

Get to know the faces of SGA

By [Jessica Smith](#) on September 17, 2014

This year, the Student Government Association (SGA) has a new set of leaders to improve the experience of Illinois State University students. Living up to ISU's core value of shared governance, this year's student leaders come from a variety of areas of study and are actively involved on campus.



(Photo courtesy of Student Government Association)

Connor Joyce

Student body president

A junior human resources and psychology major from Gurnee, Connor Joyce started in SGA as a freshman and has worked his way up through the ranks.

Along with SGA, Joyce is involved with Sigma Chi and is the VP of accountability in the Interfraternity Council.

This year, he is working to launch town hall meetings for students to become more engaged with university administrators and is also attempting to pass a “dead week policy.”

“What this will do is create a week before finals that will not allow for tests or quizzes over 10 percent to be given ... This policy will ensure students have the proper time to be able to complete their preparations for finals,” Joyce said.

After graduating from ISU, he hopes to move to California with his girlfriend and work with a technology firm before pursuing an MBA.

“The experience gained through Student Government is monumental. I will be prepared for an array of situations that have already been presented.”



Maureen Christensen

Student Body Vice President

Born and raised in Normal, Maureen Christensen is a junior studying marketing and journalism. Last year, as one of SGA’s student life senators, she helped Registered Student Organizations learn more about funding options and helped create an RSO of the Month program.

As SGA's vice president, she is in charge of the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), which she was a part of as a freshman. Her mentor in ELP was her inspiration to join SGA. "It's come full circle," Christensen said.

One of her main goals is to coordinate a successful ELP and inspire freshmen to become more involved in the university.

Christensen's favorite part of SGA is the sense of collaboration and camaraderie that comes with working with other students.

"More than anything, Student Government Association is united by a common goal — representing the students and making sure they have a voice in Shared Governance," she said.

Her post-grad plans are not set, but she hopes to pursue a career in television news broadcasting or sports/university marketing, preferably outside of Bloomington-Normal.



Jason Swift

Executive Director

Jason Swift, a junior computer information systems major, got involved with SGA during his freshman year. As executive director, he oversees the budget supporting his fellow students and makes sure it is used effectively.

One of his main goals has been to get all professors to post syllabi for courses online prior to registration, so “students know what they are getting themselves into.”

“The past two years have been a wonderful experience working with other students and working to improve the student body, Swift said.



Ryan Powers

President of Assembly

Ryan Powers is both President of the Assembly and off-campus senator. His main role is to preside over all SGA assembly meetings.

“I got involved with Student Government last semester after a senator stepped down,” Powers said. “I heard about the position from the former Student Body President and thought it would be a great way to get involved on campus.”

Powers is a junior accounting major and plans to graduate in 2017 with a BS and MPA.



Jacqueline Johnson

Vice President of Assembly

Jacqueline Johnson is a sophomore special education major who plans to attend grad school in occupational therapy after she's done at ISU. She joined SGA because of her brother, who was also part of SGA at ISU.

"I was in Student Government in high school, so I knew that this was something that I wanted to do," Johnson said.

Her main goal as Vice President of Assembly is to make sure that student senators are actively going out and meeting with their constituents.



Kate Gallagher

Secretary of Assembly

Kate Gallagher first experienced SGA through her time in the ELP her freshman year.

“I got involved in SGA right off the bat,” Gallagher said. “I was given a mentor who helped me see the leadership side of ISU that I could get involved with.”

Gallagher is responsible for coordinating on-campus senators and advocating for the needs of her constituents. She is also a member of the Sustainability Committee, Civic Engagement Committee and Final Course Grade Appeals Committee.

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