

THE PREP NEWS

IF NOTHING
ELSE,

VALUE
THE TRUTH.

Volume 79, Election Issue

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sluh.org/prepnews

The Prep News junior staff members asked each student running for senior STUCO positions three questions via email. Here are their unedited responses.

Questions:

1. Why is the SLUH community important to you?
2. What experiences at SLUH have helped prepare you for office?
3. Thomas Jefferson once said, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government." What do you believe is the first and only object of a good student government?

COMMENTARY Not a popularity contest

Written by PN Juniors

In the latest season of House of Cards, as Frank Underwood is running to be elected for a second term as president, there was a moment when his wife, Claire Underwood, said to him, "We've been lying for a long time, Francis." He replied, "Of course we have, imagine what the voters would think if we told the truth?"

We, the juniors of the Prep News, believe it is important to see every side of those in office, even if it is just for a position in a student government. That is why we have published this special election issue—in order to inform our class of the truth of each candidate running for office. Now we understand that House of Cards is a TV show, and that that quote comes from writers who simply dream up the most entertaining of plots to, well, entertain audiences.

continued on page 4

President Ian Hurford



1. You guys are smarter and happier and better than me. I've changed a lot, in good ways, due to your influence. I can't thank you all individually, partly because that'd be a lot of effort, mostly because it would be very weird, but I can thank you all by serving you next year as Student Body President. I want to give back to you guys, who I respect and admire.

2. First day of freshman lacrosse, Patrick Broughton nailed me in the cup. It hurt so bad. I've auditioned for some theater productions, and I have yet to be in a cast. On the other hand, I've done very well academically, I play varsity soccer, and I've found I really enjoy our community service program. In my attempts to do new things, whether I failed or succeeded, I've immersed myself into SLUH. I'm the president of SoIL, and I think I have traits that make me a very capable leader. But most of all, I can relate to all of you guys because I have done what you guys have done, in some cases worse, in some cases better. The retreats, the day to day grind, the first mixer I went to—these things have brought me closer to you guys, and the more I know you, the more I feel obligated to serve you by leading you next year.

3. Increasing support of the school they represent. This is my main goal for next year. I want to increase attendance to SLUH events: sports games, theater productions, Robotics raves.

Jack Perryman



1. The SLUH community matters to me because it's where my friends are, where my family is, and where I am. The community at SLUH, whether it be my friends, teachers, or upperclassmen, has molded into the person I am now. If you had told me in eighth grade who I would be as a second semester junior, it would almost be hard to believe because this place has done really incredible things for me, and now I'd like to give some of that back and help make other students' experiences at SLUH as rich as mine.

2. I was class president for two years, so I have more experience on Student Council than anyone in this election. I know what to expect coming into the job so the transition of getting a new executive board ready for the school year would be much easier for me. This year, when I wasn't on Student Council, I advocated for the Class of 2016 to be left out of the one-to-one technology program at SLUH, which, like it or not, showed leadership.

3. If I can graduate next May knowing that I have made SLUH a more community based, student-friendly place, then I will be confident that I have done my job. My experience at SLUH has been incredible, and I hope that if elected I can make the community bond, the brotherhood at SLUH, even stronger.

CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

Ian Hurford

Jack Perryman

VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick Pence

SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Laith Armouti

John Schwartz

PUBLICITY

Kevin Strader

Dominic Salamon

SPIRIT

Tim Sansone

Jeremy Konzen

TECHNOLOGY

Alixander Warner

Tom Hillmeyer

INTRAMURALS

Joe Goeddel

Sam Perry

PASTORAL REP

Sergio Goodwin

We have included the responses of only those running opposed, due to space constraints. We sent the questions to all those who ran for the positions, before the primaries that were held yesterday, due to a scheduling change. We had initially intended to publish their responses as well.

Speeches are today, during activity period, in the theater.

Secretary/Treasurer

Laith Armouti



1. I spend the same amount of time at school that I do at home, so SLUH is like another home for me. SLUH is a place where I feel comfortable with myself and my classmates. In such a place, a community, it is important to be who you are so you are able to explore and develop your sense of self. The SLUH community is a place that allows you to try new things, to make mistakes, to find support, and to mentor. It is a safe haven. When I walk the halls in the morning, I genuinely am happy seeing the familiar faces and saying good morning to anyone and everyone. The people within the SLUH community have a distinctive way of making you feel welcome and uniquely special. I hope that I can contribute in this manner as well. Because the SLUH community is like family to me, I want to hold a Student Council office so I can help my family, and make everyone's experience here the best it can be.

2. I am running for Student Council (STUCO) Treasurer and if elected I will be responsible for organizing and keeping a record of all we discuss while also keeping STUCO efficient. At SLUH through various successes and failures I have gained the necessary skills and knowledge to exceptionally execute these duties. Middle school was very easy for me; so when I began freshman year and SLUH classes required actual work, I had to learn efficiency and organizational skills fast. I struggled at first but am now more than capable. Additionally, I have served in leadership roles in other SLUH organizations. Overcoming difficulty and learning how to problem solve has made me resourceful and more

than capable of excelling as STUCO Treasurer.

3. A good student government's only objective is to voice the student body's opinions and have them in mind in whatever it does. Anyone in STUCO has an obligation to not just keep students' opinions in mind but to be the voice of the students to the best of their ability. During times of school policy disagreements and complex or difficult situations, STUCO can serve as liaison between the student body and the school administration. I, with my sage wisdom and calming spirit, would be a beneficial addition to STUCO for such a purpose. During STUCO meetings, I will take excellent notes and offer valuable dialogue. I will routinely solicit input from classmates regarding matters before STUCO, to discuss during meetings to make sure students have access to, as well as a voice in, the governing process. Students can also feel free to approach me for any information regarding the status of business pending before STUCO. If elected Treasurer, I would be an honorable servant to the needs of the student body.

John Schwartz



1. I grew up hearing about SLUH, planning to be a student, and watching the sports teams in their best and worse of times, so SLUH was an important factor in my childhood. It is even more important now because the decisions made directly affect me and next year will affect my brother. I want to be a part of SLUH's transformation from a great place to an even better one.

2. Sophomore year I took advanced geometry because of advice given to me, and so I thought it would be an easy class. I was wrong, and almost crashed and burned. I persevered, but learned one of my limitations and that I need to set more realistic and achievable goals. In office I would offer up sensible and reasonable changes or goals, and not unfeasible goals.

3. The first objective of a good student government is to help foster the ideals SLUH instills in the community-being a man for others.

Publicity/Communications

Kevin Strader



1. The SLUH community has formed who I am and without a single "You're welcome." This community is important to me because I have experienced its powers to form young men into outstanding men for others. Although very cheesy, I truly believe every member of SLUH offers a unique characteristic that breaks the seemingly mundane routine of school.

2. My everyday experiences at SLUH have prepared me for office whether they are sports, extra-curricular activities or just a conversation with a new face all have helped me form bonds turning strangers into brothers.

3. I believe the first and only object of a good student government is unifying the students. By providing various activities through SLUH and for the students of SLUH then hopefully all students could see SLUH as their home away from home.

Dominic Salamon



1) The SLUH community is important to me for two main reasons. One of the reasons is that the community has undoubtedly and profoundly effected the formation of my identity as a man for others. The other reason is that I come from a line of men who attended SLUH for a quality education. My grandpa, father, uncles, brother, and cousins all went to SLUH, and I the fact that I get the opportunity to continue their legacy is truly an honor.

2) Watching the trailers put out by STUCO during my freshmen year inspired me to brainstorm ideas for funny, creative videos during my free time. I believe that if I can bring back those awesome videos, I might be able to inspire the incoming freshmen as well. Other experiences that prepared me for my office were the freshmen and sophomore retreats. During those retreats, I got to know so many kids who I had not previously met. After the retreats were over, it was clear to me that I had one major goal for the rest of my high school career; I wanted to be more involved with my class. I believe that Publicity and Communications is the perfect office for me to achieve that goal.

3) Listening to the opinions of other students and taking their input seriously is the first and only object of a good student government. I plan on getting the student body more involved on certain aspects of government. I want to send out surveys to the students to ensure that everyone has a say when it comes to the projects handled by the Publicity and Communications office (e.g. dances, mixers, and videos).

Spirit

Tim Sansone



1. The SLUH community is important to me because I feel like I have been a part of it since I was a little kid no older than 6. At the football games, I'd look up at the stands and see the vast crowd of kids painted in blue. I always wanted to be a part of that. I often would try to sneak under the roped off area for the blue crew and try to bang on the rally drum or get some blue paint with out being seen. Usually, I was seen and when I was one of the guys leading the cheers would pick me up and put me on his shoulders or put the Billikens head on me. The SLUH community made me feel welcome and want to give back to it.

2. The first experience that has helped me prepare for office is the fact that I have been going to SLUH games for all my life. I used to never miss a football game and not even the away ones. I frequently went to hockey's games and even a few baseball games. I used to ask my mom if she would go out and get me blue paint so I could put it on myself. The second is that obviously I know the cheers because that is basically a requirement. Third is that have played sports at SLUH and I know how important a large crowd is to the players. Large screaming crowds can definitely change the outcome of the game.

3. I believe that the most important object for a good government is a deep unconditional care for the people you are governing. If you don't care for the people you govern, experiences like running of the bills, state championship games, and pep rallies will become flattened out and boring.

Jeremy Konzen



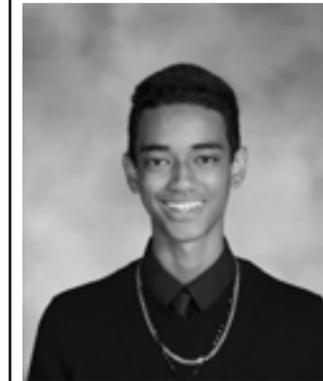
1. Coming from a class of nineteen in a school of limited opportunities, the SLUH community gave me the ability to branch out and find all of the interests I could not express before. The immense diversity that SLUH expresses in personality and education is unlike any other school in the area, and our numerous clubs and athletic programs show each student's personal talents in any way they would like to show it.

2. The position of Spirit Leader has seemed to narrow itself down to only controlling the athletic aspect of our school. While involved in a sport, I have also been a part of numerous clubs since freshman year, and I want to extend the position back into focusing on the community as a whole, not just one part of it. My involvement around SLUH has allowed me to see where spirit is thriving, and in some places it is needed. Also, extending spirit to our clubs will not take away from our fan section as well. As an athlete myself I know what a fan section can do to get our teams going... and stop whoever we are playing. I've been to as many athletic games and events as I could the last three years, and with my brother as the current Spirit Leader I know I can build off what he started, and extend our already proclaimed "Best student section in the state" (Thanks to Jackson High School) even further.

3. Involvement, particularly in the senior class. While at SLUH I have seen spirit being limited down to a certain group of guys chosen by the spirit leader to represent our entire school. I believe that as seniors we have already earned the right to represent our school. As spirit leader I will get our entire class involved. I will change up

Technology

Alixander Warner



1. The SLUH community is important to me because I've grown to comprehend the special meaning of community much more than I did before coming to SLUH. Through that growth, I've learned to offer myself to the SLUH community and enhance it in anyway I see possible. And that's why I'm running for STUCO technology because in my final year at SLUH, I see this position as most suitable for offering my talents to the SLUH community.

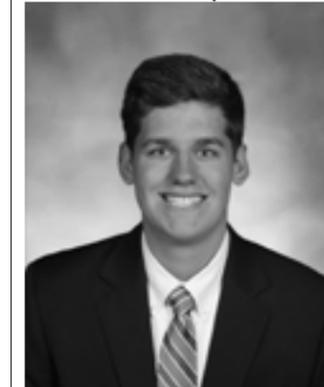
2. I'm a thousand times better than anybody running for STUCO technology. I'm used to working with cameras, various equipment, and video software. I also conceptualize, film, and edit all of my videos and make sure they never turn out generic or bland. Through my experience of making Oakland Avenue, I exhibited the huge school spirit I possess in being able to bring together the school community by doing something innovative in SLUH's history that SLUH hadn't seen before. I look forward to having more of those special moments by helping to create original, funny, and entertaining promotional videos that excite the student body. Unlike my opponent who's only been involved in SLUH tube projects, I've played a major role in both SLUH tube and Gadfly. My heavy involvement in both these clubs represents my abilities and skills to create both comical skits and

Blue Crews to different guys as much as I can. If you have one of SLUH's famous four-line cheers that you want to lead, then do it. One spirit leader can get a fan section going, but our class as a whole can reach out to the entire school.

promotional videos while making them entertaining. With my resumé, I'm the most qualified candidate.

3. The first and only object of a good student government is succeeding in giving SLUH's students the most fun and enjoyable year that they can have. And through the contributions I plan to make, that task will be fulfilled.

Tom Hillmeyer



1. The SLUH community is important to me mostly in regards to brotherhood. There's something about the connections we have that I haven't experienced or seen before. The SLUH connection and reputation even outside St. Louis is astounding. When I walk down the halls each and every day I don't feel like a stranger among a thousand or so random people. I feel like I belong, like one big happy family. Being apart of this brotherhood and this community is something I take immense pride in.

2. SLUHTube has been my main experience at SLUH that helped me prepare for my office. Almost every single SLUHTube production I've had my hand in, most by myself. In addition to SLUHTube I've assisted with many different clubs and groups in large and small parts, such as creating the PULSE website, assisting with Prep News, and contributing to Photography. I have taken nearly all of the computer science classes offered at SLUH, and I am confident that I can use my skills to serve this office to its fullest potential.

3. I believe that a good student government's sole objective is exactly the same as how President Jefferson put it. Through different fundraisers, drives, and especially Mission Week, STUCO not only cares about human life and happiness, but does it in a way that makes it fun and enjoyable to give back, and it would be an honor to be a part of that.

Intramurals

Joe Goeddel



1. The SLUH community has been a huge part of my life since my brother was here and there's no place like it. I am very proud to represent such a great school on a day to day basis because it gives me a chance to contribute to what makes SLUH so unique.

2. Managing JV soccer this year (shoutout to Mr. McCarthy) helped me acquire a better attention to detail that will be helpful for this position. Also, talking to my cousin Gabe Horas, the current intramural officer on STUCO, really gave me a great idea about the work this job involves.

3. I think organizing fun is the main thing a good student government needs to be able to do well. Mixers, Mission Week, sporting events, and most importantly intramural sports add a level of excitement to our school that couldn't be reached without STUCO.

Sam Perry



1. SLUH is important to me because it's a place where I know I'll be supported. It's a home away from home.

2. Well I think the SLUH experience had helped me grow, but in particular the summer trips with Mr. Zarrick, I think, have given me a chance to become close with someone I'll be working with extensively if elected. I mean my baseball career has been fruitless to this point so that struggle has also made me more determined for sure.

3. Wow. We just went from Thomas Jefferson to SLUH STUCO, but I'd probably say that the main object of a student government is to bring the school together by listening to and valuing everyone's ideas.

Commentary

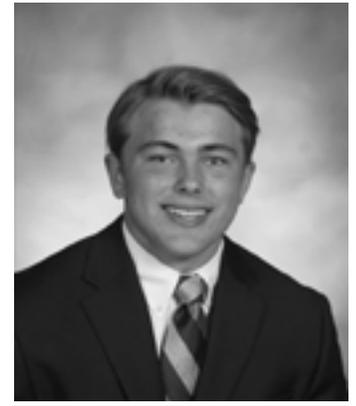
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But at the same time, we want the leaders of our senior year to serve the needs of students, and that involves electing those who best fit each respective office. We ask our class to take into account every part of a candidate's campaign, as well as not hold any personal prejudices against those who are running. Don't simply elect friends, and remember the Grad at Grad by being opening to growth, even if that means going against first impressions of the candidates.

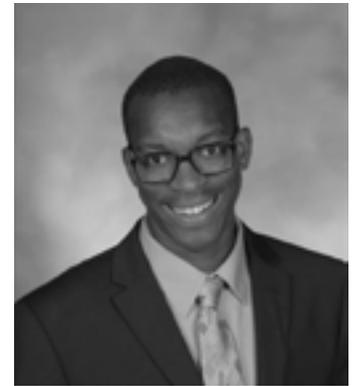
We ask all of this unto our class because no matter how much work we put into providing the truth, it ultimately comes down to how the election's effects are viewed by our class. As a result, we ask that our class please understand the value of a student government, because we feel as if all too often, people see STUCO elections as popularity contests, where the actual purpose of the government is ignored. Too many simply elect their friends, or whoever makes them laugh the hardest during their speech. But the truth is, this election isn't just a popularity contest. These are fellow students, who have the ability to affect our lives here at SLUH. They have the ability to help your friend who is having trouble at home, your classmate with the drug problem, or your brother who has been bullied since freshman year. If we elect those who make us laugh the hardest, we would despoil an opportunity to better our class as well as SLUH in general. So please, understand that we have a right, we have a privilege, and we have a duty to SLUH with this election, and if we don't use it correctly—if we simply see this election as another popularity contest—we would be failing ourselves as well as the SLUH community as a whole.

Unopposed Candidates

Patrick Pence—VP



Sergio Goodwin—Pastoral



Political Quotes

“Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man.”

—Ronald Reagan
“AAAAAAAAAAHH-HHHH!!”

—Howard Dean
“The ballot is stronger than the bullet.”

—Abraham Lincoln
“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”

—Plato

PN 79 Juniors

Core Staff

*Nolen Doorack
Connor FitzGerald
Leo Heinz
Keith Thomas*

Staff

*Sam Heagney
Charlie Mueth
Tim Nile
Jack Sinay*