

# The Valley Vanguard

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## THE BATTLE BEGINS

Three hopefuls begin their campaigns to become Student Association president



(Left to right) Presidential candidates Angela Seeley, Tadd Jawor, and Shane Williamson will duke it out in a formal debate on Monday, March 24.

Adam Baudoux/VV

### Seeley, Jawor, and Williamson hope to reform Student Association in 2008-2009

By Kylie Smith-Poisson  
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

Three SVSU students are ready to jump into the ring and begin the battle to become president of the Student Association. But uppercuts and body jabs won't decide this bout: Instead, candidates plan to deliver knockout platforms.

Tadd Jawor, Angela Seeley, and Shane Williamson are campaigning for the position of SA president, now held by senior Jeremiah Stanghini, and have established a platform of goals that they would like to accomplish if they are elected. There are also 20 students running to become a representative.

Tadd Jawor is a senior majoring in business management and minoring in entrepreneurship. If he were to become president, his main goals are to increase student involvement on campus, especially commuter students, and inform the student body of SA's actions.

"Student Association is the biggest and most powerful student group on campus," said Jawor. "Most people do not feel that way or really know what it does. I would like to change that and provide people with information."

He would also like to further help Registered Student Organizations and funding. Concerning the promotion of health amongst the student body, Jawor would like to increase the number of services and programs offered by Counseling and Health Services and promote safer ways of partying.

Jawor said that his experience with the fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon and his many classes dealing with leadership and management have helped prepare him to lead an organization such as Student Association. He has served as a social chair and is currently the treasurer of TKE. He has also participated and helped run some of the major campus activities, such as Homecoming, Battle of the Valleys, Relay for Life, Spring Fling, and Coming Home.

"I would like to take the experi-

ence and knowledge I have gained and apply it to being Student Association president," he said.

Angela Seeley is a senior majoring in occupational therapy. She is currently the Health and Wellness Committee chair in the Student Association. She thinks that the organization's issues and goals for next year can be divided into two categories: University and organization concerns.

"The organizational issues that need to be focused on include budget concerns, communication within the SA and with the student body, accessibility to students, and accountability of all representatives," she explained. "There is also room for improvement regarding diversity, health and wellness, collaborative programming, working with the administration, and meeting with students."

Seeley said that her experience as chair of the Health and Wellness Committee has taught her a lot about how to properly run the organization. She said that she has formed working relationships with administration and students, learned about the inner workings of the organization, and also how to create programming.

"I want to have the chance to make a difference on a campus that has influenced my life in such a huge way," she

said. "I want to serve as an advocate for the students at SVSU to the administration."

Shane Williamson is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in communication. If he were to become president, he has outlined six main issues that he would like to address.

First, he said that he would deal with the issue of rising tuition costs by speaking on behalf of the students to the administration and encouraging an appropriate distribution of funding. Second, he would like to help commuter students make more of the SVSU campus and its facilities through various programming. Third, he would like to improve student services in areas such as the computer labs, library, housing, and academic advising, among others. Fourth, he would like to further promote academic leadership and excellence through various programs. Fifth, he would like to further develop student health and wellness services and initiatives. Sixth, he would like to promote a health multicultural environment through various programming.

Williamson has held a variety of leadership positions. His current positions include University Residence Association president, Program Board vice president, Phi Kappa Tau president, and Michigan Organization of

"SA's president should stand up to big issues on campus, such as tuition and housing, and help mobilize the students to start change."

JEREMIAH STANGHINI  
SA PRESIDENT 2007-2008

Residence Hall Associations associate director of public relations.

"All of this experience is important in that I would get to bring all the different experiences and combine them into one as SA president," he said.

"A good president works with all groups. He or she works with all of their interests at heart. It starts with students first and that will be my motivating factor if I hold that position."

The candidates will formally discuss their platforms and answer questions in a debate set to take place Monday, March 24 at 7 p.m. in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall.

Students can begin casting their votes for their preferred candidate on Monday, March 24 at 9 p.m. Voting continues through Thursday, March 27 at 5 p.m.

### HOUSING

#### 2008-09 campus housing overflows by 170

By Kylie Smith-Poisson  
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

SVSU on-campus housing hopefuls began flooding the housing office last Monday in order to complete the process by picking their rooms. The entire scheduling process was due to last throughout the week; however, according to Director of Auxiliary Operations Ron Portwine, the University ran out of room early, leaving approximately 170 students desiring to live on campus without a room assignment.

"What I don't understand is that as a Foundations Scholar I was put into

preferred housing my freshman year with all the scholars, but then my second year I have nowhere to live," said freshman Megan Milbourne. "I feel like I was cared about so much as a freshman and now that they know they have my money, it no longer matters to them if I have a place to live."

"This is the largest waitlist we have experienced at the conclusion of the room selection lottery," Portwine said.

Portwine explained that hope is not yet lost for those wanting to live on campus.

"From a housing management perspective, having a waitlist is a good thing, as we will encounter approximately 100 returning student cancellations between the conclusion of the room selection lottery and the start of the fall semester," he said. "That said, 170 people on the waitlist is too large for comfort for both the students and the University."

Portwine recommends that students who want to stay on campus for

the academic year, but are on the waitlist, to keep waiting, not panic, and not sign another housing contract rashly.

Portwine said that two factors contributed to the current issue: the percentage of upperclassmen choosing to remain on campus significantly increased and the current freshmen also choosing to stay on campus has increased.

"Because we allow current upperclassmen to elect to stay in their same room the following year, current freshmen going into their second year are affected the most when we exhaust the bed space allocated for returning students," he said.

"Events like this will certainly cause us to once again examine our ability to satisfy housing demand," said Portwine. "At the present time, the administration is currently exploring its options in terms of creating additional bed space for the students on the wait list. We would like to be able to keep students on campus, as opposed to forcing them to move off campus."

### CAMPUS SAFETY

#### Campus safety procedures addressed

By Carrie Crossen  
THE VALLEY VANGUARD

In the wake of the school shootings at Northern Illinois University and Virginia Tech, the Cardinal Leadership Institute invited students to an open forum to discuss concerns about campus safety.

Wednesday night, representatives from the administration, University Police, a sorority, and various academic departments provided their insight on how to prevent violence like that of NIU and VT at SVSU.

The topics discussed at the forum included procedures students and faculty would need to take in case of an emergency, as well as

preventive measures students can take to rule out any activity like that of NIU and VT from happening here at SVSU.

Robert Maurovich, vice president of Student Services, included speaking up if a student shows suspicious behavior as being good preventative measures.

"There may not be any particular way to predict or prepare for this kind of thing from happening," said Tony Thomson, director of Counseling and Health Services. "However, measures such as communicating more effectively, being more sensitive, and taking care of one another can help prevent campus violence."

See VIOLENCE, page A2