



# CANDIDACY STATEMENTS 2009

## PRESIDENT

### Peter Weiss

My name is Peter Weiss and I am writing to declare my candidacy for President of the GW College Democrats.

I am not running to re-invent this organization. In fact, it was only two years ago that this chapter was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation by our parent organization, the College Democrats of America. Rather, I would like to build on our tradition of success not only by offering the proven programming of years past, but also by initiating new programs that I believe will significantly enhance the success of our chapter.

Let me discuss briefly some of the changes I will make. As President, I will place particular emphasis on expanding public education programming: the success of our party and of our progressive movement depends on our members' ability to articulate the values we stand for and to make loud and clear the merits of our arguments. To bolster the capacity of our members to be advocates for change every day, I will initiate a series of "issue workshops" hosted by experts in the field; in those workshops, we will discuss the best ways to advocate for the issues important to our party and we will learn how to debunk the common attacks these issues often attract. I will also dramatically increase the quality and quantity of speakers that we bring to campus. Lastly, I would like to begin a weekly lunch series on Capitol Hill, which will offer our members the unique opportunity to discuss politics with legislative leaders face to face.

Last year, the GW College Democrats boldly proclaimed in the parlance of our times, that "Change Begins At GW." 2009 will be no different. I care deeply about this organization and I feel immensely grateful for all that it has offered me. In this spirit, I promise to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to achieving a successful year for this chapter.

# VICE PRESIDENT

## **Jessica Gordon**

During 2008-2009, the GW College Democrats held events that supported ideals and values of the Democratic Party and worked to elect Democratic candidates all over the country. I was honored to serve as a member of the executive board this year.

As Membership Director, I worked to recruit new members while planning events, including OPROMA (which raised money for campaign trips), the "Countdown to Change" week, and the GW College Democrats' Election Night Party, where hundreds of guests celebrated the election of President Barack Obama. Additionally, I got to organize behind the scenes with all arms of the organization including Political Affairs and Community Service on projects like the campaign trips to North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, the AIDS Walk and the "Yes, We CAN" drive.

I dedicated much of my time during this past year to this organization, and I want to do it again. I want to do this not only for myself but because I believe in what the organization does, its mission, and -- most importantly -- the members. The members that I have had the privilege of working with this year are incredible. They are passionate, enthusiastic, and hard working. So that is why I, Jessi Gordon, am running for the Office of Vice President for the GW College Democrats for 2009-2010. I know the ins-and-outs of this job and the organization needs someone with experience and a proven record that the job will get done. We got the job done this year by electing Barack Obama and we need to continue this streak even in an off election year. We begin to do this by filling the executive board with good leadership experience so please vote for me for the GW College Democrats Vice President on April 14. Thank you for your support.

## **Greta Twombly**

A passionate, active, dedicated family, that's what College Democrats is. After being an active member my freshman year, serving on the Executive Board my sophomore year, and remaining involved this past year, I have watched College Democrats remain an outstanding and forceful organization. College Democrats has given me my best friends and an outlet to express my strong Democratic pride. Growing up in Massachusetts, I never had a problem finding Democrats, yet with such a majority, many didn't feel the need to be active. Coming to GW I found the passionate group I'd always wanted. My experience in College Democrats has enabled me to see just what policies make the organization successful. Serving as Assistant Political Affairs Director, I planned the Campaign Invasion Trip to KY, maintained our internship database, and worked with the Political Affairs Committee to plan activism weeks. The job of Vice President is to not only assist the President, but to serve as the administrative officer. I already have experience planning events for College Democrats and due to my heavy involvement in the Student Association I am extremely familiar with the inner workings of GW. I know

how to get space booked, I know how to expedite catering, and I know who to work with for event planning. I like to think of myself as "just neurotic enough," and I know my attention to detail and organizational skills would be an undeniable asset. I care more for College Democrats than is possible to vocalize. The organization has given me so much during my time at GW, and I want to give back to CDs during my Senior Year. I have no other student org commitments next year and I am fully prepared to dive headfirst into being your Vice President!

## **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

### **Matt Ingoglia**

I'm Matt Ingoglia, and it has been an honor serving this year as your Communications Director. Today, I seek a second term in this office, and hope that my accomplishments and plans for next year will convince you of my unconditional commitment to this organization and my desire to keep working for you.

I've always seen communication as the catalyst of action, and with all the action surrounding the elections last fall it should come as no surprise that communication played a major role. To that end, I fulfilled my promise of keeping members informed about upcoming events by utilizing our mailing list and Facebook presence to keep everyone in the loop, as well as to publicize everything from campaign trips to general body meetings. Moreover, my campus media strategy ensured that our organization got favorable press for bringing speakers to campus and holding our own against the Republicans. In the end, it was work like this that allowed us to emerge from the elections both triumphant and prepared for the road ahead.

Obviously, maintaining the energy of last semester is a tall order. With this in mind, I've already begun laying the groundwork for a strategy that will keep members involved and ensure positive media relations. My agenda for next year revolves around utilizing our website and blog to further publicize our activities and bring members closer to the organization. I also plan on redesigning our e-mails to make them less cluttered and more relevant to you.

The challenges of next year are numerous, and demand a dedicated and knowledgeable hand. It is for this reason that I seek re-election to the position of Communications Director. With my experience, commitment, and vision for the future, I am confident that the organization we love will continue to thrive.

# **POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**

## **Emma Carpenter**

I believe my experience and my passion for politics, and commitment to College Democrats are my three strongest qualifications for this job.

As Freshman Representative, I spent the year working with everyone on the executive board doing whatever they needed me to do. I helped plan lobby day, organize the election night party as well as participated in many community service events. This semester, I planned a Wacky Wednesday event and the Freshman debate on my own. I learned what it takes to put together a good event and I am confident I can apply these skills next year.

Next year there are Gubernatorial races in both Virginia and New Jersey, it would be easy for College Democrats to help out on either of those campaigns. I have every intention of making that happen if elected. Also because it is an off year, I think College Democrats could host a wide variety of speakers. This year, the fantastic Political Affairs Committee set the bar high, and I know it would be a challenge to meet the same expectations, but I am confident in my ability to do so.

Most importantly, I love College Democrats. Being on the executive board has been the highlight of my year and has really defined my freshman year at GW. Because I love being on the executive board, I would be willing to work as hard as possible as the Political Affairs Director. I feel confident that I am the right person for this position and would greatly appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

## **Andrew Feldman**

My name is Andrew Feldman, a Political Communications major in the School of Media and Public Affairs. As a highly committed member of the College Democrats for the past two semesters, it would be my honor and privilege to serve the organization, and I therefore declare my candidacy for the position of Political Affairs Director.

My background and experience make me uniquely qualified for the position. After an exciting year for the Dems in the 2008-2009 year, the next Political Affairs Director will have the important task of advocating for the causes that are central to the College Democrats and the Obama/Biden Administration. In particular, the upcoming Virginia gubernatorial campaign will prove to be a critical one. As the Outreach Coordinator for the Get Out the Vote office in the battleground districts of Pennsylvania for the Obama/Biden campaign and an intern for the Joe Biden presidential campaign, I would offer extensive campaigning experience.

I also seek to continue and expand upon the number and diversity of speakers to address the Democrats on campus. To that effect, my background in public relations will be an asset to the organization. Through my work with the Governor's Office in

Massachusetts and my present work in Washington with one of the country's leading political media relations firms, I will be able to facilitate appearances from key members of the Democratic Party and national political figures.

I am fully committed to moving forward in the upcoming year and to broadening the scope of the College Democrats. As well I will work to bring our issues to the fullest attention of the student body. Achieving these goals will require much hard work, but with your vote I am confident that we can make the Democrats an even more prominent force on the George Washington campus

### **Paul Nawalany**

I would like to propose my candidacy to be the next Political Affairs Director on the College Democrats Executive Board. I would like to demonstrate that I have a more direct interest in the 2009 elections, which will be a special focus of this directorship, for which I hope will generate more enthusiasm among the CDs at GW.

The Political Affairs Director does two things: puts on political events, while serving as the primary liaison with outside groups, and helps craft the CDs' message. I can best execute these functions. I have made frequent contact with Democratic politicians with whom the CDs might like to have speak on campus. These include but are not limited to Senators Schumer and Menendez, the former and current DSCC Chairmen. Through my interactions on the Hill and elsewhere, I can extend invitations to many potential speakers.

There are also two big elections for Democrats in 2009. As a New Jerseyan, it is my hope to see the reelection of Governor Jon Corzine. I would like to generate enthusiasm for his reelection among the plethora of other GW New Jerseyans. Like the past, a trip should be organized to make sure Corzine is reelected. Currently, I work on the Hill as an intern with some who are close to Governor Corzine, which can make organizing a trip easier. Secondly, the CDs must make sure to keep Virginia blue in their gubernatorial election. These are two important elections that the Political Affairs Director should be coordinating events for.

I hope to become the next Political Affairs Director and that next year can be nearly as exciting as 2008, having campaigned in North Carolina and Virginia for the CDs. I would like your support.

# **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**

## **Alex Wright**

Over the past pivotal election year, the College Democrats have been at the forefront of political activism at the George Washington University; it is because of our organization that GW has now become synonymous with politics. The sheer turnout of people has led us to the success we see today. Remember the debate nights, election night, Congressional lobbying day, and every day and meeting in between.

That is why I, Alex Wright, am seeking the office of Membership Director.

As a rising sophomore, the memory of seeing the CD booth during CI is still fresh on my mind. I also remember the Labor Day cookout at Kogan Plaza, and our first meeting in that packed ballroom. It is because of efforts like these that we were able to bring in the most driven Democrats on campus to our organization. I intend to, and will, build upon this year's success to bring in the best of the best to our organization.

As Membership Director, I will not deny a single interested student membership to the GW chapter of the College Democrats. I assure you that I will be there at every event, with a computer at hand and a smile on my face, to recruit any person willing to be a part of this group. I am a man of my word; and if you've seen some of the work that I've done over the past year with the CDs, you can be sure that I will fulfill the obligations of this important position.

# **COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR**

## **Nick Confer**

My name is Nick Confer and I am running for the Community Service Chair position of the GW College Democrats. This fall I will be entering into my senior year at the Elliott School. Although I have been a staunch Democrat my entire life, it was only last year that I began to become more involved with the GW Democrats. I had been following Obama since he became the Junior Senator from Illinois and so joined the Dems in canvassing in North Carolina and other pre-election events. Now for my last year I intend to devote much more energy towards the goals of the GW Dems and work to the best of my ability in conducting events to give back to the DC community through community service.

I realize that now is our greatest chance to enact change through community service as a movement has begun from the top of our government all the way down to individual citizens towards bettering our nation. I see the Community Service Chair

position as the ideal way for me to give back to the community. At GW we sometimes become used to the clean, well-maintained neighborhood we live in. I know that I myself rarely venture into the southeast or northeast of DC. This is something I intend to change this next year while encouraging others who already have been doing community service to continue, and those who have not to utilize what the GW Dems have to offer by starting immediately. With the large memberbody and assets of the GW College Democrats, here is our chance to go out into the city and give back to this remarkable area that has been home to each of us. Join me in this effort by electing me to the Community Service Chair position.

## **FINANCE DIRECTOR**

### **Josh Altman**

An organization's budget is a reflection of its priorities and values, a statement which illustrates the critical decisions made in order to allocate scarce resources in a way which maximizes that organization's efficacy in realizing its vision and goals. The responsible stewardship of these decisions must remain a primary focus of any organization which wishes to maintain its effectiveness and credibility. The George Washington University

College Democrats are no exception to this principle, and thus the choice of Finance Director is not one to be made lightly.

My knowledge of budgetary issues and accounting principles, along with my dedication to an open discussion of our collective priorities—as well as transparency and accountability in the execution of these priorities--provides the fundamental competence necessary to execute the duties of this position with effectiveness, fairness, and purpose. From this foundation I will seek concrete measures to more efficiently and responsibly manage the financial affairs of the College Democrats, including: utilizing my familiarity with accounting programs, such as the tremendously functional Quicken system, to more adequately manage revenues and expenditures; establishing a renewed vitality in fiscal transparency, taking steps to ensure that the membership is adequately informed in regards to where their dues and fundraising efforts are being applied; and never refusing to pay due diligence to the diverse interests of our Democratic coalition when managing the organization's financial affairs.

It is in recognition of the vital responsibilities this position entails, out of a desire to contribute to the perpetuation and success of the vision of the College Democrats, and with full faith and confidence in my own knowledge and commitment, that I, Josh Altman, do hereby declare my candidacy for Finance Director of the GW College Democrats.

### **Ismail Ginwala**

My name is Ismail Ginwala, from the ESIA class of 2012. I will be running for Finance Director.

I have done my best to be an active member of the GW College Democrats since the first general meeting, doing all that was in my power to help out the cause of the Democratic Party and our ideals. I hope that, given my active involvement, I won't have to prove my absolute devotion to progressivism.

As Finance Director, I will take no shortcuts in fulfilling any and all duties I must accomplish. I understand the responsibilities of handling finances for the College Democrats, and I will treat that responsibility with its due respect. Whatever hours are needed to put into this position, I will go above and beyond to the best of my ability.

I am eager to help out the College Democrats in any way possible. I am excited to run for this position and hope for a fun and fair election.