The College Voice

Special Election Issue

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Bringing efficient and confident leadership back to student government forms the backbone of the campaign launched this week by Colleen Shanley, candidate for SGA president.

"Next year SGA has to reassert its own integrity," she said.

Shanley said this year had been "disastrous," and the attitude of the Executive Board was to let the Assembly guide themselves. "The challenge is to give the Assembly direction and put them back on track," stated Shanley.

Shanley, Assembly member, needs to know more about provisions before meetings and interaction between senators and the Executive Board should be facilitated better.

"Last year there was a lot of misconmunication. The Executive Board would dominate the discussion because they were more informed about the issues, and they had Executive Board meetings at the beginning of the week... it tended to inundate the Assembly," she said.

One idea Shanley offered to improve participation and cooperation is to reserve a dining room for informal meetings for student government leaders.

"The weekly meals would hopefully cut out some of the confusion that happens in discussions... a lot of the stupid questions that come up, a lot of the repetition of the same points over and over again. A lot of that could be cut out if Assembly members are able to discuss the issues beforehand," she said.

Shanley stressed involvement in SGA, saying, "If elected I would like to be actively involved in creating an Assembly."

Shanley said she would target freshmen and class councils involved in creating an Assembly.

According to Shanley, the greatest challenge for his campaign is "revitalizing the Assembly and encouraging involvement in the decision-making process," she said, adding that there has been "significant disengagement" of this in the past year.

Putting positions from the beginning, said Shanley, "I'd like to send a letter to all freshmen saying... If you care about these issues get on there." Revitalizing the Assembly and encouraging involvement in the decision-making process would be the key.

Shanley also addressed the issue of the deteriorating relationship between the administration and SGA.

"I do know that this year I perceive the relations between the Executive Board and the administration as very poor," she said.

"Students are supposed to be involved in the decision-making process," she said, adding that there has been "blatant disregard" of this in the past year.

Shanley believes it is extremely important to give students a voice in the decision-making process, and he plans to address issues that more directly affect student's lives, such as improving financial aid and class size.

"The next president has to... really make an effort to let the students know that the SGA isn't just a wasteful bunch of people getting together on a Thursday night doing nothing. It's a position that has power that can bring issues that are germane to the student body to the forefront and work with the administration and work with the students as one to bring these issues together instead of being an administrative tool," Shanley said.

Shanley believes he can help reinitiate the integrity of SGA and plans to both invite the participation of freshmen and make better use of the established committees. He also intends to communicate the existence of committees to the student body.

"I think students need an administrative tool," Shanley said. "We need to let them all know what's going on."

Running unopposed for Judicial Board chair is Julie DeGennaro, a current member of the J-Board and the Executive Board of the Junior Class Council. She also served on her class council the previous year. In addition to these positions, she said working in dining services has prepared her for serving as an assembly member, and that she has been able "to interact with everyone who passes through there."

DeGennaro said the greatest challenge facing the future J-Board chair will be following through on recent reforms made by the current chair, Molly Embree. She particularly stressed the importance of establishing the two new administrative positions education officer and investigative officer.

DeGennaro said these positions will alleviate some of the responsibilities of the chair, enabling that person to hold more contact sessions with the student body.

DeGennaro supports a vote of affirmation for the Honor Code, but questions whether the clause should be binding or non-binding. If it were binding, she stated, "we could do away with the system and never get it back." But DeGennaro said it would be "punishing" for students to vote year after year if nothing would really be changed.

"The vote should be non-binding for the first year, giving SGA a chance to correct problems internally. After that I think it could be switched to a binding vote," she said.

DeGennaro favors publicized roll call votes of J-Board decisions, because she believes this will increase accountability.

Under the current system, she believes students view the Board as a kind of "star chamber." With public votes, students could understand that "there are people who dissent, and reasons why people dissent." According to DeGennaro, the vote represents a majority of the board, but ultimate decisions cannot ignore that "there have been questions and problems along the way." DeGennaro is in favor of maintaining confidentiality. "This is a small campus and people do make mistakes," she explained. However, she said the J-Board chair should represent the views of the school and if a majority were opposed to confidentiality, she would support that decision.

DeGennaro views the role of J-Board chair on SGA as a liaison between the Board and the student body.

Colleen Shanley

Saveena Dhall has pledged to use her experience for the betterment of the college's academics and policies. While at the college, she said, she has been "given the opportunity to see the perspectives of administrators, faculty, and students on academic and non-academic issues." Citing her work on various committees, Dhall said she has the knowledge and experience to represent the student body as the chair of academic affairs.

As CCASA political chair/vice president and a member of MSSC, Dhall believes she has the knowledge and experience to "active and voting member of the Assembly." Shanley particularly stressed the importance of establishing the two new administrative positions education officer and investigative officer.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The College Voice April 7, 1992

Correction:
The final sentence in "Diversity and Class Size: A Status Report," The College Voice, March 31, 1992, should have read, "Let us work together to continue this unique and important Connecticut College approach to problem solving."
CANDIDATE PROFILES

VICE PRESIDENT

Chad Marlow

The position of SGA vice president is being sought by Robin Swimmer, SAC chair, who believes her initiative and her experience make for a strong write-in candidacy. Swimmer has a year’s experience on the SGA Executive Board and has participated in a broad range of activities and committees, such as the College Center Committee and the Student/Trustee Liaison Committee.

In these positions, Swimmer has had the opportunity to work with various students, trustees, and administrators, experience which she said will be helpful to her as SGA vice president. As vice president, Swimmer believes that her greatest challenge would be producing an accurate and efficient budget that would allot the appropriate amount of money to each club.

As a member of the Finance Committee, she believes that auditing each club at least twice a year would be necessary. Her experience as SAC chair has given her a knowledge of the costs for various types of events. This experience, she says, will help ensure that every club will be given an accurate amount of money to support their proposed events.

Swimmer’s cited the Umbrella Plan as one of the main issues of her campaign. The plan, which was implemented last year, allows alumni to donate money to specific clubs. She would like to increase the amount of funding for this plan, citing that as of March 30 it “only had $365 in it.” To increase the amount, Swimmer advocates the targeting of younger alumni and current students and families for donations.

In addition, Swimmer pledged to enhance student life, saying, “Involvement and interest in extracurricular activity is one of Connecticut College’s true strengths.” Swimmer also proposes to set up a committee of club officers who are devoted to increasing funding.

Issues of dormitory dues and the re-evaluation of that system are also included in her campaign. She is “committed to implementing the strongest possible support system” for dorm social life and would like to make sure it is as efficient and useful as it can be. She says that the system, as it exists this year, is not being used properly and, with some modifications, could be more useful and practical. Swimmer also said she would examine the legality of charging additional money for alcohol at dorm functions.

In her campaign, Swimmer stresses a willingness to reform. “I am not afraid to change policies or rules if there is a need for this to occur,” stated her platform.

Michelle Moon

The SOA parliamentarian, Gerard Chourcroun, is running for the position of SAC Chair. He was a representative for SAC his freshman year, served as last year’s house governor of Blackstone, and is the chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Governance.

Through these positions, Chourcroun believes he has had the unique opportunity to take an “in-depth look at SAC without being part of the Executive Board.” Also contributing to his experience is his membership in MOBROC and UPO. These organizations have exposed him to the planning and the public relations skills that are needed to host a successful event, he said.

Chourcroun’s goal as the next SAC chair is “to make events memorable and interesting and, at the same time, appealing to the majority of people on campus.” Supporting this idea of mass appeal, Chourcroun advocates diversification of SAC membership and more creative SAC events.

Chourcroun would also like to utilize subcommittees in SAC, each of which would be in charge of specific events. In accordance with the constitution of the organization, Chourcroun would ideally like to have minutes for each meeting, to ensure all ideas, while formally presented, are followed up. This way, according to Chourcroun, SAC would be able to take into account the input of all of its members, thus broadening its role on campus and increasing its effectiveness.

Chourcroun said, “Student Activities (Council) goes beyond presenting huge TNS or whatever the campus sorts out.”

With this year’s introduction of the Big Band Committee, Chourcroun believes that it would be more efficient to include this in the role of SAC. “The people on that committee do, by no means, represent the campus. I think it would make more sense to have SAC doing the big band,” he said.

When asked how he would deal with planning and working with other campus organizations and smaller clubs, Chourcroun responded, “I’d like to make an effort to meet with the campus clubs...so we get a better way of making them.”

Moore also said it would be necessary for the vice president to be an assertive member of the SGA but also to need an especially strong Executive Board.

Before coming to Connecticut College last year, Moon worked as a police reporter for a newspaper. “A lot of my work had to do with keeping records,” she said. “The vice president will have a lot of information. I think he needs to be adequately prepared for that sort of task.”

SAC CHAIR

Gerard Chourcroun

Fostering the development of new campus organizations is one of the primary goals for Michelle Moon, candidate for Student Government Association vice president.

Although she has no experience serving on the Assembly, Moon said, “I don’t see that as a detriment to my campaign. When working as a reporter for The College Voice and covering Assembly meetings, I got really familiar with the process, with the committees, with individual legislators, senator, and the Exec. Board, very comfortable talking to administrators and faculty.”

Among her other qualifications, she cited work as head counselor at a camp for four summers, where she oversaw budgets, special events, and staff management. “That was obviously, as far as organizational issues go, pretty significant,” she said.

She views the role of vice president as being a liaison and link for campus clubs and organizations to the SGA. Because of her involvement with a varied assortment of clubs, such as the Voice, POWER, and athletics, she said she is qualified for the job, “I’ve been into everything just a little bit.”

Moon believes the budget allocation for new clubs will be a major issue in the coming year. She suggested examination of the minimum allocation to new clubs, among other incentives, because the foundation of clubs benefits the college community. “Clubs are key in providing lots of various experiences. That enriches campus life for all of us,” she said.

Moon emphasized the need for close scrutiny of clubs and organizations when preparing budgets for the future. “The more specific [budgets] are, the better. Everybody should take a stronger role in looking at the budget.”

In addition, Moon said the presentation of budgets presently takes more time than necessary. “I would like to speed up that process,” she said.

One issue she would like to see addressed is the Finance Committee’s traditional stance which forbids Student Government-funded clubs from political lobbying. “In the Mission Statement of the college, there’s a lot of talk about teaching students how to participate in the world and how to be an active member of their communities, and yet we’re confined to the college community. We should learn how to operate in the outside world,” she said.

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Acknowledging this year’s problems with SGA, Chourcroun believes that the Assembly will have to “do a lot to restore faith.” It involves the time to “patching things up with administration” and reinstating the “true role of student governing,” he said.
CANDIDATE PROFILES

Sean Curry. housefellow of Hartness and co-captain of the men’s hockey team, has launched a write-in campaign for the position of Young Alumni Trustee. He said the decision was “after seeing who was running, and evaluating what I want to do, how I want to participate and how I want to stay in touch with the college.”

Curry noted that the Board of Trustees as a body which makes policy and determines the framework by which the college can develop. As YAT, Curry believes he can be the person “who is relatively close to the student body and knows the issues, and, on a lower level, can keep perspective in line with what students at a whole.”

Curry supports the continuance of need-blind admissions, which he cites as one of the main issues troubling the trustees in the upcoming years.

“For me, that’s a big thing, as a student on financial aid,” he said. He views the implementation of some of the college’s new projects as a deterrent to the students currently enrolled as Connecticut College, “I see Conn pushing more towards the development as a whole and not necessarily for the students.”

Curry stressed the need for concern about the individual student. He said he has seen the college turn into a “two-weekend campus,” and that this change has become of secondary importance. “Changes are being made on a campus-wide level without actually taking into consideration whose home it is for eight months out of the year,” he said.

Although Curry supports the Strategic Plan, he has witnessed increasing class sizes and, therefore, wants to “make sure that while we are innovating and implementing new programs and making ourselves known...we do not forget who we are and where we came from as a student body.”

“I have seen the college change over the past four years. One of the reasons why I chose Conn was because...of the room, the student/faculty ratio, and over the years we’ve all witnessed an increase in classes, less teachers teaching courses, all of that was one of the strengths of this school,” he added.

Curry said “he is not afraid to be confrontational” when it comes to addressing student issues on the Board of Trustees.

He advocates a senior-only vote for YAT because he believes fellow seniors, compared to undergraduates, would know the candidate best after four years.

He believes his experiences as a student athlete will allow him to “identify with [the] student at large, student to student...and he’ll be more aware of how [cuts in sports programs] affects student athletes.”

Amy Mass

With three years left in the course of the Strategic Plan, Amy Mass, candidate for Young Alumni Trustee, said the most important issue now for the Board of Trustees is “that we need now to ensure that we have the financial stability of the college and that the college grows.”

In order to realize the goals laid out in the priorities of the college by the Strategic Plan, Mass said, “Ensuring the financial capability of the college is absolutely the top priority. We’re a tuition-driven school.”

The way to financial security for Mass lies not in increasing the college’s endowment and capital projects, but also in prioritizing and “growth by substitution.”

Mass maintained the importance of balancing Connecticut College’s financial resources and programs. She stressed the need to make choices about “what we will keep, what we will enhance, and what we can eliminate without hurting the strength of the school.”

Mass expressed belief that trimming the ineffectiveness of Connecticut College programs is a beginning, but not an end in itself.

According to Mass, the Board of Trustees will have to reassess and examine the college’s priorities to make decisions regarding the funding of various programs while taking into account the balance that needs to be struck between tradition and innovation.

“I don’t believe that we can continue to expand unconditionally without looking at what we’re doing now,” said Mass. Mass views the role of Young Alumni Trustee as “a behind the scenes” role when it comes to student demands and interests.

According to Mass, students have to articulate their own concerns to the Board of Trustees, but as YAT she would see her role as one of “smoothing out” that process. She cited, for example, of this, assuring that all research is done and that all proper procedures are followed before the students go to the trustees.

“The YATs are not there to advocate for students but they are representing them,” said Mass.

Mass also believes, “The Board of Trustees right now is somewhat what removed from the student population and...the faculty as well.”

According to Mass, one of her goals in the position of Young Alumni Trustee, one she also said is a goal of current YATs, would be to facilitate interaction between students and trustees on essential issues.

She cited informal gatherings and dinner parties as ways to meet this goal.

“The Board makes a lot of the decisions but needs to have a little bit more interaction with the other bodies on campus,” said Mass.

Stephen Montjane

Stephen Montjane, candidate for YAT, made it clear “he is not afraid to take a stand watched in to serve on the Board of Trustees.

“I will articulate what students feel and not be shy,” Montjane said.

Montjane said the college’s current course toward attempting to build name recognition mostly through publicity is important, but has to be questioned. Appearances on CBS and in U.S. News are not what Montjane believes the college should strive for.

“Alerting the Board to...concerns may mean taking on political stances. I am willing to do that,” his platform states.

“We must actually sit down and talk about education for what it is,” he said.

Montjane said Connecticut College is going through growing pains, and compared the potential that the college has now to that of the University of Chicago several years ago. He said the college could build a solid reputation through quality academics in much the same manner that Chicago did.

“Poverty has done wonderful things for Connecticut College. It has made us frugal,” Montjane said. He added that what has become important is “how the dollar is spent.”

Montjane sees the Board of Trustees as an “arbiter between the administration, students, faculty, and staff of the college.”

Montjane sees the Board as removed from the situation and able to come in as non-partisans and “a judgment call.”

That’s the primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees, to see where the institution is, Montjane said, “and to drive it to the needs of the people that are there.”

Montjane continued, “That is what I would see as my primary responsibility; to articulate the needs of students.”

In his platform, Montjane speaks of the side effects of the Strategic Plan that are currently involving students. As a result of the 3:2 plan, “Some of us found it hard to take on classes we need for our major,” he wrote in his platform.

In regards to need-blind admissions, Montjane recognized the financial costs of the college, as well as the cost of abandoning the program and the diversity and academic standards that go along with it.

“If the college is forced for fiscal reasons to drop need-blind admissions, as a trustee, I would work hard to ensure that the college does not stray too far from our present policy,” Montjane said.

Montjane’s experience includes the position of house fellow, SGA house senator, international student advisor, and work in the admissions office.

“I am well versed in the position,” he said. “I have the administration, it is not for the faculty. It would not be here without us,” he said.

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Simon O'Rourke, candidate for Young Alumni Trustee, has pledged to be a bridge between the Board of Trustees and students. The Young Alumni Trustee “not only has the duty to the students to keep in touch with (the students), but also to the Board so that the Board knows that the Young Alumni Trustee is in touch with the students,” he said.

O’Rourke advocates increased participation by students at trustee meetings, but does not believe the SGA Executive Board should be the only representative of student issues to trustees. He, specifically, would like the Board of Academic Chairs to have a greater connection with the Board. One large issue that O’Rourke foresees the Board of Trustees facing in the next two years is the college’s “scarcity.” He explained that although the endowment has risen in the last four years, “still, that’s just not enough money to do the kinds of things that are laid out and planned.”

One of the main goals of the trustees must be “to work to increase the endowment,” he said. He stressed the value of endowed chairs, which would allow money to be used for other uses.

The other important issue of the Board, according to O’Rourke, is diversity. “Diversity is closely tied in with money. It’s impossible to do these kinds of programs without looking closely into them,” he said.

O’Rourke also cited need-blind admissions and class size as important issues. Of need-blind admissions, he said, “I certainly support to continue the policy but we have to look at that every year. It’s a very tough decision.”

“If the students feel like they’re not getting the classes as small as they want or if there aren’t enough faculty in certain areas that they feel are needed, then definitely the innovation has started to rip away at the tradition,” he said. O’Rourke believes the school takes advantage of students when it uses parking tickets and lockouts as a way to fill gaps in the budget.

His experience as manager and director of Castle Court Cinema has given O’Rourke what he believes to be valuable experience working with budgets. This along with “what I perceive to be an extensive knowledge of the students’ concerns, not just those of my class,” are the contributions O’Rourke feels he can bring to the position of Young Alumni Trustee.

Seniors campaign for Young Alumni Trustee

by Carl Lewis
News Editor

The seniors campaign for Young Alumni Trustee: Simon O’Rourke, Peter Jennings, and Amy Mass, presented their opinions on the role of a YAT in shaping the future of the college.

The candidates expressed the need for a YAT who will serve as an effective contact between the students and the Trustees.

We need to make sure the Board of Trustees continues to bear in mind the needs of the future students,” said O’Rourke.

“It’s very hard to tell what student concerns are unless you are in constant touch with students,” he said.

Mass believes she would be able to fill the need for a YAT that will stay in constant contact with students, “I have been committed to student issues for the last four years,” she said.

Said Mass, “I understand the need for preserving the lines of communication.”

“We need to take immediate steps in involving trustees (with student issues). That is a primary role of a YAT,” Mass said.

Jennings believes he would serve as an effective contact between the Trustees and the students. He said, “I am very much in touch with what goes on on campus and I think I can articulate that.”

“Once I’ve listened to a lot of what is going on in SGA,” he said.

O’Rourke said, “I would move to increase that contact... but not just through SGA.”

He believes the YAT should be involved in many aspects of student life. All candidates agreed that the college’s financial situation is a very strong influence on the future of the college.

Mass said the objective of the Trustees is to “achieve strategic goals.”

“We must insure financial resources to meet this goal,” she said.

Financial limits will begin to place restrictions on some parts of college’s programs, according to Mass. “Our spending will continue to create pressure points,” she added. “We need to prioritize.”

O’Rourke said, “We are under severe financial stress,” and added, “There are a variety of issues that depend on the amount of money we have available.”

According to Jennings, the Trustees do not have an accurate understanding of the college’s financial situation. “The Board of Trustees has a blurred vision of how money works on this campus.”

The candidates expressed the need for a YAT who will serve as an effective contact between the students and the Trustees.

“I’d like to see the Board become more cohesive in its monetary dealings,” said Jennings.

Faculty positions and course offerings are another issue the Trustees will consider in the coming year.

According to Jennings, the curriculum has recently suffered from the lack of faculty. “There really was a loss of classes,” he said.

He said the hiring of part-time faculty is not sufficient, and full-time faculty must be hired. “The number of faculty needs to be increased,” he said.

Mass agreed, “It may be time to look at the hiring process.”

O’Rourke stressed the importance of not following specific guidelines when considering faculty positions. He said when dealing with issues of faculty positions and course offerings, the Trustees should “reassess the priorities within the departments.”

He believes fundraising should be increased to allow for more faculty positions to open. Funding for new faculty can be found by seeking donations from specific alumni, according to O’Rourke.

Write-in candidates Sean Curry and Stephen Montanye were unable to participate in Speech and Debate Night.

PR DIRECTOR

Adam Green

Adam Green, running unopposed for the position of PR Director, wants to bring a personal touch to this office. As a liaison between students and SGA, Green promises to end the alienation that students have felt from the SGA.

If elected, Green promises that public relations will mean more to the community than just the hanging of signs. He wants to keep the college community well aware of events occurring on campus as well as what is being discussed in SGA.

In addition, public relations will serve the purpose as it seeks to encourage people to voice problems or complaints they have, as well as opinions they feel should be considered. He believes that this should be a responsibility held by all members of SGA, but that it should especially be a requirement of the PR Director.

As chair of the Election Board, Green aspires to increase student awareness about upcoming elections as well as increasing candidate awareness.

He plans to educate candidates further about what the positions they are vying for consist of and what types of responsibilities they should be prepared to assume.

Green foresees his tenure as PR Director as a chance to expand the traditional role of the position, by becoming a stronger member of the executive board of SGA. If elected, Green will hold constant sessions to allow discussion with groups of students on subjects and issues circulating in SGA, as well as holding the equivalent of office hours to talk to students individually about subjects that they feel are necessary.

His past involvement with SGA is a major factor in his running for this position. Green’s experience includes being last year’s Associate Public Relations Director and house senator of Smith. These jobs acquainted him with Connecticut College’s Student Government structure as well as gave him the chance to learn about the position of PR Director.

He said he attended all SGA meetings in the last two years, believes he understands the issues being discussed, and strongly desires to continue his working relationships with other SGA members.

Green won the election for PR Director last year, when he also ran unopposed. But, he said, taking office, he found that his GPA was below the 2.5 minimum required for all Assembly members.

Although his GPA is currently 2.49, he received permission to run from Robert Hampton, dean of the college.

Green declined to participate in The College Voice’s recommendation process.

Two of the YAT candidates, Peter Jennings and Simon O’Rourke, applaud.

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An effective member of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees must necessarily be a person who has experienced, dedicated, and fully committed to addressing the complex and dynamic nature of higher education. The Board needs to be made up of individuals who can represent the interests of many competing priorities.

Ultimately, a mixture of imagination, experience, a sincere commitment to Connecticut College, and perspective of life at Connecticut College would allow us to remain competitive. The College must be able to perform efficiently. Even as the college strives to continue to improve the financial strength, we must be able to increase faculty hiring and salaries, consequently reducing the class size. Students must capitalize on the college’s flexible structure, and take advantage of the freedoms that individuals and college groups enjoy in order to find exciting and progressive programs.

My involvement as a student and member of the Connecticut College Committee, I took active part in the College’s funding of the History Department. I have been an active member of the board, and the College’s Board of Trustees.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I have demonstrated a commitment to Connecticut College and an understanding of how to serve it as we work to maintain the core of the college.

Amy Mass for Young Alumni Trustee

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Professor, and Women’s Lacrosse Team member.

I have demonstrated a continued commitment to Connecticut College and an understanding of how to serve it as we work to achieve the goals in the Strategic Plan. The best indication I can give you of my commitment at YAT for the next 3 years is to point it to my work during the last 3 years. The Class of 1992 has an important choice to make about who will serve as the next Young Alumni Trustee.

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Choose the Board of Trustees faces critical choices about the future direction of Connecticut College. When we implemented the Strategic Plan, we identified the values that are the priority of this institution. Our task now, is to choose how to articulate that philosophy with the opportunities that we offer to our community.

The Board of Trustees, in the context of the Strategic Plan, our greatest challenge is to assess our financial resources and decide whether or not we are meeting our priorities. We are continuing to fund programs such as SAC, the National Board of Advisors, construction projects; and academic initiatives such as Gap Chooing for Faculty Salaries, the High School Summer Advancement Program, and the Center for International Studies.

While we recognize that these programs, we must realize that our goal of “growth by substitution,” requires a review all college programs in order to make the choices that allow us to remain competitive.

A key component of a strong institution must obviously be a commitment to academic issues. Just as student organizations are reviewing the data, the budget, and recent academic trends, the Trustees are reviewing this data to determine the nature of the “college size” issue—is it a problem or a perception? The Plan dictates actions to enhance our Education philosophy and enhancing diversity through the academic curriculum. With so many competing priorities, such decisions will dramatically impact the college’s future.

Simon O’Rourke for Young Alumni Trustee

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Since the arrival of President Gaudiani with our class four years ago, Connecticut College has set new goals for itself. In the Strategic Plan, the college community articulated the areas in which the college could make improvements. It is hoped that after the full implementation of this plan, Connecticut College will be well on the forefront of liberal arts colleges.

In the spring of 1992, a Student Trustee (YAT), it will be imperative that I articulate such concerns to the student body. Connecticut College's tradition of student involvement in the decision-making process has to be re-affirmed.

Colleen Shanley for SGA President

Hello...As a candidate for the position of Student Government President, I believe that I can provide the kind of dedicated and experienced leadership that the position requires in this crucial upcoming year. Many important issues will be facing next year's Assembly, five of which I have highlighted:

Effective Student Governance. There is now no denying the lack of faith that students have in their own leadership. Not only have grave mistakes occurred this year, but the inefficiency of our governing structure as a whole has been revealed. What needs to happen is a pro-active investigation of all SGA branches; we must discern what we really want from student government as a whole. Once this key question is addressed, solutions to the problems of good government can be actively explored.

Academic Issues. General Education, class size, academic advising, the continuation of MIMIC, a standardized class review evaluation: these issues will continue to be important next year and require the continued input of SGA. Furthermore, with the belt-tightening resulting from the economic situation, cuts will begin to be considered. It is imperative for the student government to ensure that the programs most important to students are expanded and strengthened as needed.

Student/Administration relations. This year, there have been several problems that reveal the deterioration of the relationship between SGA and our Administration. Through careful and open communication, trust and respect must be rebuilt. The student government must stop acting as a reactionary force, acting only after the administration attempts to push something through without the input of the student body. Connecticut College's tradition of student involvement in the decision-making process has to be re-affirmed.

Continued commitment to diversity. Connecticut College has pledged support to multicultural education, yet to maintain this commitment requires the constant supervision of students. Through work in the Minority Students Steering Committee, SGA must remain committed to issues of diversity, and further action needs to be taken to educate ourselves and the students at large about these issues, MESSC, and Unity House.

Continuation of the Crouser-Williams Renovation. Next year student activity facilities will be at their most limited. Student offices will continue to be in South Lot, and even the snack shop and bar will be temporarily moved. With no geographical unity, SGA must be even more vigilant in the publicizing of issues and events. The renovation has been an necessity for years, and will benefit the quality of student life tremendously in the years to come. However, SGA must continue to protect the needs of the student body now.

I have served on SGA since my freshman year in the following capacities:

• class vice-president
• house senator (two terms)
• Public Relations director
• Committee experience includes: Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Governance (chair); South Africa Support Committee, Diversity Committee, Constitution Committee, Student/Trustee Liaison Committee.

• other leadership experience: SOAR treasurer, SOAR vice-president

I have been an active member of class council, house council, the SGA Assembly, and the SGA Executive Board. With this experience, combined with my dedication to SGA and the student agenda, I feel prepared to take on the position of SGA President. My extension number is 3457; I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Thanks.

Colleen Shanley

Or use your four color Xerox* copier. Your pastel markers. Or your new 3-D graphic software package. Hey, don't hold back. Simply put, we're having a contest to find the most fabulous, creative, memorable audacious 19 by 24 inch poster to get people to fly Virgin Atlantic Airways to London. The designer will not only win two round-trip tickets to London. They'll get a chance to have their first big portfolio piece plastered all over the United States. Not a bad deal. If you want more information about Virgin, drop us a line. Just remember, the sky's the limit.

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• Maximum size is 19 by 24. All entries become the property of Virgin Atlantic Airways. Contact open and Virgin Atlantic Airways reserves the right to make changes in any entries. Entry is open to students only. Employees and immediate family members of K&H, Kay & Partners, Winners and their families are not eligible to win.

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Finding a way to offer frequent, memorable events to a diverse campus body is the greatest challenge that faces any Chair of the Student Activities Council. Though SAC has been successful in presenting activities which has helped to increase the number of students attending campus events, I feel that much work is still needed to benefit the whole campus.

Floralia, Harvestfest, and the Senior Formal are all staples of social life at Connecticut College, but I will be extremely hesitant to repeat any other events from this past year. There are plenty of excellent comedians and musical groups for SAC to choose from, and I would like to see a more varied role in the SGA, rather than just the students' preferences.

SAC needs to recognize student interests and make changes to the reality. In a school year which will contain a presidential election as well as a Supreme Court election of Roe v. Wade, I foresee SAC bringing more topical issues of student concern. In my time spent at Conn, I have been taking advantage of that time to power, strength, influence and control. The past six decades have seen the growth of our own, and the rising of the SGA into a more powerful force.

In my time as Vice-President of the SGA Finance Committee, the "C" book next year will be a more diverse source of funding for the student body. When I transferred to Conn last January, I was thrilled to find that the college was making the possibility of student government a reality. Students here enjoy an unusual degree of access to power, strength, influence and respect; it's one of the things that makes Conn unique, and it's one of the reasons I chose to study here.

But recently, students have not been taking advantage of that power. This year, we have watched issues slip out of our hands. The channels of communication between students and administration are working. Students have input on issues that affect our academic, social, and residential lives.

I would lead an open-minded SAC Executive Board and the rest of the council to a minimum, and by meeting individually with the members of the council to encourage them to take an active role in the entire process. I would also like to see a more flexible SGA budget as possible onto student government, and reduce the restrictions placed on student clubs; starting a club should be easier and more appealing to students. National programs such as evaluations, surveys, and the renovation of the SAC libraries should be discussed more frequently and more openly. Students need to know what's going on; administrators need to know what students think.

Motorcycle. The end of the MIMC program should not cause a slowdown in the curriculum development. The SGA should continue to work on the channels of communication and use them to the greatest possible extent. Issues such as evaluations, surveys, and the renovation of the SAC libraries should be discussed more frequently and more openly. Students need to know what's going on; administrators need to know what students think.

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PLATFORMS

Peter Jennings

During to past few years, Connecticut College has made significant strides to improve its reputation as one of the nation's premier liberal arts colleges. Although the entire college community is responsible, the board of trustees is certainly one of the central campus bodies actively pursuing the goals of the strategic plan. The Young Alumni Trustee position is a vital component to the mechanics of this board, as it provides the board with a solid link to recent developments on campus and well as to the college's newest alumni.

In 1988, our class arrived on campus energized with President Gaudiani's enthusiasm and vision. Since that time we have repeatedly responded to the call phases of the administration—"tradition and innovation" and "the global decade."

Each of us in our unique manner has contributed to the growth of the college. While some of us have made a commitment to serving on various administrative cabinets and committees, others have challenged the status quo on issues such as divestment in South Africa. While some of us have strengthened the college's relationship with the community through participation in volunteer activities, others have pursued excellence in the Carolin uniform. Most importantly, all have brought our respective uniqueness to invigorate and develop the academic community.

While many students have spent their energies attempting to let their voices be heard, I have spent my energy pursuing the goals of the college, and more importantly, listening. While listening to the philosophies of the college, looking beneath the surface of these slogans, and monitoring the direction of the college, I feel as if I understand the ethos of the college. For example, while working closely with the Administrations office, I have seen how the college has pursued its goals of diversifying the student body. Certainly during the last four years, not only have the number of applications of these under-represented groups increased, but also the campus awareness has increased. This understanding of the Connecticut College ethos is imperative to the Young Alumni Trustee

I am a strong candidate for Vice President for both my EXPERIENCE as well as my EXPERIENCE with Finance Committee, SGA, Assembly, Executive Board, and clubs. I believe my position as Chair of the Student Activities Council, *Associate Chair of the Student Activities Council, *Member of Student Government Association Executive Board, *Member of Assembly, *Member of the Student/Trustee Liaison Committee, and *Member of many other committees I have taken up to look at the all candidates' credentials closely so that you can elect someone who will represent our campus best.

Sean Spicer

For SGA President

Dear Student,

Over the past few years the student government at Connecticut College has lost touch with its real purpose. I am running for president in order to change the focus of the SGA back to serving the needs of the students. I have served on the SGA Assembly for two years as a senator and have witnessed the executive board of the Assembly lose its ability to effectively handle issues that reflect the problems that the students have brought forth. It is time that the Assembly stopped consistently wasting time on issues that have no effect on student life.

By electing me as president, I will change the role of president by becoming an active and voting member of the Assembly. In assuming this role I will pay close attention to the real purpose of the SGA and the changes that need to happen, whatever they may be; academic or social.

I want the ability to lead the SGA and the innovation to make real change. Please vote for change on April 7th or 8th.

Thank you,

Sean M. Spicer


Julie DeGennaro

For Judiciary Board Chair

During the past year the Judiciary Board has undergone major changes. The two most important changes are the addition of an investigating officer and an educational officer. One of the most important jobs of next year's Chair will be to work closely with these two people in order to ensure that these positions are utilized effectively.

As a current member of the Judiciary Board, I have worked with the Board to help bring about these changes. I have had the advantage of seeing how the Board operated before these changes; therefore, I will be better able to examine them and assess the merits of these problems with the new system.

As Judiciary Board Chair, I will continue to produce a monthly log that Molloy and Vinny have done this past year. Although I have never served as an assembly member, I believe I would be more effective for the term of office to begin after the training takes place.

Hi, I'm Adam Green

I am running for the position of Public Relations Director of Student Government. Many of you have become displeased with Public Relations over the past few years because of what has been perceived as an impersonal job by PR Directors. I am aware of this dissatisfaction and I would like to turn it around. There are some aspects of SGA that alienate students, but Public Relations, a liaison between SGA and the community at large, will no longer be one of them.

If I am elected PR Director I will work to make Public Relations more than just hanging up signs around campus. While informing the community of upcoming SGA events or issues is important, there is also the other side of PR—giving students an outlet for their grievances. Although all SGA members should be open to this, I feel that this aspect would be enhanced by making it the particular responsibility of the PR Director. All students should feel welcome into SGA and be encouraged to express their opinions.

As Chair of the Election Board, I would work to increase student participation in midterm issues as well as the candidates for Student Government positions. To avoid past problems I would like to make it that all candidates are thoroughly briefed on the duties of the positions they are running for to be sure they understand what the job entails.

As Associate PR Director last year, I was involved with the technical aspects of the job, and as a House Senator I learned the process of Student Government here at Comnicut College. With perfect attendance at SGA Assembly for the past two years, I am well informed as to what the issues are facing SGA and the community. As a member of this election board I hope to add these qualifications to the much needed personal side of the position to become your next PR Director. Thank you very much.

Adam

The College Voice April 7, 1992
SPEECH COVERAGE
Sean Curry

I, Sean Peter Curry, am announcing my candidacy for the position of Young Alumni Trustee. I want to represent the Class of '92 on the Board of Trustees to ensure that policy initiatives are made in the best interest of the students. Often, these decisions are made without assessing how they will affect the student body. If elected, I will make sure that the Board of Trustees implements policies that serve in the best interest of the individual student.

Tradition and Innovation is a fantastic concept as long as we, the collegiate community, don’t forget who we are and where we came from. In order for Connecticut College to continue its drive for excellence, it is essential that we capitalize on our strengths. I believe that the backbone of this institution is the quality and character of the student body.

As the Young Alumni Trustee, I will make sure that the following projects such as Need-Blind Admissions, the Summer Advancement Program, Athletic Budgets, and Crozier-Williams Renovation receive complete and thorough examination. In addition, if this college is truly committed to diversity, growth and continued excellence, it should maintain quality professors, small classes, increased access to computer facilities and it should be more accessible to the handicapped.

I want to serve in the best interest of the institution and its students and where we came from. Just Do It ... Vote for the Grass-Roos Campaign and you will be casting a vote in your best interest.

Assembly waffles over decision about Speech Night participants

Leiringer said allowing write-in candidates to speak would give them a privilege they are not entitled to. “I don’t think it’s fair to students who signed up on time,” she said.

In the process of signing up for the election, candidates agreed to election rules that would have been violated if write-in candidates were allowed to speak, said Gerard Choucrum, parliamentarian. “It’s a contract, in a way,” he added.

Junior Marisa Paruta said the Assembly should not alter rules just because there are few registered candidates this year. “This seems to be conforming to the apathy on the campus,” she said.

Some Assembly members believed all candidates should be allowed to participate. “If there are more people that think they have something to share with the campus, we should let them,” said Robin Swimmer, SAC chair and a write-in candidate for vice president.

Adam Green believed only candidates for vice president should be allowed to participate in Speech Night.

Support for this idea centered around the fact that this year’s election warranted special attention. “Not having any candidates for the position is a special circumstance,” said Molly Embree, I-Board chair.

Jackie Soteropoulos, vice president, left the room shortly after the meeting began, and said, “I have tremendous problems with the procedure of that meeting.”

She said the meeting should not have been held, because not enough Assembly members were present. "I was concerned with issues of quorum and procedure," she said, and added, “I did not feel [Reg Edmonds, SGA president] could or would give an adequate response.”

She said quorum had always consisted of 19 Assembly members, but had been reduced for Friday’s meeting. “It did seem there was a lot of confusion,” said Edmonds, who stated that the removal of senators who had failed to meet attendance requirements legitimized altered quorum procedures.

Typographical and grammatical error in the candidates’ platforms were in the original copies. The editors of The College Voice have attempted to leave the format of platforms intact as much as possible; therefore, no corrections were made.

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SAVEENA DHALL

As CCASA Political Chair/Vice President and a member of MSSC, I believe our students are here not only to learn academic concerns, but also to continue the communication that has been built among the administration, faculty, and students is by having more contact sessions on issues that are of concern to us.

It is essential to keep the student body informed and educated in order to work effectively on issues such as class size, course offerings, General Education, distribution of courses, organization of sabbaticals. Some of the things I would do if elected:

* get the Board of Advisory Chairs more involved with important academic issues
* work closely with the Educational Planning Committee to make sure that students have a role in the new General Education Plan
* create a tentative schedule available at department offices of professors going on sabbatical

I believe our concerns about class size, course offerings, as shown by the SGA survey, are addressed by the administration.

This is only a brief description of some of the ideas that I have. I hope that you will give me your support because I believe that I have the experience and the initiative to be the next Chair of Academic Affairs. Just Do It ... Vote for Saveena Dhall.

MUSICIANS HANDBOOK '92

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Unopposed candidates seek Assembly slots

by Angela Troth
Associate News Editor

Though running unopposed for their respective positions, candidates for SAC Chair, Judiciary Board Chair, Chair of Academic Affairs, and Public Relations Director nevertheless presented their campaign views at speech night.

Savonna Dhall, candidate for Chair of Academic Affairs, stressed that she has extensive experience that would assist her in this position. She cited as examples her tenure as CCASA Political Chair/Vice President and MSSC member as well as her experience as a student representative on the International Studies Faculty Committee and on the College’s Diversity Committee.

She would like to implement more contact sessions involving administrators, faculty and students.

Dhall supports creating more class offerings. She stated that priorities need to be evaluated and possibly the hiring of new professors is called for.

“One of the major issues is going to be working with class size and course offerings,” she said.

She proposed having a tentative sabbatical schedule to help students in planning their course study.

“In working with the administration and faculty, I see they are very open to these issues,” she said.

On the issue of General Education requirements, Dhall believes that General Education, as it stands, has many loopholes. She said there should not be a separate diversity requirement, that, instead, what is done with diversity.

Dhall pointed in the direction of hiring faculty who can bring something different to the department as one of the goals of her position.

Julie DeGennaro is running for the position of Judiciary Board Chair. She stressed that her main job will be to put into effect the changes that have been implemented this year.

She cited the new positions of Education Officer, Investigative Officer, the addition of an appeals board as changes she will have to work out.

“The most challenging part is to work closely with the new positions,” she said, and added that the evaluation of the new jobs will be very important.

DeGennaro said that as chair she would like to offer training for newly elected Judiciary Board representatives during the confusing turnover time.

She would also like to distribute a comprehensive survey to measure students’ opinions of the Honor Code.

Much of DeGennaro’s platform was based on her belief that next year the chair will be most challenged by implementing, modifying, and accessing the current changes in J-Board.

“Too many innovative proposals with no fundamental groundwork will cause all changes to fail or at least not be used to their fullness,” she said.

DeGennaro said that she does support publicizing a role call vote because she believes that it hold J-Board representatives more accountable for each decision. She said board representatives would be more likely to not get re-elected before they were swayed by public pressure.

She also believes that there are cases that could be handled by house councils instead of J-Board, decreasing the number of cases handled by J-Board each year.

Addressing the question of the lack of a replacement method when J-Board fails to reach quorum for a trial, DeGennaro said this is an issue that needs to be investigated but that campus wide education of the duties and responsibilities of the chair and J-Board will help to solve this problem.

DeGennaro stated that she firmly believes in maintaining confidentiality but that she would support the board’s position when necessary.

“I think confidentiality protects the integrity of the board,” said DeGennaro.

SAC chair candidate, Gerard Choucroun, believes that activities at Connecticut College can be improved. According to Choucroun, the changes need to be both structural and ideological.

“The format is not as conducive to getting SAC council members’ ideas as it should be,” said Choucroun.

One change he proposed would be for the entire SAC council to meet less frequently, but for the subcommittees to meet weekly. He compared the current format to that of an oversized class.

“Ideologically SAC needs to be more risk-taking and receptive to new ideas,” Choucroun said.

Diversity in the SAC Executive Board is important to Choucroun, who added that SAC needs a change in general personality.

Other issues Choucroun addressed in his speech were his hesitancy to repeat events and his concern with the lack of tapping into campus resources.

Some ideas he proposed for SAC were block parties and a fine arts festival involving campus performers that would be held at the end of the school year.

He stressed the importance of SAC chair on the SGA Executive Board. Choucroun said he foresees a tough year in which the main purpose will be to revive respect for SGA.

When questioned on the SAC chair’s position on the Finance Committee, Choucroun said he sees this as an informational role and does not support the SAC Chair serving on the committee, but said he did not feel the decision could be made without further research.

Choucroun said he was surprised that SAC did not ask for money for a band in their budget last year.

“I would like to see SAC play a larger role in the Big Band Committee, if not taking it under its wing,” he said.

Adam Green, candidate for PR Director, served as associate PR director last year and asserted that he has attended every SGA assembly meeting this year.

“I have the edge that would allow me to adapt,” said Green.

Students must be kept up to date, Green claimed, and he added that he proposes increasing the responsibilities of PR Director.

To follow through with this idea, Green wants to initiate a campaign to encourage more students to attend Assembly meetings, and would like to plan more contact sessions on issues.

He also intends to schedule office hours to make the PR director more accessible.

When questioned on the debate surrounding whether PR director should be an elected or appointed position, Green responded, “The PR director in the past has mostly been an advertising director, but the PR is also chair of the Elections Board. The person running this should be elected by the students.”

Addressing the question of what role the PR director should have in the college community, Green replied that he envisions PR director as playing a larger role in the relationship between the SGA, students, faculty and administration.

Seniors, you are eligible to vote for YAT and the SGA Executive Board positions on Tuesday!

The College Voice April 7, 1992 Page 11
The two candidates for SGA president, in their presentations at Speech and Debate Night Sunday, offered ideas for increasing the effectiveness of student government.

Sean Spicer and Colleen Shanley delivered speeches and answered questions raised by a panel consisting of Sarah Huntley, publisher, and Jon Finnimore, editor in chief, of The College Voice and Vin Candela, SGA presidential associate.

Spicer discussed the shortcomings of student government that have become prevalent, and how they can be repaired. Shanley focused on methods of expanding on the recent actions of student government and addressing communication troubles.

A high priority for next year will be to improve the relationship between SGA and the administration, according to Shanley. "Communication needs to be strengthened between both of these groups," she said.

She believes student government needs to facilitate more respect from the administration. She said, "We have to show that we are worthy of that respect."

Spicer agreed that evaluation will be necessary. "The committee structure of SGA has to be evaluated," he said.

According to Spicer, student government has considered an inadequate number of issues which are truly important to students this year. "There are no true issues that are brought up week after week," he said.

The issues have fallen by the wayside, and it is time to bring them to the forefront," Spicer said, added, "My main goal is to make changes happen next year."

"Shanley stated the Assembly should begin to examine issues outside the college community. She said, "We have to deal with issues beyond Connecticut College issues."

Both candidates believe the SGA Executive Board must find a better way of working together with the rest of the Assembly. "There is a lack of communication between the two groups," said Shanley.

Shanley proposes to implement informal weekly dinner meetings with all Assembly members as a method of discussing important issues without the limitations of parliamentary procedure.

Both candidates believe stronger leadership training for Assembly members will strengthen the effectiveness of the SGA.

According to Spicer, the president should take a strong stance on issues being debated. "I support voting and participating in SGA as an elected member," he said.

Shanley argued that it is not the role of the president to assert opinions on the Assembly. She explained, "I see the role of president in SGA as a moderator."

Shanley stressed the importance of an objective facilitator of representative ideas to guide the Assembly.

A goal of Spicer is to "integrate freshmen into student government." He believes this can be done by educating the students more during orientation. According to Shanley, there are orientation programs in place that can be improved. "These things that already happen need to be strengthened."

She said other classes should help the freshmen get involved in SGA. "There needs to be guidance from above," she said.

Committee activities are also issues that will be important to the SGA president next year.

"It is time for the committee structure to be re-investigated . . . There are a lot of student concerns that aren't being addressed."

--Colleen Shanley, SGA presidential candidate

The following staff members contributed to this issue:

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Julie Granof
Dan Levine
Maiken Jacobs
Chris Scott
Angela Troth
Sue Feuer

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