will help me enhance your SMU experience. Remember the commitment and experience of Derek Sangston and help grow the SMU community on election day.

### **Jakin Vela**

I, Jakin Vela, hope to be a Dedman II Senator because I believe there needs to be more voice representing the student body. I want to be that voice, providing a better gateway of communications between the students and the senate. Though I'll bring my own ideas to the position, including policy and organization funds, I will be strongly committed to the concerns and suggestions of others. I feel qualified for this position because I currently hold several leadership positions on campus, including the President of Spectrum and Social Issues Chair in Students for a Better Society (SBS). I am also a pledge for Alpha Phi Omega, a service based fraternity, and newly involved in College Hispanic American Students (CHAS) and Students Promoting Awareness, Responsibility, and Citizenship (SPARC). I intend to increase diversity among the senate by sharing a fresh new perspective- a voice for the community.

### **Cox**

#### **Megan Altman**

I am running for re-election for Cox student senate position this spring. I am very excited about serving another term. I also hold leadership positions in other organizations on campus. I am the secretary of my sorority and the treasurer for SMU Women's Lacrosse. I am also a member of Delta Sigma Pi, one of the business fraternities on campus. I have been representing the students of the Cox school with a loud and clear voice. I am especially concerned with the availability of required introductory courses to students in Cox. I want to make it easier for students to decide when to take these courses. I believe that my experience qualifies me for the position and I know that I can continue to represent the students and faculty of the Cox school well.

### **Alex Linn**

As a representative of the Cox school of business, I want every Cox student to know who I am and how I can contribute to their experience at SMU. My primary goal is to inform the community about the student senate, what it does, and what could be

done. In addition, I want to increase communications between Cox students and the student senate. I believe as students we are underexposed to the role and accomplishments of student senate, and there is a lack of communication between students and their representatives. As a senator I am capable of accomplishing almost anything the student body wants. As a result I realize that the way to have the greatest impact is to encourage easier and more frequent participation from the typical Cox student. Furthermore, as an active member of the Greek community, I will offer a well rounded perspective in representing Cox students.

### **Elizabeth Tsai**

Hi! My name is Elizabeth Tsai and I am running for the Cox seat in Student Senate. Student Senate is an awesome opportunity for all groups on campus to have their voices heard, and having a chance to be a part of an organization that facilitates dialogue on campus is really exciting to me. I have always loved being involved in a variety of activities in my community and starting from high school I was Vice President of our competitive speech team and Activities Coordinator for our Student Congress Faculty Relations and Student Services Committees. During my first-year so far at SMU I have been involved in Mustang 11, Student Foundation and Cox BBA Scholar activities which have all provided me with a diverse perspective that I would bring to the table.

### **Meadows**

#### **Brenda Gonzalez**

My name is Brenda Gonzalez and I am a junior journalism and French major from Houston. I am running for Meadows Senator and I believe that I am qualified to serve you in this position.

For two years, I have been heavily involved in Mock Trial, a competitive organization fostering intellectual growth through debate and reasoning. I have served as captain for two competitive semesters and have gone with my team to a national competition. Through this experience, I have learned to work well with others.

Besides Mock Trial, I have been a Week of Welcome leader. I have a genuine interest in the student body and I want to hear others' opinions and suggestions on how to improve communication between the student body and faculty. I am particularly interested in working with student organizations that come to Student Senate and making sure that their voices get heard.

### **Jonathan Moon**

My name is Jonathan Moon. I am running for re-election as a Meadows Senator, and I also serve as the Webmaster for the Student Senate website. I

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grew up in Carrollton, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. I am a junior here at SMU and a Cinema-Television major, and I'm enjoying every minute of it. I love photography and working with technology. I spend a lot of my time working on campus as a Student Technical Assistant, the Apple Campus Rep for SMU, and working in Senate for Meadows, and as the Webmaster. I also enjoy being on staff at my church. I believe that the real point of leadership is service and I can't wait to continue serving the students of Meadows.

### Education

#### **Britney Titus**

I view the opportunity to be an Education Student Senator as a way to raise awareness about the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. I will be an advocate of the School's programs to ensure its success and growth for the future. It is my desire to encourage the development of an on campus organization that could provide students with increased opportunities for community involvement, career development, awareness of educational issues, and encourage students in other academic genres to investigate a career in education. My qualifications include effective communication and organizational skills, leadership experience, community service and work experience. This background will allow me to act as a liaison between the students and the University to better communicate their suggestions and concerns. As I approach my senior year at SMU, I want to be a part of a team that makes a difference for our student body.

### International

#### **Steven Aitkenhead**

My name is Steven Aitkenhead and I'm from Guatemala. As an International Student from SMU I'm running for International Senator 2008.

I have come to realize how important it is for SMU that international students get involved with the school and it's traditions. If I'm privileged to be a part of the Senate representing the International student body I would like to continue the privilege of voting for school body council. Also would like to influence the International center to get international organizations a spot in Relay for Life, Tailgate and other traditions. Also, I would try to bring new honors and scholarship programs for international students to give them the opportunity of being part of the SMU Mustangs family.

It would be a great honor to represent you international fellow students in the student council, and if so I will do anything to make this experience better for us.

#### **Matthew Alexander**

My name is Matt Alexander, and I am running for International Senator. Having been in communication with the SMU International Office, I have devised a solid foundation for change within the Student Senate. Today, SMU's international community is entirely under-represented in terms of campus-wide events and activities - My aim is to change this. The International Department holds little influence within the Senate, thereby effectively excluding hundreds of international students from SMU's current affairs. This situation is entirely unacceptable. As Senator I would hope to ensure that the international student body became more involved, informed, and integral in the decision process. Furthermore, as an English major and a member of both the CSE honors program, and the Greek community, I hold the campus-wide connections and relationships that could further this cause. So please, vote for me for International Senator 2008, it will be a decision you will certainly not regret.

### Hispanic-American

#### **Sarah Acosta**

Serving as the current Hispanic-American senator, I know how senate works. I know when to speak up not only when bettering the Hispanic community, but the SMU campus at whole. Being involved with a variety of organizations on campus, I feel very connected to the SMU campus. With this connection, I can link the Hispanic community to the rest of campus by easily relating their ideas and concerns. In the past, senate has tried to take away the Hispanic seat. I know for a fact that if I serve as the Hispanic representative, I know that the idea of taking the seat away would never again be considered. The only thing needed to ensure the remaining of the Hispanic seat is your vote. I strongly encourage ALL Hispanics to vote, and to vote for the person who has the passion, knowledge, and experience to represent the community properly: Sarah Acosta.

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