

Fall 2009 Undergraduate Student Elections

Vote Any Time From 8AM, September 21 to 10AM, September 23... Eligible Voters Will Receive E-Mail Instructions

STUDENT ASSEMBLY FRESHMAN AT LARGE (VOTE FOR 3 — MORE CHOICES ON REVERSE SIDE)

Tom Burke (tfb28)

Hi, I am Tom Burke and I would be honored to work for the freshman class as your Student Assembly representative. I am majoring in Hotel Administration and I live in Donlon Hall where I am serving on the Hall Council. I love Cornell and want to help serve the community in anyway possible. As your representative I promise that I will do everything I can to make sure that our freshman issues are heard and addressed. I am very interested in the quality of the academic and residential experiences that will be offered to our class during the next four years. Cornell has already had budget cuts and must impose substantially more due to the current economic situation, which will have a major impact on our Cornell experience. As your delegate I will work hard to learn your views on how the proposed budget cuts will impact our experience and to ensure that the Student Assembly has effective leadership on this and other issues. For example, Cornell is a leader in sustainability issues and this needs to continue. I am hard working and dedicated. I want to get to know everyone in our class so I can properly represent you. I promise to advocate for improvements in student life and in academics. Please vote for me and let me represent you.

Ramsey Ataya (rka34)

So basically, I'd be lucky if I knew 1% of you guys. Don't worry though. I'm ambitious; I'll probably crash one of your lunch tables sometime soon. I think that's the best way to recognize genuine student concerns—by getting to know you. That's exactly how I developed my platform:

1. EXPANDING the capabilities of Big Red Bucks
2. PERSUADING local businesses to offer student discounts
3. ESTABLISHING a Rent-A-Bike system in the spring
4. ORGANIZING job fairs for in-campus employment
5. ENSURING clean, safe roads during the winter months

I could just keep on going if you wanted me to... You actually think I came up with this? Heck, I've only been here for three weeks. I wish I was that good. The reason why I know these problems is because I listen. I ask. I resolve. Let me back my words with action, and I will get your satisfaction. My name is Ramsey Ataya, and I'm bringing reform to Cornell.

Gabrielle Fernandez (gf77)

From my travels to Africa this past summer to the exploration of government in my senior year of high school, I have come to realize what I want for my future — which begins in Student Assembly. My encounters with poverty in Africa created a desire to help others in whatever location. The medical field is not my ideal career of choice, but rather, public service is my calling. Beginning with Student Assembly, my active participation to help even the Cornell community can contribute to my accessibility to the public while simultaneously directing my studies into the political field that I enjoy so much. My experience in the realm of politics stems from my government class in senior year, in which I was tested beyond my knowledge about governmental issues in a debate-like team known as "We the People." My interest in politics and law will continue to flourish with my participation in the Student Assembly as well as in my connection with Cornell students. What I want most is to help students, particularly freshmen, experience the vast opportunities that Cornell has to offer, with minor improvement and suggestions as requested by my peers. Thank you.

Jill Marshall (jem393)

Many factors come in when representing a group and working with a governmental system. I have had experiences in both these contexts. As Class President for six years, I was hands-on coordinating events, fundraisers and communicating the needs of a population. I experienced the national government as a Page for the U.S. House of Representatives. Daily, I witnessed major leaders in our nation at work on the floor of the House. My job entailed communicating with members, ringing bells for legislative business and the occasional glass of water for Mrs. Pelosi. I have interacted with the government nationally and locally. I interned for my county legislatures and explored local government and its interaction with the state government. I am still learning, but have acquired skills and knowledge from these experiences that will benefit the Assembly. By running, I hope to represent the freshmen class, and also work to preserve, maintain and continue to expand the opportunities we all came to Cornell for. Our years at Cornell are coinciding with an economic downturn and I hope to maintain and improve the student quality of life, regardless what is happening outside Ithaca.

Andrew Bange (aab233)

Freshman year can be challenging. You're working all day and wandering around c'town looking for a party all night only to find a cramped apartment with bad music. Your life is stressful enough as is. You don't want or need the added burdens of all the little things. Things like waiting in line for 20 minutes at Okenshields to grab a quick lunch (Speed line anyone?) or needing to look up bus schedules because they aren't posted in the dorms. My name is Andrew Bange (That's bang-E; think gunshot+letter) and my goal is to make all the little things that irritate you go away. Is there something out there that makes your life just a little bit harder than it needs to be? Email me and I will work to fix it. Our lives here are hard enough as is. We don't need the added stress that comes from locking our keys in the dorm and not being able to find a master key or from blowing out the circuit breaker in our room when we try to run the microwave and computer at the same time. I've been working on various city and county advisory boards for the past three years and I know how to make your voice heard and your problems go away. Vote for Andrew Bange and I will streamline your college life to give you more time to wander c'town looking for parties.

Julie Xue (jx56)

There are plenty of reasons why my fellow running mates are excellent candidates for the Student Assembly, but what makes me the best? As a determined and motivated leader, a committed student and a staunch environmentalist, I bring a strong point of view and a fresh personality to the floor of the Assembly. Change happens fast at Cornell, and in the rush, student voices are sometimes forgotten. I intend to bring the student opinion to the forefront of every matter, whether it involves facilities, social activities, unfair regulations or any other subject. With past leadership experience in academic, athletic, and service settings, I know how to bring the view of my fellow classmates and peers to the attention of the right people, at the right time. Cornell is a fantastic school, but choose the best candidate, and you can make it that much better.

Michael W. Grome (mwg49)

Executive experience:
Student Council President
Junior Class President
-National Honor Society Parliamentarian
Onondaga County Youth Court:
-Judge,
-Defense Attorney,
-Prosecution Lawyer
Why run?
To make well thought out legislative decisions in the interest of the undergraduate class of 2013.
To obtain the experience needed in order to successfully run for national political offices upon graduation.
To give Gingers, Brunettes, Blonds, Black-haired individuals, and all people of varied hair colorations, an individual voice in our community.

Heran Yang (hy279)

When Heran sits amongst the rest of the Student Assembly, you will think, "yes, for SA, he ran." My name is not only fun. When I joined clubs, parties, meetings, tried all the new things, and collected students' advices and signatures in Cornell, I was impressed by our concerns. Besides the meal plan matters, BRB matters... the most frequently asked question is "What can you do in SA? Can you solve problems?" Yes. More places to use meal plan, higher monthly gigabyte internet allowance, cable TV for all student lounges, these issues can all be solved motivated by my commitment to the Cornell community! Being a freshman in such a huge campus, you need to make your voice heard and receive efficient feedback immediately. Feel free to email me at hy279@cornell.edu for your concerns and advices. I hold within me great passion and a thirst for personally serving you. I recommend you to climb through the long, dim, and rotational stairs to stand beside the bell of Cornell's clock tower. You will be amazed by the golden sunshine, innumerable chalked-up roads, and compact gorgeous halls. This campus is yours! It's time to make your voice heard and vote Heran. Yes, for SA, he ran!

Jamie Sternlicht (jas734)

Dear Students of the Cornell Class of 2013, My name is Jamie Sternlicht and I am in the college of Agriculture and Life Sciences for Environmental Engineering. "What is an Environmental Engineer doing running for Student Assembly?" you may ask. Well, the answer is: a strong desire to make a difference in our little Cornell community. While my strong suit has never been humanities in particular, I have always had a knack for government. My senior year of high school I was Student Organization President, which probably qualifies me just as much as anyone else running. So what distinguishes me? We're all hard-working, intelligent individuals, that's why we go to Cornell. (as the many speakers at orientation informed us.) As Cornellians it's a pretty sure shot that whomever you choose will be focused and driven. So what distinguishes me? I'd say I'm pretty approachable, perhaps even friendly! But that you could decide for yourselves. I may look a bit grumpy trudging to class at 9 am, but say "Hi" and you'll always be greeted with a smile. I'm open-minded. I make it a point to accept others as they are and listen to their points of view. Possibly most importantly, I'm reliable. If I say I'll get something done, I'll get it done. I'm sure the other candidate will have platforms, and ideas to better a school in which they've been in for barely three weeks. I'll wait for your opinions, what can I do to make Cornell a better place for you? Sincerely, Jamie Adele Sternlicht

Jing Jin (jj356)

In the short time I have been at Cornell, I have already come to love this school. What's not to love about the natural beauty, endless opportunities, and support services that are all ours to explore? But, could it be even better? My own experiences and those of others tell me the answer is yes. There are many improvements that can be made: earlier release of booklists, free fitness center memberships, more sustainable practices that also limit waste. More importantly, I am running to be YOUR representative. The issues — big or small — that are important to you are the ones I want to find the solutions for. As your freshman representative, I will make myself available in person both to hear your problems and to share what actions your elected representatives are taking. My high school leadership experiences taught me to communicate effectively, work efficiently, and never be afraid to take initiative. I also learned that the best solutions are the result of teamwork, so you can count on me to work with the administration, fellow student leaders, and you — the class of 2013 — to make Cornell even better. Please don't hesitate to contact me at jj356@cornell.edu, and vote Jing for YOUR representative!

Shane Seppinni (sds243)

Fighting for change has become very popular recently and for good reason. But let's face it, as freshmen at Cornell we don't know everything that needs to be changed; what we do know is that improvements can and must be made. Voting for me, Shane Seppinni, an ILR student who lives in Mews Hall, ensures that you will have an advocate who listens to your concerns and speaks to your needs. I am an experienced leader who knows how to get funding to the people and programs who need it. As a senior in high school I served as the link between the school district and my teachers by founding Students for Advancing Teachers' Salaries which helped teachers win a 3% wage increase. As your freshman representative I will be the link between you and Cornell's student government. In addition, I am adept at setting and accomplishing goals such as ensuring easy-to-understand bus schedules are posted at every Cornell bus stop, streamlining Cornell's complicated student center website, and bringing more variety to North Campus' dining halls. With your vote I will meet these goals while holding weekly office hours where you can voice your opinions and needs. Vote SHANE SEPPINNI for a fresh approach to freshmen issues.

Adam Gitlin (amg288)

GIT SOME! My name is Adam Gitlin, I live in Donlon Hall (D5 and I am in ILR. I aim to bring skills learned from High School Student Government and my gap year working on the Obama campaign and Presidential Inaugural Committee to Cornell. If elected Freshman Representative, I plan to improve the quality of student life for the Class of 2013 by providing free late-night food pantries at RPCC or Appel; ensuring bus schedules everywhere on campus; creating a dorm-based social networking website for increased communication about local programming. Elevate our culture of public service through new community service initiatives. Serve as your advocate and go-to guy if you have an issue and don't know where to go (the Cornell website is an electronic jungle). We can talk about it over a Nastesub or coffee. Some of us are musicians and photographers and others are athletes, debaters and singers. We are a diverse group of students, yet when we come together we are an exceptional class that has the potential to be a driving force on the Cornell campus. If you have any questions or suggestions, please friend me on Facebook.com/AdamGitlin—because I want your year to go smoothly.

Joseph Ward (jjw222)

If elected as your Freshman At-Large, I will bring with me a wealth of leadership experience as well as open-mindedness. I was a captain of my high school's track team, interim seafood manager at Genardi's supermarket, and led a wide variety of community service activities and fundraisers. In these sorts of economic conditions, with our shrinking endowment and limited resources, it is important to elect a leader who will maximize our efficiency and increase our revenues, thereby extending our resources back to previous levels; this would include important programs such as tutoring, which has cut back availability both in hours and in subjects, no longer offering tutoring in the humanities. It is for causes like this that I have chosen to run for your Freshman At-Large and I hope to see you at some of our many events should I be elected.

Joaquin Ponce Diaz (jep255)

As an International Student born and raised in Ecuador, my hope is to bring a broader and varied perspective into the Student Assembly. My aim is to promote the diversity we enjoy at Cornell and use it as a means of exploration and embracement. I hope to bring my eagerness and passion for service into the SA by providing a different perspective when decisions need to be taken. I have decided to run for this position because my love for Cornell University is great, I feel the need to give back to the community by serving it. I served the Student Council during my senior year at high school, this has allowed me to understand what it means to preside an organization and at the same time, what it means to work with the community. During my presidency, I created an annual fund to help financially-needed students pay for international model-UN experiences, and provided 400 children from public schools near to my high school with a small, yet dignified entertainment for Christmas. For some of them, this was the only gift they received. I am a person who is aware, aware that student governance is there to provide the students with what they really need. I give to you my promise of dedication, honesty and passion if elected to the SA.

Kamillah Knight (kk594)

Where there is a strong community there is a strong leader and like the Joards were to California, we are new to Cornell, so it's not so easy to find that leader. I'm here to give you a little bit of a clue as to whom that leader should be... Me! As a high school senior I was the president of the student body, the president of the National Honor Society, and the Vice President of Montclair's NAACP youth council. I am from Montclair, New Jersey. Montclair is known to be one of the most integrated towns in the US, if not number one. Cornell in a way resembles my town because there is such a diverse community. Who better to represent the opinions of the various cultures that exist in the class of 2013. Don't get me wrong I am no better than any other student enrolled here at Cornell because clearly we are all qualified. I am a serious person but I still enjoy grilled cheese sandwiches and the life Cornell presents inside and out of the classroom, just like everyone else. However, being in a leadership position doesn't mean I have to conform to the stereotype of black suits and high-heeled shoes everyday. It means that I must set a great example and know when the time is to be serious. I believe that being a part of the student assembly is not for the power I would gain, but instead the responsibility I would hold in being open to all the opinions of my fellow classmates.

John-Paul Couce (jec325)

Passion and compassion. These two pillars form the foundation upon which an exceptional leader stands. Inherently woven into my own moral fiber, my passion for life, leadership, service, discovery, and the hearts and aspirations of my peers is both indelible and uncontainable. Infectiously charismatic, I possess a heart characterized by a commitment to excellence in not only these passions, but also in tradition and innovation. Sustained by enthusiasm, dedication, and ingenuity, my heart is fearless and ready to lead.

Roneal Desai (rpd56)

Hello Voters! To brief you on my group and leadership experience, I've been in 5 varsity/club sports and was captain of 3. I was also the Director of Youth Services for the Red Cross (Regional level) and Deputy Director of Debate for SoCal JSA. Enough of that though! The real reason I'm here (and hopefully you'll vote for me!) is because I care about my community and I'm set on making a difference. Before I even knew I was running for SA, I was one of only about 60 new students who participated in POST, a pre-orientation week of volunteering and work to give back to Cornell and Ithaca. Don't worry though, because I'm not JUST dedicated—believe it or not I actually have some good ideas! First of all, I think there are some necessary renovations that need to take place in some of the dorms (all the showers in Dickson/Jamison/Donlon don't even have hooks in the stalls!). I also have a plan to offer a gym discount to all students enrolled in PE; this would offer an incentive for students to get more active while rewarding those that are. I also feel we would benefit from more ashtrays around campus in order to deter the littering of cigarettes, and the restructuring of the student calendar to provide us with longer Thanksgiving breaks to make traveling home more feasible. I also have a resolution to provide funding to have the TCAT running later on weekends; preferably from CT to West to North once every half hour. These are just some of my exciting ideas (talk to me to hear more!)

Lenny Talavera (lft5)

Class of '13, Guess who's running for FRESHMEN CLASS REP? LENNY TALAVERA. I'm sure we're all settled in and have (minor to major) PROBLEMS already. Well, I'm here to SOLVE them. I'm very approachable, outgoing, and friendly person (so if you see me, say HI!) that likes being active in school. I have great listening skills and will make sure that voices are heard. I'll be committed to make this year is the best by far, filled with many memories. I have experience in various leadership positions and became familiar how to work well with faculty and students to get things accomplished, not to mention, I can be very convincing and persistent. I'm open to a lot of ideas and I especially want to expand the free bus service for next year, you don't want to be struggling going up that slope from West Campus. And what is up with the limited Internet access we have per semester? It should be UNLIMITED! If all this wasn't convincing, final reason you should vote for me: I'm a HOTELIER...SERVICE and LEADERSHIP are second nature to me. VOTE FOR LENNY TALAVERA.

Ping King (pnk8)

As far as qualifications go, I have taken on leadership roles, throughout the course of my high school career, in both school-affiliated organizations (the Associated Student Body, the Speech and Debate Team) and non-school-affiliated organizations (the American Red Cross). These positions consistently required, on my part, approachability and dedication, skills I carry with me to this very day. As a freshman representative, I hope to serve as a voice for the freshmen populace. While I do have ideas for the improvement and beautification of our campus and campus facilities, I genuinely believe this to be a collaborative effort and, if elected, will do my best to collect, incorporate and present the suggestions of all freshmen, across the board. I will bring forth your concerns to the assembly and conduct all courses of action with your best interest in mind. Let Ping King do her thing!

Erick Torres (ejt45)

I am Erick T. I bring representation I listen to you	Representation Is the heart of America And what I bring you
Not sure what to say Poems will tell my message Kudos to haiku	One last thing to say A vote for Erick Torres Will brighten your day
I promise nothing But I WILL always hear you That is most crucial	VOTE ERICK TORRES FOR STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Sharjeel Chaudhry (sc847)

My name is Sharjeel Chaudhry and I am a Human Biology, Health, and Society major from Columbia, Maryland. I have decided to run for the Freshman At-Large position of the Student Assembly in hopes of contributing to the progression of student life here at Cornell. While attending high school in Maryland, I served my school through many positions, including: Treasurer for the school's SGA, Executive Board member of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society, and finally, as President of the school's Table Tennis Club. Each position gave me a different view on student organization and allowed me to understand easily the concerns of students. This permitted me to be able to present those concerns to the administration appropriately to attain an agreement closely aligned with the student's needs. Here at Cornell, I will strive to work with the Student Assembly to do the same. In addition, I have spent many hours volunteering for Humanity First (a disaster relief organization) and have a lot of work experience that I hope will allow me to serve Cornell on many issues relating to health and finance through Student Assembly Committees. I hope that you will allow me to serve you as a Freshman At-Large member of the Cornell Student Assembly.

Jean-Herve de Lencquesaing (jd472)

We are really happy to be here I am sure you agree! Getting into Cornell meant work, effort and determination. College life is a new and amazing experience yet as the semester goes on we will realize some things need attention. This is why I believe in the importance of the Student Assembly: it enables us to improve our college life, solve our problems and take our concerns from ideas to reality. Freshmen, I am ready to dedicate myself to you by making each of your voices heard and implementing the changes we want. With your help I will be able to make Cornell a better place for our four years here. Growing up in France with an American family I have an understanding of two cultures thus preparing me to represent our diverse Cornell community. The ties that we form here will follow us throughout our lives therefore we should open ourselves to others and develop a true sense of social cohesion and responsibility. As class president I came to realize how my efforts had the power to make a positive difference in the life of my classmates. I hope to serve Cornell with the same commitment and passion. Choose me to represent you and I will strive to Raise the intellectual vibrancy of the campus/Implement a system that will inform the student of related classes around a topic offered in different departments

Amanda M. Nichols (amn57)

Coming from a large high school with about as many students as the class of 2013 at Cornell, I know how easy it is to feel lost among all the red tape, the difficulty of getting things done sometimes, and, in absolute worst cases, the corruption of a student government that only serves a select group of people and not the entire body it represents. With the leadership and team experience from founding my high school's first chapter of the National Science Honors Society, as well as participating in Model UN and serving in a Student Representative group that would actively become involved in legislation that concerned Florida students statewide, I think I have what it takes to ensure that all 3100 students of the class of 2013 are fairly represented. It is important to remember that the decisions the Assembly is making this year may affect us for the next several years. I hope to meet everyone soon and ensure that not just the next year, but the next four years at Cornell will be everything we wish for and more.

Maya Koretzky (mak339)

Cornell can be a difficult place as a freshman. I came from a small school. Perhaps you came from a larger one. It doesn't matter because Cornell is the size of a small city. I did student government in high school, ran service committee, environmental committee. You probably did similar activities, maybe even the same ones. Does it matter here? Not really. But what does matter is your voice. The opportunity to succeed at what inspires you. At Cornell I see a lot of passion, but a lack of accessibility. We have so many service organizations, but no committee to help you find one that fits what you want to do. We have recycling and compost, but no signs telling you what goes in each bin. I aim to create that committee. I'd like to hang those signs. Most importantly, I'd like students to know and be active in what directly affects them. If elected, I would push for the SA to publish resolutions in The Sun, online, and on bulletin boards in RPCC and Appel. I would draft a new SA resolution, one that allows interested students to vote alongside SA members. Cornell can be a difficult place, but it doesn't have to be. With your vote, I promise to make it easy for you to get involved and do what you love.

Govind M. Krishnan (gmk52)

I was the vice-president of my high school's National Honor Society, but I will be the first to admit that I have little student government experience. But to me, Cornell represents new possibilities. Cornell is about trying new things and taking risks, and so more than anything else, I can promise I will bring great enthusiasm to the Student Assembly. I want to make a difference at Cornell and I want to make our voice heard. This is why I am running. If elected I will make hot showers available for everyone. Make air-conditioning available for everyone. Reduce cost of supplies. Reduce PE fees. Make secure wi-fi more accessible. More ice cream flavors and toppings in the dining halls. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! VOTE FOR GOVIND!

Abhi Shah (as969)

As a high school senior, I was tired of sitting around and waiting for my student body or the administration to address changes that needed to be made. But now, here, at Cornell University, I am not going to wait for others to fix my problems, I will tackle the things that affect you and me. I am Abhishek Shah. Have you ever been in a shower and suddenly the water pressure and temperature starts to fluctuate uncontrollably? Yup, I have too. Have you ever gone through all the different Cornell websites wondering if this process could ever be less confusing? Yup, I have too. Have you ever been to the Cornell Dairy Bar, which is great, and then walked from the Engineering Quad to North Campus in search of that ever elusive trash can? Yup, I have too. Things can be changed. I have experience dealing with peers, administration, and a limited budget. As a Freshman Rep, your problems become my problems, and frankly, I don't really want to have problems, so I'll fix them. Feel free to contact me at as969@cornell.edu, 714-767-8642, or search "Abhi Shah" on Facebook; I should be the first result in the Cornell network with the cute (in my opinion) baby picture of myself as the profile pic. Remember, Abhi Shah for Freshman Rep! :-)

Adel Benslimane (alb345)

Hi, my name is ADEL BENSLIMANE and I'm running for the freshman seat on Student Assembly. After winning my kindergarten presidential election when I was 8 years old (my parents held me back 3 years so I could win) I decided to step my game up and run for Cornell Student Assembly. If elected, here are some of the ways I plan to help freshmen and a few of my own ideas: 1. I will have a twice monthly forum in RPCC where freshmen can bring their ideas to the SA. 2. I will have a drop box outside my door at 1513 Jameson where freshmen can come put their proposals (and girl's phone numbers) for the Student Assembly. 3. Propose to have at least one bus that runs 24 hours on the Cornell Campus 4. Propose to have a food station that remains open 24 hours a day on North Campus 5. Propose a 24 hour study area on North Campus as many freshmen dorms don't have any study rooms 6. Propose to have at least one area on Campus designated as a NAP AREA I hope to hear many more good ideas from other freshman while campaigning. When you get that ballot online remember one thing. VOTE FOR ADEL OR YOUR GOING TO...

Meril Pothen (map329)

Hey everyone! My name is Meril Pothen (AAP 2013) and I decided to run for Freshman At-Large in Student Assembly because I would love the opportunity to represent the unrivaled energy that defines the Class of 2013. At a large university like Cornell, getting to know everyone is near impossible and learning about all the awesome events and organizations our school has to offer is even more difficult. While I have a large base of ideas for reform (especially when it comes to Big Red Bucks!), I think my most important job is to make your concerns and ideas known all over campus. I am here to put into play the innovative thoughts and "what ifs" that cross your mind and make your vision of the ideal university a reality. I have been actively involved in student and class council during high school as student representative, class representative, and class president. I have also worked closely with the school administration to provide student opinions and experienced government on the county-scale through a senior internship. But, enough of that nonsense, let's show Cornell what the Class of 2013 has to offer together, let the dream-making begin.

More candidates on reverse side. For more information, see: <http://assembly.cornell.edu/Elections/2009FallSA>