

## John Carey

▼ University of North Florida ▼ 3.80 GPA  
▼ Senior in Business Administration

Carey's first task when he took office as SGA vice president in fall 1997 was to repair the holes in the group's relationship with the student body and campus administrators. "It was very adversarial and tumultuous," he recalls. "I first started with the senate and tried to foster relationships. If you do that, you convey a message of sincerity, and when it comes time to take issues to the table, you've got people's trust."

Carey, 23, quickly climbed the SGA ladder, serving first as budget and allocations chair, then senate president, and finally as director of student lobbying before running for his current position of vice president. As director of lobbying, he organized Take Over Tallahassee, busing SUS students statewide to the capital to strengthen relations with legislators. As he talked to student lobbyists across the state, Carey built a network of contacts he uses today.

When Carey works with university officials, he arms himself with facts and strategies. "I'm a big believer in statistical analysis — we survey our students often." One way Carey tracks student opinion is through the SGA-sponsored Courtyard



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Chats, monthly functions at which students air their concerns with SGA staffers and key administrators. "The students can have one-on-one conversations," Carey says. "There's no triangle of communication. What better way than to have the actual decision-maker there. The students know we are here to mean business."

Being assertive when it comes to uncovering students' concerns is just common sense to Carey. "In the past, student leaders here weren't out in the trenches, finding out what

students want. There is apathy on every campus, but it's your job to go out and find the problems."

Although Carey is ambitious, having recently campaigned for the SGA presidency, with plans to shoot for the chairmanship of the statewide Florida Student Association, his focus remains on doing what's best for students. "My basic approach is communication and education. If everybody knows what's going on and how to do their job, more often than not, they're going to do it well." In addition to his civic and academic involvements, Carey has supported himself through school with full-time jobs as a pharmacy technician and student body vice president and a part-time job as a vocalist and lead guitarist for the band Still Life.

While Carey is easygoing, he refuses to apologize for having high expectations. "The people who choose to follow me also understand that excellence is zero defects," he says. "We don't want anything to go wrong, but if it does, we're willing to adapt and adhere to those changes."

Recent opportunities for Carey to broaden the context in which he practices leadership include a trip with civic leaders to Jacksonville's sister city, Port Elizabeth, South Africa and participation in the inaugural class of College Leadership Florida in summer 1997. "There are so many issues facing Florida," he says. "Until my generation addresses them, it's going to be an ongoing struggle." 🐼

## Dana Hill

▼ Florida State University ▼ 3.97 GPA  
▼ Junior in Psychology

For Dana Hill, finding her niche at a large university, then teaching younger students how to do the same, has been the most rewarding aspect of her campus leadership. The Ocala native describes her time as an orientation leader and trainer as "one of my most incredible experiences here — I wouldn't trade it for anything. I try to get across how different college is from high school, and I encourage students to have an open mind." As a member of the orientation staff, Hill helped present a collage of dramatic skits entitled "Handle With Care" designed to raise incoming students' awareness about issues including cultural diversity, drug and alcohol use, date rape, and homosexuality.

In her leadership roles as vice president of the Student Alumni Association, former Lady Spirithunter, and member of Burning Spear, Hill has endeavored to teach future Seminoles the value of school spirit and cooperation. "Being in Spear, you meet leaders from all over campus and you get to see how the school is growing and changing and see what would best benefit it as a whole."

Hill also enjoys reaching out to FSU alumni to share the accomplishments of current



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students. "A lot of them don't realize that college kids today are good people," Hill says. "We have quite a few alumni who come back to a lot of events or call us and like to keep in touch."

Involvement in Phi Mu and in the Greek system has provided Hill with her strongest roots at FSU. "My sorority became a family to me when I first came to Florida State," she says. "I had the security of 120 girls who loved and supported me. It provided me with a base to branch out to the rest of campus."

Hill has indeed reached beyond organizing exchange dinners between sorority chapters and initiating a designated driver program. She currently serves as assistant internal director for FSU's Dance Marathon, a campuswide fund raiser that benefits the Children's Miracle Network, and is active in ODK and as a Seminole Ambassador. In the community, Hill teaches four-year-olds at St. Thomas More Catholic Church and has tutored migrant children in Project Amistades. She also helped with a Headstart reading intervention program as part of a directed individual-study course at FSU.

Most recently, Hill went to Washington, D.C. through FSU's Center for Civic Education and Service to work with HIV/AIDS patients in a soup kitchen and daycare center. When she leads others, Hill's approach is one of partnering. "A leader is someone who will do the work along with everyone else," she says. "You should realize your responsibility to those you're leading, not only to do a good job with your present task, but to build an organization that's going to last far into the future."

As she completes her third year on campus, Hill feels a deep obligation to encourage younger students. "If you don't have a mentor, it can be hard to see where to go," says the 20-year-old who supports herself through school with scholarships, savings, and part-time jobs as an orientation leader and an assistant in the psychology advising office. "I want to give a piece of myself to the university — to be part of something that positive is amazing to me." 🐼