

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008

## FOR SGA PRESIDENT \*

Kent Williams, Jr. — Raleigh



MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

**Hometown:** Raleigh, N.C.  
**Major:** Political Science/Business Administration  
**Why am I running for SGA President?**  
 I want to continue the initiatives and programs started by former Presidents Renee Clark, Mukhtar Raqib and Tomasi Larry. I am the only person who knows these initiatives and programs in full detail and can make them more successful.  
 There is no need to reinvent the wheel because once the students realize the benefits they receive from these initiatives and programs. They will realize why I work so hard to continue these initiatives and programs instead of creating new ones. But do not worry, I have a lot of

things I will be implementing to help the students erase the negativity they feel about SGA and our University as a whole. I have a lot of work to do and with the help of this great student body, we will have a successful year.  
**What is the most important thing students should know about you?**  
 I am one of the nicest people you will ever meet. And some people see that as a weakness for me because they feel people will try to run over me and use me.  
 But I want the students to know that even though I am nice, when it comes to this University and the well being of the students of this campus. The so called nice Kent does not play and means business.

## If races empty, ideas lost

Each spring, the Student Government Association holds elections to determine who will hold organizational positions for the next school year. This year, voters may be surprised by how few choices they have in selecting who represents the student body.

In many of the most prominent positions, including SGA president and vice president, candidates are running unopposed. To run, students only need to be in good academic, disciplinary and financial standing with the university. With so many students eligible, it is unclear why so few decide to compete for campus-wide positions. Many of our most qualified students choose to lead in other ways. SGA offers a multitude of appointed positions that allow ambitious Eagles to exercise responsibility and make decisions without having to give speeches or endlessly campaign. Others prefer to perfect their leadership skills in the numerous clubs and organizations available to students. All this is not to suggest that the people who are running for SGA positions are not highly qualified. They all have leadership experience and continue to engage their respective classes and the overall university. Unfortunately, we all may lose because of a lack of com-

## FOR SGA VP \*

Courtney Robinson — Charlotte



MITCHELL WEBSON/Staff Photographer

**Major:** Political Science  
**Minor:** Business Administration  
**Why do you want this position?**  
 I feel that North Carolina Central University needs to continue its progression. There are so many issues facing our university and its students (school pride, academics, safety, customer service, etc.), and I want to make sure that all of these things are addressed and ultimately taken care of.  
 We are part of a great institution, and I want students to take pride in their university.  
**What is the most important thing students should know about you?**  
 I am a hard worker, but I am also very social and approachable.  
 You can come and talk to me about anything. All of my contact information is up on our website: [www.unityandprogress08.com](http://www.unityandprogress08.com)

Miss and Mr. NCCU candidate bios on page 4

\* Denotes uncontested positions

## Q & A

## WITH KENT WILLIAMS

On Friday, March 21 Campus Echo staff reporter Geoffrey Cooper interviewed future Student Government Association president Kent Williams, Jr. (Williams is running unopposed in this year's SGA election.)  
 The Raleigh native talks about how he got interested in the SGA, why he wants to serve as SGA president, what it means to run unopposed, what he feels are the key issues facing students and what he plans to do as SGA president.

Four themes emerge: continuity with past SGA initiatives, improving student morale, improving the appearance of the campus, and better communication between students and the administration.  
 As a freshman Williams was a class senator and an assistant to former SGA President Renee Clark.  
 As a sophomore he was SGA Senate speaker pro tempore and an assistant to SGA president Mukhtar Raqib.  
 As a junior he has been the executive assistant to SGA president Tomasi Larry and Homecoming chair.

He has been a coordinator of Unity Fest and student liaison between Durham, NCCU, and Duke University for two years. He has been an residential assistant in "vintage" Baynes and is now a residential assistant at Eagleson Residential Hall.

**ECHO: What got you interested in N.C. Central University's Student Government Association upon arriving as a freshman?**

When I first arrived here, I was not thinking about SGA or getting involved with any organizations on campus. My plans were to go to my classes and go home on the weekend. But while I was staying in Chidley Hall, my RA Isaac Bellamy, who is the current SGA vice president, saw that I got along well with

my fellow students and thought I was a good person to network with. This brought him to the idea that I should work with SGA. He invited me to an interest meeting and I liked what they were talking about.  
 He then told me that elections were coming up and that I should run for something. So, I decided to run for Senate and step outside my box. I won and I've been involved ever since.

**ECHO: So, what are your thoughts on running unopposed, seeing the fact that this is the second year in a row this has happened for both the offices of SGA president and vice president?**  
 I'm disappointed.

When I say that, a lot of people look at me crazy and ask "Why are you mad?" The way I look at this is we have too many talented student leaders on this campus, but it's like they don't realize the potential they have. So, they don't run and decide not to get involved. There's a lack of morale on this campus and it's real sad.

When I found out I was running unopposed, it hurt me because I knew I wasn't going to have a real exciting campaign. I wasn't going to be able to do things such as put my banners and posters up or have a debate with someone.

With someone else running against me, I would be able to show students that I'm the most qualified candidate.

When I became president, I want students to know that I am the most qualified and that I am ready to do my job. I don't want students to think I'm just being handed this position because I'm running unopposed.

Last year, it was mainly because there were candidates who were not qualified. Also, Tomasi ran unopposed because

Our meetings with the provost were good, but I noticed that no administration was taking notes on the student's concerns.  
 So my thing is the students came to them with the issues, why weren't they writing down what we were saying? It seems as if the administration will meet with us, but after the meeting is over it is just a meeting.

KENT WILLIAMS, JR.  
 SGA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE (UNOPPOSED)

there wasn't a second time around for interest meetings.

While I am disappointed nobody ran against me, I have to move on and hope that the morale comes back on campus so there is more participation next year.

**ECHO: Why did you decide to run for SGA President?**

I decided to run because I've served under the administration of three presidents during my time here. Those are Renee Clark, Mukhtar Raqib and Tomasi Larry.  
 While serving under them, I've been able to work in and around their office and I have seen them come up with lots of programs and initiatives on this campus that really helps the students.

But there are also a lot of things that have been done through them that many students do not know about. I don't believe in reinventing the wheel.

I see that too many times presidents or student leaders have programs and once they graduate and leave they're not continued. I'm here because I have served under these individuals and I know the initiatives and programs like the back of my hand.

I know that I can bring them into fruition and make them more successful than they are now. I am going to bring a whole

lot of fresh ideas, but my belief is working with what we have now and making it more successful.

My other goal is to bring the morale back here on campus. I'm getting tired of seeing students not interested in this campus.

I'm tired of things like boring weekends, students having to sit up in their rooms trying to figure out what to do at night. There are too many students here on campus for that to be happening.

**ECHO: What made you decide to want to choose Courtney Robinson as your running mate for the SGA vice president?**

When I made my decision on running for SGA president I was trying to figure out who would make a good vice president.

Who is the person that I know who could run the Senate, because the vice president runs the Senate and all the legislation in the student government.

Who knows our constitution, parliamentary procedure, and how to pass legislation? Who knows about UNC Association of Student Governments?

As I was looking around and observing, there was no one really out there who

### SENIOR PRESIDENT \*

**Sha'Niece Simmons**



live life to the fullest and refuse to let anything or anyone take over my emotions.

**Hometown:** Hyattsville, Md. ~ **Major:** FCS Textile & Apparel with a minor in Theater  
**Why do you want this position?** I want to effectively prepare the senior class for graduation and life after college. I will implement effective programs that will lead students in the right direction for adulthood along with uplifting the spirit of the university.  
**What is the most important thing students should know about you?** That I'm passionate about my university and all it stands for. I am an outgoing student leader that feels that students should work toward reaching their true potential while at NCCU. And lastly, I feel that life is too short to worry about things that are out of our control, so I

### SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT \*

**Michele J. Josey**



what's next after undergrad. I want students to know about their options after they obtain their Bachelor's degree.

**Hometown:** Raleigh, N.C. ~ **Major:** Mathematics, Secondary Education  
**Why do you want this position?** I want to be Senior Class Vice President because I feel like the students lose enthusiasm about their university by their senior year. Students become less involved. The undergraduate experience only happens once in your life; you only have four years. Why not enjoy all four?  
**What is the most important thing students should know about?** Students should know about pre and post graduation. They should know every detail that leads up to graduation so there is no excuse not to walk across the stage. Also, students should know

### MISS SENIOR

**Christal Hamilton**



unity and service to our community and University.

**Hometown:** Fort Washington, Md. ~ **Major:** Psychology  
**Favorite Food:** Pizza  
**Why do you want this position?** I feel Miss Senior should be a woman who has more than just a pretty face. When deciding to run for this position, I examined my mind, body, and soul. I found that I was ready spiritually, intellectually, and physically. My past has made me into the woman I am today and with no regrets it has led me to the path of my future. I am a woman of Integrity, Honesty, Grace and most importantly Faith. I feel that I have all the qualities that Miss Senior should possess.

**Sierra Hobbs**



sense of love,

**Name:** Sierra Hobbs ~ **HOMETOWN:** Long Beach, Calif.  
**Major:** Athletic Training  
**Favorite Food:** BBQ tray, cajun seasoned fries, and a huge sweet tea from Cookout  
**Why do you want this position?** I want the position of Miss Senior because I feel I can represent the class of 2009 in an exemplary manner. I know I can be a bright and shining vessel to all. Being in love with this University, I know I can be part of the movement to make NCCU, (one of the best if not THE BEST) universities in the UNC system and throughout the nation. I also know I want to help bring a new

### MR. SENIOR

**Savin Joseph**

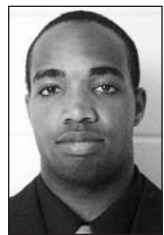


receive the best candidate to represent them as one voice whether I win or not.

**Hometown:** Woodbridge, Va. ~ **Major:** Mass Communications  
**Favorite Food:** Bojangles  
**Why do you want this position?** I want to do my part to rejuvenate interest in on-campus activities and revive campus life. I also want to make the college experience more memorable.

### MR. SENIOR

**John Stephenson**



trustworthy, honest and an overall leader.

**Hometown:** Fayetteville, N.C. ~ **Major:** Parks & Recreation Management  
**Favorite Food:** Pizza  
**Why do you want this position?** I want this position because I believe I would be a great representation of our class. I believe our university needs more positive male leaders seen out in the forefront on campus to serve as a role model and mentor to underclassmen, as well as all students. I believe I am the right person to be the face of my class and to serve as that role model/mentor.

### JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT \*

**Markia Gray**

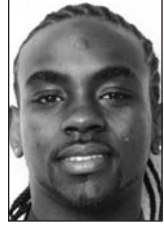


trustworthy, honest and an overall leader.

**Hometown:** Statesville, N.C. ~ **Major:** Psychology  
**Why do you want this position?** There are things that need to be done on this campus. I need this title to help make things happen. I want to change the fact that over half of my class right now is failing, and that we only have two recycling bins on this entire campus. I feel as if we should be more aware of health issues facing us as African Americans. Lastly after all of this issues are addressed, I would like to have "fun" activities such as dance battles, pre-dawn parties, etc.  
**What is the most important thing students should know about you?** I am dependable,

### MR. JUNIOR \*

**Dante Jones**



trustworthy, honest and an overall leader.

**Hometown:** Statesville, N.C. ~ **Major:** Political Science  
**Favorite Food:** I do not have a favorite food.  
**Why do you want this position?** I want to be Mister Junior because I have an eye for improvement and will work cooperatively with the student body to create a sense of campus unity while working to make the university a more positive atmosphere for all.

### MISS JUNIOR \*

**Kendra Bradshaw**

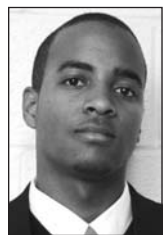


trustworthy, honest and an overall leader.

**Hometown:** Rose Hill, N.C. ~ **Major:** Public Administration  
**Favorite Food:** Fried Chicken  
**Why do you want this position?** Because of my desire to serve the student body and the junior class at NCCU. It is my drive for the improvement of the school. I want to offer each and everyone my dedication to improvement of the school, honesty and non-biased representation.

### SOPHOMORE CLASS PRESIDENT \*

**Dwayne Johnson**



trustworthy, honest and an overall leader.

**Hometown:** Roxboro, N.C. ~ **Major:** History  
**Why do you want this position?** I believe I possess many qualities and characteristics of a leader and I would like to use these skills to help better not only my class but my student body.  
**The most important thing students should know about you?** I am an open leader and can be approached about any problems or issues. I know of issues that I would like to help fix but I am open to many other issues from other students. I am for the students while I consider the university's wants and needs first before considering my own.

### SOPHOMORE VICE PRESIDENT \*

**Ginelle Hines**



easy to get along with. I am here to help make the lives of NCCU's students easier.

**Hometown:** Fayetteville, N.C. ~ **Major:** Criminal Justice  
**Why do you want this position?** I want this position because it allows me to put my leadership skills to use and to help lead my class to our graduation date May 2011. I want to help my fellow peers become successful young adults and make sure that they enjoy their upcoming years in college.  
**What is the most important thing students show know about you?** I want students to know that I am a student just like them and that we are all in this together. And just like any great leader I need even greater followers to help make 2008-2009 a wonderful and successful year.

### SOPHOMORE TREASURER \*

**Sheleath' Eppes**

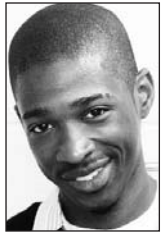


easy to get along with. I am here to help make the lives of NCCU's students easier.

**Hometown:** Fayetteville, N.C. ~ **Major:** Social Work  
**Why do you want this position?** I would like this position because I want to be one of the great voices of the class of 2011. I have great leadership skills that will be used in making the class of 2011 a better class.  
**What is the most important thing students should know about you?** I feel the most important thing that students should know about me is that I am just like them. I hear that most students feel like they cannot talk to people in SGA because they feel or heard that we are not approachable. Contrary to what they have heard, I am very approachable and

### MR. SOPHOMORE \*

**Nigel Cox**



easy to get along with. I am here to help make the lives of NCCU's students easier.

**Hometown:** Brooklyn, N.Y., Cary, N.C. ~ **Major:** Mass Communication  
**Favorite Food:** Lasagna  
**Why do you want this position?** I want to join a legacy of men who represented an entire class of students at one of the finest HBCUs in the country.

### MISS SOPHOMORE

**Jennifer Langston**



easy to get along with. I am here to help make the lives of NCCU's students easier.

**Hometown:** Richlands, N.C. ~ **Major:** Psychology/Sociology  
**Favorite Food:** Chicken (fried, barbecued, baked and roasted)  
**Why do you want this position?** I would like to be Miss Sophomore because it will afford me a leadership opportunity to represent the integrity of North Carolina Central University and its goal to promote "truth and service." I have the vitality and fortitude to conduct myself in a manner that will promote positive and productive changes for the sophomore class and the NCCU Eagle family.

**Brittany Titus**



easy to get along with. I am here to help make the lives of NCCU's students easier.

**Hometown:** Staten Island, N.Y. ~ **Major:** Mass Communication  
**Favorite Food:** Biscuits  
**Why do you want this position?** The reason why I want the title of Miss Sophomore is because I feel as if I can represent the class of 2011 to the best of my abilities. I try to make an effort to get to know my classmates as well as I can even if it's just from a brief hello. I am friendly to everyone and I have a lot of patience when times get stressful. Becoming Miss Sophomore will help me with my social skills, networking, and hopefully open up a range of opportunities. I want to ensure that my fellow peers

## Not title, but role

In my three years at N.C. Central University, I have had the opportunity and privilege of witnessing leadership that I did not know my fellow Eagles were capable of. By that I mean that I personally have seen many aspects of their characters be displayed — both ethically and unethically.

On one hand, there are students eager to join organizations or act alone with good intentions of wanting to make change and take a stand for something that's real and tangible.

But I have also witnessed students indulging in useless visions and self adormment and using their so-called "deeds" for publicity stunts. Some are just simply trying to scoop the title of the yard's top superstar.

Either way, these individuals have decided to roll the dice and risk it all to classify themselves as part of the upper echelon of the student body.

During this year's SGA elections, I have been surprised and shocked with the reactions that I get from students when I ask them about their participation.

It's the same droopy responses of disinterest and disgust. But in a way, can you really blame them?

I'm no Einstein, but I seriously believe that there is an extreme mixup in some of the candidates' priorities.

I thought ALL of the organizations present on the yard,