

Itkowitz and Godbole, Osheroff win votes for new executive branch



File photo

Evan Osheroff won the election to become next year’s SBVPF. He plans to improve the Budget Tracker website, audit all funded student organizations, and assign JFC representatives as early as September. Osheroff hopes to work closely with his competitor, Sagar Mehta.

RESULTS, from A1

student votes ever cast in one election is 2537, in 2004, according to Student Senate minutes.

The relative ease of the election process was due in part to a new server purchased by the Office of Student Activities and Student Senate last summer to replace the server purchased five years ago from a project at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), according to Meg Richards, a senior in computer science and chief technical officer (CTO) of the Elections Board. In addition, the new server is administered by a staff member in Enrollment Services to heighten security.

“Now we can focus on code and not security,” Richards said.

However, although there is staff involvement at the security level, the system is still operated primarily by students.

“It’s going to be [operated by] students and it should be students,” Richards said.

In addition, this year’s system included a host of updated features. For example, candidates this year were able to submit their platforms online, whereas before they submitted paper platforms that were later retyped by the CTO.

Additionally, Richards configured the system to match each name that voters put in as a write-in candidate to an Andrew ID to ensure that the potential candidate was actually a cur-

rent student; last year, without this modification, multiple students were able to vote for Optimus Prime (a Transformer) via write-in, Richards explained. At the end of the voting process, the system tallied, stored, and computed the votes and put them in a results table, after which Richards added all votes for write-ins.

Despite the ease of the process, however, candidates were glad to be done.

“The election is a draining process,” Itkowitz said.

“We’re just relieved we don’t have to do it again,” Godbole added.

Richards believes that the new system is a model that will work in the long term. To ensure longevity, she included an admin page with explicit instructions, so all configurations could be handled from the webfront (website) end by her successor.

But Richards is still planning to improve the system for next year’s elections. She’d like to expand the suite of administrative utilities, increase performance, and create error messages that correspond to the particular problematic field, instead of a general message.

However, she was pleased with the way elections went this year.

“We were out by 9:45 [p.m.], not 4 a.m.,” she said. “We had a much better time.”

In addition to Richards, the Elections Board consists of co-chairs Sudeep Paul, a senior

business administration and economics major, and Ruth Poproski, a Ph.D. student in philosophy; Neha Thatte, a senior design major; Tarun Bhan, a junior economics and social and decision sciences major; and Vivan Shah, a senior electrical and computer engineering major.

Only days into the process, the candidates were ready to get started.

“We’re just excited to get out there and meet new people,” Godbole said.

“And now we have an excuse,” Itkowitz added.

All three candidates each have their own visions; for Itkowitz and Godbole, they hope to initiate their seven CMUnity issues including a 24/7 campus, better student safety, and expanding the influence of student government into Pittsburgh and graduate student affairs. Osheroff hopes to reform the Joint Funding Committee through a new website, audits of all funded organizations, and a revised timeline of assigning representatives.

They all share the vision of increasing transparency, collaborating between student groups, and integrating one-on-one communication with the student body.

To view the complete election results, visit stugov.andrew.cmu.edu/elections/results.

Editor’s Note: Tarun Bhan is the advertising manager for The Tartan.

Students study sneakers and take final exam through citywide festival

StuCo class examines urban culture through sneakers

SNEAKERS, from A1

Sneakerology 101 is anything but conventional.

The midterm exam was to design the “ideal sneaker.” One notable concept was Taylor’s line of “bearded shoes.”

“I don’t think enough people appreciate beards through shoes,” Taylor said.

For the final exam, both students and teachers are collaborating to throw a sneaker festival.

The first “Kicksburgh” will be held in Skibo Gym this Wednesday.

The festival promotes the charity organization Soles-4Souls, which distributes donated shoes to those affected by disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

There will be collection bins around campus for both new and used shoes.

Chorng and Curtis describe the festival as “a really cool event involving the entire city,” and hope to “promote urban culture in Pittsburgh.”

From 6 to 10 p.m., the event will feature local urban boutiques (including TimeBomb, SoleII Sole, oneUP Skateshop, and Ulterior Motive) and local brands (including vitaminTHICK and The D.O.N. or Definition of NYCE).

There will also be live art by local DJs and painters, a trivia game, and an appearance by the campus’ breakdance crew, the International FreeStylers, among other activities.

The two teachers hope that many will see the event as a great kick-off to this year’s Carnival.

In addition to working on this year’s festival, the pair is already planning for years to come.

Curtis and Chorng hope Sneakerology sticks around campus, and are actively looking for their successors.

Pileggi is just happy that she was able to “watch the birth of something that’s going to be big,” she said.

She also expressed her anticipation for the festival.

“If this is a success, it’s a huge deal. Not only for Elliott and Jesse, but for all of us students as well,” she said.

When asked if they had any last comments, Pileggi, speaking for herself and Taylor, said, “We think Elliott and Jesse should get paid.”

For those who missed out this semester, Curtis has agreed to teach the class again next spring.

Editor’s note: Casey Taylor is a staffwriter for The Tartan.



Courtesy of Elliot Curtis and Jesse Chorng

The first annual Kicksburgh festival will be organized by the two student teachers and students in Sneakerology 101 and the planning of the event will count as the group’s final exam. It will be held Wednesday, April 16 from 6 to 10 p.m. in Skibo Gym.



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