There are three applicants for 2015-2016 Daily Texan Editor-In-Chief:

David Davis, Jr.
David Maly
Claire Smith

Candidates certified by the TSM Board will appear on the ballot for the campuswide elections that will be held on March 4 & 5. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, the top two vote-getters will compete in a runoff election to be held on March 11 & 12.
APPLICATION FORM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY TEXAN
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA
Term of Office: June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016

Please complete all sections of this application and return it to HSM 3.200 (William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue).

Application Deadline: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

Candidates will be certified at the TSM Board of Operating Trustees meeting on Friday, February 6, 2015. Please plan to attend the meeting to discuss your application with the Board of Operating Trustees.

SECTION I. Name and Address

David Davis, Jr.  
Full Name  

david2767  
UT EID  

4100 Avenue B #101  
Local Address  

Austln, TX 78751  
City, State, Zip Code  

davidadavisjr@gmail.com  
Email Address  

SECTION II. Authorization for Release of Information

I hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify the information requested below for the purpose of application for an elected or appointed office of Texas Student Media. Further, I understand that the information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

David Davis, Jr.  
Signature of Applicant  

2/2/2015  
Date
**SECTION III. Include the following with this application:**

A. Resume

B. Two samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)

C. Two letters of recommendation

D. Cover letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position

E. UT transcript of all work done at the University (unofficial is ok)

F. Signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting your application

**SECTION IV. Experience Record**

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):

Associate News Editor - spring 2015

Associate Editor (Opinion) - Summer - Fall (Oct) 2014

Columnist (Opinion) - spring 2014

Copy Editor - fall 2013
SECTION V. Certification

*** This section is to be filled out by the TSM Director, Editorial Adviser, or a TSM Business Office employee designated by the Director.

The Board of Trustees will follow the Handbook's qualifications to determine the eligibility of applicants. If no qualified candidate has filed by the deadline, the Board may certify one or more candidates by waiving some or all of requirements 4, 5, and 6 by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

1. Is the applicant currently an enrolled UT Austin student? 
   Yes / No

2. Does the applicant meet the minimum GPA requirements? 
   Yes / No

3. Does the applicant agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position? 
   Yes / No

4. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of The Daily Texan in opinion? 
   Yes / No

5. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent or issue staff member of The Daily Texan outside opinion? 
   Yes / No

6. Has the applicant obtained signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting their candidacy? 
   Yes / No

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications.

[Signature]

2/2/2015

Date

You are subject to the TSM Election Code, as detailed in Chapter 7 of the TSM Handbook. You are subject to the Student Government Election Code and the Election Timeline (available at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/campuswideelections/). Read these documents carefully. Ignorance is not a defense to complaints of rule violations.
David A. Davis, Jr.
4400 Avenue B #101 Austin, Texas 78751
Email: davidadavisjr@gmail.com
Phone: (281) 788-5667

Education
The University of Texas at Austin
B.A. French, International Relations & Global Studies, Liberal Arts Honors
Minor: European Studies, Business Administration

Expected Graduation Date: May 2016

Professional Experience
The Daily Texan, The University of Texas at Austin

Associate News Editor
Spring 2015

Associate Opinion Editor
Summer 2014 – Fall 2014

Opinion Columnist
Spring 2014

Copy Editor
Fall 2013

- Edited articles for grammar, spelling and Associated Press style and wrote headlines
- Wrote reported opinion columns relating to local social, political and university issues
- Member of the editorial board, write editorials, and edit opinion columns
- Edit news stories for content and style

Office of State Representative Abel Herrero, Texas House of Representatives

Legislative Intern
Spring 2015

Legislative Fellow
Spring 2014

- Constituent work to act as a liaison between state agencies and constituents
- Policy research, specifically criminal jurisprudence policy; research of interim charges
- Bill analysis during legislative session

Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin

Student Assistant
Fall 2013 – Present

- Perform clerical duties: digitizing files, operating scanner, electronic filing
- Create invoices for research materials
- Assist accounting department with data entry

Organizations/Memberships

- Student Conduct Advisory Committee, The University of Texas at Austin
- Student Conduct Board, The University of Texas at Austin
- Moody College of Communications Pre-graduate Intern, Spring 2014
- Human Rights Campaign, Volunteer
- Texas Exes, Student Member
- Federation of Lesbian and Gay Sports, Member

Awards

- Texas Exes Christopher Schulze Scholarship for Excellence in French, Spring 2014
- Study Abroad International Education Fee Scholarship, Fall 2014
- Study Abroad 25-Year Anniversary Scholarship, Fall 2014
Editor's note: This column is part of a point/counterpoint on proposed undergraduate tuition increases. You can find its companion column, arguing against the proposed increases, here.

Recently, I was invited to join a Facebook event titled “Against UT tuition increases.” The group’s goal was to galvanize students against possible tuition hikes that may be suggested by student leaders in a proposal to be sent to the UT System Board of Regents on March 26.

The Facebook group creator, computer science junior and former Daily Texan columnist Mukund Rathi, asked students to attend town hall forums held by legislative student organizations to discuss the possible tuition hikes and make their objections heard.

I attended one of these forums, but not to voice objections to the proposed tuition rates. Yes, I would prefer not to have to pay more for tuition, but, with the constant decline in state funding, as well as UT’s striving to be a leading research university, the necessity for tuition increases is inevitable. And let’s get one thing straight: Student leaders are not being asked to consider tuition increases just for the hell of it.

During the fiscal year 1984-85, the University received 47 percent of its funding from the Texas legislature. This year, state funds have dwindled to only 13 percent of the school’s budget.

In the past, substantial aid from the Legislature kept tuition rates artificially low. During the SG public forum held last Tuesday, Rathi said, “Students shouldn’t have to get a part-time job. Students should not have to deal with tuition increases.” Unfortunately, the reality is that we don’t live in a utopia where the cost of everything, including a college education, is equal to everyone’s financial capabilities, and any measure taken by the UT administration is not going to solve income inequality overnight. Also within this reality is a harsh truth: Money rules everything.

A key factor in student opposition to the tuition hike is the lack of information students have on the matter. The sentiment that I gathered from attending the forum was that the burden of the bulk of UT’s budget was being placed on students.

That’s simply not true, and it wouldn’t be even if tuition were to increase. During the 2012-13 fiscal year, after tuition revenues, there was more than $1 billion left in operating expenses. Even if the University increased in-state tuition rates by 2.6 percent as proposed, the increase would only mean, on average, about $254 more per year per Texas resident student for the University, which would add only approximately $9 million to the school’s budget. About $2 million would be added from out-of-state tuition revenues. With operating expenses of more than $2.4 billion last fiscal year, and tuition covering only about $500 million, the increase in tuition would be a drop in the bucket for the University’s budget.

During the public forum, Plan II honors senior Scott Wahl proposed an active protest outside of the Board of Regents office. Although I cannot be sure as to what the Regents will decide, tuition increases for Texas residents are improbable. Last year, when President William Powers, Jr. submitted a recommendation to the Regents for a student-approved tuition increase, the request was denied. The Texas Tribune reported that the Regents Chairman Gene Powell was in favor of freezing in-state tuition in order to reduce the burden on students and their families.
Last tuition-setting year, in order to resolve the budget problem and offset tuition increases, the Regents allocated money to the University from the Available University Fund. That money makes up the Permanent University Fund, a public endowment to support certain Texas public higher education institutions. The University cannot depend on this fund as a solution to its financial problems, though. Despite the PUF’s assets totalling nearly $16 billion, only 4.25 to 5 percent of the funds can be used for the Available University Fund. That percentage of money is not just up for taking by the University, as it is shared with the A&M system, as well as between all 15 UT system institutions.

And, if students fear that increasing tuition now would set a precedent for future tuition increases, they shouldn’t: the Legislature has mandated a fixed tuition plan for the incoming class of Fall 2014. This plan would allow students to opt into paying the same tuition for a period of twelve consecutive semesters.

But the main problem with arguments against tuition increases is the egocentrism of students. We think about the now and how it affects us in this moment. The ire surrounding the tuition debate only came about once the proposal included a 2.6 percent in-state undergraduate tuition increase. The original proposal submitted in December 2013 only called for increases in undergraduate tuition for out-of-state students. I didn’t hear many UT students protesting that increase.

Students who are against the increases are simply not considering the situation from the administration’s point of view. The University has to plan for its financial position years from now, even after current students are gone, and the University cannot continue its success without adequate funding. Tuition increases are a necessary evil, and, while student leaders should represent the voice of their constituents, the voices of informed students should carry more weight in the tuition discussion.

*Davis is an international relations and French junior from Houston.*

*Correction: Due to an editing error, an earlier version of this article identified the average tuition increase as $127 per student, per year. The article has been corrected to reflect the fact that the average increase would be $127 per student, per semester.*
Wendy Davis says nice things, but plans need more substance

DT dailytexanonline.com (2017/03/24) Wendy Davis says nice things but plans need more substance

Editor’s Note: While the editorial board chose not to endorse a gubernatorial candidate, we encourage students to vote in the upcoming election.

The calamity that is the Wendy Davis campaign should have started with two goals: encouraging groups that traditionally vote Democrat to get to the polls and appealing to moderate conservatives. To accomplish the latter, Davis contradicted herself on certain issues. Her opposition to an omnibus abortion bill — let’s be honest — got her on the ballot, but she later voiced support of a 20-week ban on abortion. Davis supported strict gun control prior to her candidacy but later announced support of open carry. Veering to the right on such issues would have meant something to voters if the effort had been honest. Unfortunately, Davis assumed a brief mention of Republican-sounding things would suffice while she hid behind empty policy stances by attacking her opponent Attorney General Greg Abbott.

Adversarial speech should be welcomed in politics so voters get a full picture of candidates, but mocking disability or dredging up scandal do not qualify one to be governor. Criticizing Abbott weakens him in the eyes of liberals — in other words, people who were not voting for him in the first place. And with sound bites supporting gay marriage, Davis is certainly not going to garner any new votes from the right. For apathetic voters — some of whom believe government is inherently corrupt — portraying Abbott as “Insider General” creates more distrust among voters, especially when Davis’ background is not squeaky clean. The troubling presupposition of the Davis campaign is that while Davis rants about Abbott, no one is going to ask what she brings to the table — nothing.

Davis says many nice things that are difficult morally to argue with, but without a viable plan, the funding or a cooperative Legislature, Davis is reinforcing the concept of liberalist folly and relying on her supporters’ shiny ball syndrome.

Davis’ only “developed” plan relates to education. A single mother who lifted herself up by the bootstraps to become a successful Harvard Law graduate — or whatever the story is — Davis is seen as a champion for education. But her education plan is simply unfeasible. As for universal pre-kindergarten, Davis has claimed the program will cost about $700 million, but the National Institute for Early Education Research gives $2 billion as a conservative estimate. Davis has said to pay for the program, she would use the Economic Stabilization Fund intended to fund budget deficits or cut tax loopholes, which would not be supported by the Legislature.

Other parts of the education plan are just silly. Great Teachers: Great Texas would allow the top 20 percent of high school juniors automatic acceptance into college if they commit to pursuing a career in teaching. How high school juniors will commit to a career when many college students can’t is a mystery. Davis also plans to double college credit hours high school students receive. This plan would be impossible to enforce given that universities have discretion in choosing which credits to accept. Also, most four-year institutions require at least 60 credit hours, roughly two years, to be taken in residence, and if students come to college with a surfeit of credit hours, and they are unable to finish in two years, they could be denied subsidized financial aid, which is restricted based on number of credit hours regardless of how they are acquired.

Additionally, Davis has shown support for a minimum wage increase detailed in her plan called... what?
The employment effects of a minimum wage increase vary depending on the regional labor market. Yet economist Arindrajit Dube stated that a wage increase would increase the demand for low-wage jobs, leading to less turnover. No one can deny the benefits an increase would have on poverty-stricken families, but unilateral implementation is not the answer. Wage increase supporters want to glorify the McDonald’s job, but the truth is such low-wage jobs should be temporary stepping stones. A wage increase for skilled laborers in public transportation, sanitation or public works makes more sense; the government would encourage professional skill-building and not subsidize complacency.

On the issue of immigration, in-state tuition to undocumented students makes sense. We should not punish children here involuntarily who want to be contributing members of society. But outside of the cadre of children, Texas must maintain a firm stance against illegal immigration, and Davis’ plan to grant undocumented immigrants with driver licenses is nonsensical and a magnet for illegal immigration. Furthermore, the measure is inadvertently malicious. Davis wants to dress undocumented immigrants up as citizens with a driver license without requiring them to take the steps to become citizens.

It is truly unfortunate that standards are so low among liberal voters in Texas that they are willing to accept cute ideas with no basis in reality. Instead of making her a one-issue candidate, those pink tennis shoe-wearers should have been asking Davis the tough questions the next governor should be able to answer. Instead, Davis’ starry-eyed supporters have been swindled by half-truths, fairy tales and ad hominem fallacy. Wendy Davis is not right for Texas and should not be our next governor.

*Davis is an international relations and French junior from Houston.*
Diversity goals do not benefit black students

As the University celebrates what could be considered a victory in the Fisher v. University of Texas case, one has to wonder what there is to celebrate. Sure, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit seemingly gave a stamp of approval to UT’s holistic admissions review process, which allows the University to take race into account, but, unfortunately, the capacity to use race as a decision factor narrowly benefits racial minority groups that are in vogue, while another — black applicants — is disadvantaged by the system.

Let’s be frank. When the term “affirmative action” was first associated with race, the intended beneficiaries were black people who had historically experienced de facto and de jure discrimination based on their skin color. Positive discrimination, or affirmative action, was used to correct legal inequalities that had oppressed the black community for such a long time.

UT, along with many universities in the South, is certainly no stranger to racial controversy concerning admissions. In the case of Sweat v. Painter, for example, the Supreme Court ruled that the University could not deny admission to the Law School based on race. Edwin Dorn, the former dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, once said, “The University desegregated slowly and reluctantly.” And, while today, admissions numbers do not reflect a university reluctant to accept all minorities, the numbers do show an institution headed in the wrong direction as far as black students are concerned.

Over the past few years, the percentage of undergraduate students who identify as black has constantly declined from a number that wasn’t so high to begin with despite an increase in the black population in every major city in Texas besides Austin. In 2009, black students comprised 4.9 percent of the undergraduate population, and enrollment for the fall semester of 2013 was down to 1,701 students, which is now 4.3 percent of the undergraduate student body. The number of black graduate students is even lower with roughly 300 black students total enrolled in graduate programs. Conversely, Hispanic students, correlating with an increase in the state population of Hispanics, have the second highest representation on campus behind white students, making up 21.7 percent of the population, which is equivalent to more than 8,000 students. The percentage of Asian undergraduates has remained relatively constant. Certainly, it could be argued that black students have been and will continue to be underrepresented because the number of applications submitted by black students barely exceeds 2,000, but the admissions rate is still lower for black students than it is for the largest minority groups on campus.
The lack of a substantial black population, which includes a faculty of which black teachers make up roughly 3.7 percent, is quite noticeable. Homecoming coronations, probates and step shows are probably foreign ideas to most students who aren't black. Yet any given student has probably heard of the Holi festival held during the spring semester every year, for example. The importance of diversity does not lie within simply increasing the number of non-white students on campus. Diversity fosters understanding between cultures, and black culture is not highly prevalent on UT's campus, leaving few people aware of what it means to be black. Of course traditions often associated with historically black colleges and universities are not the only aspects of black culture, but they are good introductions to the community on a college campus.

The University should take advantage of the opportunity to increase diversity on campus, but extended opportunities for admission cannot be unique to “buzz minorities.” The decision by the appellate court means nothing if UT continues to maintain a black student quota of just over 2,000 students out of more than 50,000 total students enrolled at the University. With this ruling, the administration has the responsibility to move forward and not just allow the number of black students on campus to dwindle.

*Davis is an associate editor. He is an international relations and French junior from Houston.*
January 30, 2015

Dear Members of the Texas Student Media Board of Directors:

I write in support of David Davis' interest in serving as Editor in Chief of the Daily Texan. I had the pleasure of serving as David's mentor through the Gender and Sexuality Center last year and quickly became a friend as well as a mentor.

David possesses a remarkable set of skills that would serve him well as the Editor in Chief.

First, David has an amazing thirst for information. He constantly seeks to stay informed on a variety of world topics as well as those that concern the campus. From the first semester I began working with David, I have been impressed that he made time to attend events that were not of obvious interest just to find out more about the subject. His inquisitive nature provides him a very broad world-view on a wide variety of topics and interests. Whatever the topic of discussion, he can be counted on to have done his research to discover more about the facts involved. This passion for information would be a valuable asset for an Editor in Chief.

Secondly, David is not afraid to approach topics from a point of view that may not be the prevailing or popular approach. I have repeatedly witnessed David take an opposing position on discussion topics for which one might assume he held a particular bias. Perhaps it is background in debate that helped him develop this skill, but his arguments are always cogent, thorough and thought provoking. He makes you think. His thoughtful approach would be another valuable asset for someone leading an opinions section of a news publication.

Thirdly, David approaches things from a neutral starting point and is not given to hyped half-truths and unfounded suppositions. He is a rational person who would lead an editorial board in a fair and thoughtful manner and would do so with incredible integrity.

There have been numerous instances in which David and I have not always agreed. We simply have had a difference of opinion. But in all circumstances, I continue to maintain a great deal of respect for David’s informed, impassioned and rational approach to his opinions. I am confident he would bring these admirable qualities to the position of Editor in Chief of the Daily Texan and I am happy to provide my highest recommendation for him in this capacity.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Douglas W. Bolin, DMA
Artistic Director and Director of Operations
January 30, 2015

To Members of the Texas Student Media Board:

I am supporting David Davis, Jr. as Editor-in-Chief for the Daily Texan. Last year, I was pleased to offer David an internship in my legislative office. Since then, I have consistently been impressed by his work and believe that he would flourish as Editor-in-Chief.

Through his work in my office, David has gained the basis for a strong understanding of what is required to be a leader. His interest in criminal justice policy issues led him to volunteer to conduct research on the sale of criminal histories for the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, a committee of which I am Chair. His initiative served us well as we gained a fuller picture of the subject because of his work.

Furthermore, David has proven to be an asset in providing constituent services to individuals within the district I represent. He has handled each case with care and compassion while illustrating an ability to navigate the state agency system quickly and efficiently.

David has shown a curious and inquisitive sensibility, coupled with an astute ability to offer insightful analysis to complex issues, all qualities needed to excel in any leadership position. After getting to know David, both professionally and personally, I can unequivocally say that he is an ideal candidate to lead this respected publication.

I am supporting David in his bid for Editor-In-Chief of the Daily Texan at the University of Texas. If you need any additional information from me, or my office, please contact me at 512-463-0462 or via email at abel.herrero@house.state.tx.us. Thank you for your time and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Abel Herrero
State Representative, District 34
Members of the Texas Student Media Board,

I would like to recommend David Davis Jr., an ideal candidate, for The Daily Texan's next Editor-in-Chief.

Most of you are unfamiliar with me, so here is a little background: I spent five semesters working in the Texan basement. Four of those were spent reporting on the campus beat, writing long form about the University's past and present and helping run the News department as an associate news editor. My last semester at the Texan, I joined the Editorial Board under the persevering leadership of Laura Wright. I met David working in the opinion office as a columnist. I edited his writing often and worked with him to mold ideas. Very few columnists took the notes and guidance of the Editorial Board as seriously as he did to better their columns. I became personally invested in him and he continued to impress and surprise the Board with his nuanced perspective of student issues and thoughtful consideration of current events happening inside and out of the Texan newsroom.

He wanted to make sure his perspective, even if complex or potentially unpopular would make it across to readers. He also kept up to speed with the coverage the News department provided. He was not new to the Texan work, as most columnists are, having worked for the Copy Desk.

Not all columnists are as interested in the rest of the Texan content, in the newsroom, in the production of all of it. The effort to produce the Texan and the long nights of staffers, editors and designers working together to put out a paper are generally lost on the Opinion staff. Unfortunately, most columnists put in far less effort to get a byline then rest of the Texan, relying on clichés to resonate with an audience that doesn't need to be pushed far to complain. David always worked to push past the cliché and get to a deeper reason for reading. He was already an above average columnist but he will be an even stronger editorial voice with his experience in Copy and now in News as an associate news editor.

David will undoubtedly take that perspective back with him to the Opinion office. He will understand the challenges that News faces at the heart of the Texan and the impact a well-worded argument can have on its readers. He may not always play nice but the Editor-in-Chief is not required to be nice. They are meant to be strong, thoughtful, mindful of the name they represent and unyielding in their protection of the students who run it. Those were the brightest characteristics I gleaned from Laura, and I believe we will see them in David as well.

Although my time at the Texan is long over, it will have a lasting place in my heart. The Texan led to amazing opportunities for me interning at The Austin American-Statesman, The Texas Tribune and this summer at The Washington Post. I was lucky and backed by the wonderful institution that is The Daily Texan. I only want what is best for it — and that is David Davis.

Sincerely from a Daily Texan veteran,
Christine Ayala
February 2, 2015

Members of the Texas Student Media Board:

I would like to announce my candidacy for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan.

Trying out for The Daily Texan, I was too shy to apply for a content-producing position, but I have always had a passion for correcting people. Naturally, the copy desk, where I learned Associated Press and Texan style, was the perfect fit, and I am extremely grateful to have started at the Texan as a copy editor because the position prepared me for future positions as an editor. My time spent at the copy desk also allowed me to learn about logistical aspects of a print newspaper.

My second semester at the Texan, I decided to be a bit more brave and try out for a position as an opinion columnist, which led to a passion for informative journalism. As a columnist and later as an editorial board member, I brought attention to different political ideologies and challenged collective student thought on certain campus issues. The editorial department should always strive to represent the student voice, but the opinion page must confront public student opinion in an informed manner.

During my time as an associate opinion editor, I sought out several opportunities to bring a conservative student political voice to the paper to fairly compete with the traditionally liberal voice of the Texan. Additionally, I focused on issues concerning graduate students and minority students.

If elected as editor-in-chief of the Texan, my primary focus will be on producing well-reported content that gives equal weight to both sides of an issue before finally forming an opinion. While editorials serve to influence public opinion, they should also be as informative as possible. In order to accomplish this goal, I would encourage opinion columnists as well as editors to behave as news reporters while gathering information. Even a biased article — otherwise known as an editorial or op-ed — should explore all facts and counterarguments. Specifically concerning editorials, the opinion department would publish editorials on an “as needed” basis to avoid a common issue prevalent in student journalism — expressing disapproval about every little thing.

The Daily Texan editorial department should also bring focus back to campus issues that directly affect students as to create a product that is truly a niche, instead of one that lengthens an already long list of commentary on current events not particularly unique to our campus. Furthermore, as editor-in-chief, I would aim to create a more exploratory and proactive environment in order to bring to students’ attention certain issues they may not be encountering every day. I would like to not only continue to recognize minority communities and graduate students who
undoubtedly contribute to the overall campus culture, but also to acknowledge other communities, such as student veterans and nontraditional students.

Readership problems and financial circumstances would be impossible to ignore for the editor-in-chief of the Texan. To combat these problems, firstly, the newspaper should behave more like a student organization. The perception of the Texan as somewhat elitist is not helpful in increasing readership. Therefore, I would encourage interaction with other students by continuing tabling, continuing the “We Asked” video series and hosting on-campus events that are not primarily concerned with “selling” a newspaper. On the other hand, the financial aspect of the newspaper is equally important. If elected editor-in-chief, I will actively seek donations and advocate cost-cutting measures to the Student Media Board to help ease the financial woes of the Texan.

The responsibility that comes with the position of editor-in-chief of an award-winning college newspaper is of great magnitude, and I am prepared to take on that responsibility. My main goal is to build an editorial department that operates like a news department in its reporting efforts but that produces bold, informative commentary. I would also like to create a less adversarial relationship between the Texan and campus by promoting student interaction.

The Daily Texan needs a strong leader to carry out the aforementioned goals, and if elected to be that person, I look forward to making the Texan an even stronger publication.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Davis, Jr.
I support the candidacy of David Davis, Jr. for Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Texan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Voeller</td>
<td>Special project manager</td>
<td>Amanda Voeller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eleanor Dearman</td>
<td>Senior Reporter</td>
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<td>Samantha Ketterer</td>
<td>Senior Reporter</td>
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<td>Chantelle Gibson</td>
<td>Associate News Editor</td>
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<td>Marshall Tidrick</td>
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SECTION I. Name and Address

David Maly
Full Name
dla789
UT EID
909 W 22nd 112 S1
Local Address
Austin, TX 78705
City, State, Zip Code
DavidMaly4@gmail.com
Email Address

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I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications.

[Signature of Applicant]

[Date] 2/2/15

You are subject to the TSM Election Code, as detailed in Chapter 7 of the TSM Handbook. You are subject to the Student Government Election Code and the Election Timeline (available at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/campuswideelections/). Read these documents carefully. Ignorance is not a defense to complaints of rule violations.
DAVID MALY  
(Cell): (512)-318-7770 - Email: Davidmaly1@gmail.com - Twitter: DavidMaly1

Education:
McDowell Senior High School   Erie, PA
Knight School of Journalism MOOC on data-driven journalism  (7/13-10/13)
The University of Texas at Austin   Austin, TX   (8/11-present)
Current senior: Majors: Journalism and economics Minors: English and government

Work Experience:
KVR News: Updates Producer (1/15-present)
   I cover Student Government for UT's student-run news broadcast station and produce updates for it on current affairs each week. Volunteer: (8/14-12/14)
USA TODAY College: Contributor (8/14-present)
   I write content on events affecting college life around the nation, with a focus on The University of Texas.
The Odyssey: Editor-in-Chief (8/14-present)
   I help organize coverage of The University of Texas' print weekly news publication covering fraternity and sorority life.
   - The Odyssey News Reporter: (1/14-8/14)
The Horn: Editor-in-Chief (8/13-present)
   I run the entire UT student publication, writing, hiring, fundraising and shaping our means of distribution.
Past positions at The Horn:
   News, Opinion and Sports Editor: (5/13-8/13)
   Associate News Editor: (1/13-5/13)
The Texas Tribune: Intern (8/13-12/13)
   I wrote news content on Texas politics that I have pitched and have been assigned. I also worked on the publication's Ethics Explorer project.
ORANGE Magazine: Social Media Director (8/13-8/14)
   I ran all the social media accounts for the award-winning entertainment magazine ORANGE, which is operated by The University of Texas students.
The Oxford Student: News Reporter (5/13-8/13)
   I covered news for the University of Oxford's student newspaper.
The Daily Texan: Reporter, Copy Editor (1/12-1/13)
   I covered all types of news stories for the UT student publication, focusing on crime.
Rental Property Management: Owner (2/11-employed)
   I manage rental properties owned by myself and others.
Zaitoon Restaurant: Co-owner (2/14-present)
Roppolo's Pizzeria: Assistant Manager (8/10-7/13)
Arpeggio Grill: General Manager (8/10-9/11)

Other Involvement: NABJ (member), UT chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law fraternity (member), UT chapter of Sigma Alpha Lambda honors fraternity (member), UT Hispanic Journalists (member), ISOJ (member), SPJ (member), Sigma Pi Fraternity International (member, IFC rep, Philanthropy and Community Service chair)
App Lets Riders Forgo Cabs and Ignites Debate on Dallas' Code

Sunny Singh, who uses Uber as a driver, with the app last week in Dallas.

By DAVID MALL
Published: October 31, 2013

When Uber, the San Francisco-based company that allows customers to order rides with a cellphone app, expanded its operations to Texas, it chose Dallas as its starting point.

But the company's arrival has caused friction with the city's cab and limousine drivers, and raised debate over what regulations should apply to it. As officials deliberate whether to change the city code to address Uber's operations, the company is continuing efforts to expand in Dallas and other Texas cities. But cab and limo business representatives say that if Uber is not subject to the same regulations they face, they could go out of business.

Soon after beginning operations in Dallas in October 2012, the city sent Uber a cease-and-desist letter, telling it to halt operations because it did not have the proper licenses.

"We've seen this conversation happen before," said Leandre Johns, general manager of

Uber's Texas operations. He said Uber was a technology company, not a transportation company, because it connected riders with drivers it did not employ. He said that though it met or exceeded many standards that govern transportation companies — screening drivers and tracking customer satisfaction, for example — it was different. Uber makes money mainly by taking a portion of its drivers' fares, Mr. Johns said.

A technology company would be exempt from many of the taxes, fees and regulations that affect taxi and limousine companies in Dallas. That includes providing transportation to all parts of the city and for customers with disabilities.

In an email to Joey Zapata, Dallas' assistant city manager, a lawyer for Dallas Yellow Cab called the lack of regulations for Uber unfair, and asked to have Dallas police ticket Uber drivers or stop charging cab companies thousands of dollars in permit fees.

"I'm getting very angry in the Uber intrusion and your department's lack of protection," the lawyer, John Barr, wrote in the email. "What will it take? Bankruptcy of the cabs?"

According to an investigative report from the city that was released Oct. 23, Uber ignored the cease-and-desist letter and Dallas police began ticketing Uber drivers for violating transportation code. Uber paid for lawyers to challenge the citations.

In August, A. C. Gonzalez, the interim city manager, placed an item on the City Council agenda — with no prior council discussion — that would have effectively halted Uber's operations there. The item was a proposed overhaul to city code that would have required minimum limousine fares and a 30-minute prearrangement for a limo ride.

The lack of discussion over the proposal prompted council members and Mayor Mike Rawlings to call for an investigation into how the item came to be placed on the council agenda.

The report from that investigation faulted Mr. Gonzalez for putting the item on the agenda without prior discussion, but said no illegal activity took place. It also dismissed remaining tickets given to Uber drivers.

Councilman Scott Griggs said officials would look at ways to ensure that Uber is facing the same regulations as taxi and limo services, taking changing technology into account.

But representatives for the cab and limo drivers say Uber should be subject to the same regulations and permit fees that they are.

Mr. Johns said that while Uber would like to expand into Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and other major Texas cities, the focus now is on Houston.

For Uber to operate there, Mr. Johns said, the city would have to change its laws setting a $70 minimum fare and 30-minute prearrangement time on limousine rides. The city is conducting a study of the laws, and Uber is in talks with city officials.

dmaly@texastribune.org

A version of this article appears in print on November 1, 2013, on page A21A of the National edition with the headline: App Lets Riders Forgo Cabs and Ignites Debate on Dallas' Code.
It's Time for University Administrators to Stop Putting the Blame on the Greek System as a Whole

Calling for an end to the Greek system can be an easy way for university administrators to pass the buck when incidents occur, but it's a move that brings enormous detriment to American college campuses.
Across the nation, we're repeatedly seeing both calls and actions to end Greek life when unfavorable incidents occur.

Just last month, University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan announced that all fraternities at the university were suspended until January, following a Rolling Stone report that a pattern of sexual assault exists among fraternities at the university. The month prior, The Dartmouth, a student newspaper at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, called for the abolishment of the Greek system on its campus. This all follows last spring's article in The Atlantic titled “The Dark Power of Fraternities,” a piece that in more than 10,000 words describes instances of physical accidents at fraternities and efforts by their national organizations to avoid paying on lawsuits and taking responsibility for them.

While incidents no question do occur in Greek life, these efforts unfortunately take a simplistic approach to dealing with them, calling for the removal of a system that does immeasurable good, as opposed to targeted efforts to deal with the issues that exist amid the Greek system in a constructive way.
At my university, The University of Texas, for example, university statistics show that last year alone 29,148 hours of community service were completed by members of the Greek community and $654,101 was raised for philanthropic causes by them, this along with them awarding $98,875 in scholarship money and 61 percent of them achieving above the average undergraduate GPA. On the national scale, UT statistics tell us that 85 percent of Fortune 500 executives belong to a fraternity, 76 percent of U.S. senators belong to a fraternity or sorority and two of the four women that have served on the U.S. Supreme Court were in a sorority.

Un fortunately, these statistics rarely make it into analyses of the Greek system. Those spots are too often reserved for the bad that is going on within it, along with calls for the simplistic and detrimental solution of ending it.

It's easy to see why ending the Greek system would be an easy move by university administrators. Without this great system that has been overtaken with stereotypes, there isn't something on campus that can constantly be criticized and blamed for university issues. However, instead of this simplistic, easy and detrimental approach, university administrators would be much better off looking deeply into the issues that exist within the Greek system and coming up with constructive solutions to them.

I don't believe that the Greek system in itself -- a system that prizes unity, good works and success -- is inherently bad, and to act like it is robs students across the nation of the
opportunity to be part of something that can help them succeed in immeasurable ways.

David Maly (/author/david-maly) - I'm a journalism and economics senior at The University of Texas working to be the best journalist and ΠΠ I can be. Hook 'em Horns! \m/

Follow @DavidMaly!

I'm a journalism and economics senior at The University of Texas working hard to pursue a career in journalism. Along with serving as contributing editor for The Odyssey, I work as...

You might also like...

44 comments  Add a comment

Chris Cobham  The University of Texas at Austin
I fully support efforts to correct the Greek system where we have gone wrong (and indeed we have, and still do from time to time). The blanket condemnation of all Greek letter organizations and their members is nothing more than scapegoating in its worst form. Media and administrators would rather assign the blame for the problematic aspects of campus culture to a handful of highly visible and poorly-understood organizations than undertake any effort to address the rampant alcohol abuse that is the true root of most incidents on campus.

Reply  Unlike 7  Follow Post  December 16, 2014 at 3:34pm

Tyler Britt  Frederick, Maryland
Alcohol abuse is promoted in much of Greek life...how many Greek organizations edge by cramming alcohol down peoples throats...? Not

Reply  Like  1

Adrian Linda
That was a great accurate statistic Tyler. Great research and credibility.

Reply  Unlike 71

Tim Richards  Mission Hills Country Club
Tyler Britt there are quite a few organization that are dry houses...you are stereotyping at its best right here. When I joined my fraternity I was never forced to drink it was always a choice.

Reply  Like 4

View 4 more

http://theodysseyonline.com/texas/university-administrators-stop-blaming-greek-system/77771
To: The DAILY TEXAN  
Jan. 30, 2015  
Letter of Recommendation  
for DAVID MALY

I highly recommend David Maly for editor of The Daily Texan. He was a student in my reporting class, and I could see immediately that he was “the natural born” journalist—serious, curious, dedicated, energetic—and sees journalism as his career. I was struck immediately by his confident independence, but also by his eagerness to learn from others about how journalism works—how it can be improved, and the challenges it faces in this new media world—and of course how The Daily Texan and how other UT campus media outlets are dealing with these changes.

He knows how to seek information, how to ask questions, and how to report news. He reminds me of those years when students sought careers in journalism—and not merely as a route to another field. He is not “just passing through” journalism education. I think he has journalism “in his soul” and he reminds me of that quality I sensed years ago in both students and in the profession—which is somewhat rare these days. If I were an editor today, I’d hire him immediately.

Gene Burd  
Professor Emeritus (at age 83)  
UT School of Journalism

PS: I taught at UT for 42 years—longer than any professor in its 100-year history, after also teaching at Northwestern, Minnesota and Marquette and being a student also at UCLA and Iowa—plus serving as a reporter and editor on the Houston Chronicle, Kansas City Star, Albuquerque Journal and suburban papers in the Chicago area.
One of the hardest things to do -- particularly in media -- is build and/or sustain a brand. Now try accomplishing that while juggling a typically hectic college schedule.

Despite the latter, David Maly has been able to do the former with flying colors during his tenure as editor-in-chief of The Odyssey at the University of Texas. In less than a semester on the job, David has transformed The Odyssey into a recognized, well-respected news outlet on campus. And he’s done it the right way. Instead of relying on listicles and click bait like so many millennial-targeted news outlets do, he’s stuck to his passion for local news that affects the Austin community at its core -- comings and goings in the 40 Acres area, local and student government developments, reactions to national news stories and the like.

David doesn’t just have a vision for The Odyssey at Texas that he’s realizing. He’s also recruited a talented and driven staff of writers, reporters, social media directors and fellow editors and gotten them to buy in to his vision of what good, local news should be. Because of the positive influence that David has had on his staff, I would be just as quick to write any of them a letter of recommendation for the exact same reasons I’ve written one for David.

The Daily Texan’s next editor should be someone who’s news savvy, a natural leader, comfortable in a deadline-oriented setting and unwavering in their attitude toward generating the best news content possible (and not just the most clickable). David is all that and more.

All The Best,

Chris Mahr
Managing Editor, The Odyssey
chris.mahr@olympamediagroup.com
Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees,

During my time at The University of Texas at Austin, I have gotten to take advantage of many wonderful journalism opportunities, working extensively for The Daily Texan, The Horn, ORANGE Magazine, The Odyssey, KVR News, The Texas Tribune, USA TODAY College, The Oxford Student and more. Through it all, I've gotten to write hundreds of news and opinion pieces, often dealing with issues that affect The University of Texas. In terms of opinion content, I ran The Horn's opinion section for two semesters and have written opinion content for it. Also, as editor of The Odyssey, I'm required to write opinion content at least weekly, commenting on the most serious issues that impact Greek life and the larger UT community.

However, I've never had an outlet for opinion content quite like The Daily Texan. The respect and reach of its Opinion Section is really remarkable, making it something that has the ability to affect major change on the University of Texas campus.

I believe that my extensive time reporting on UT from a news perspective and time writing opinion content on it gives me the experience and skills to write informed, important and innovative content, pointing out issues that affect the University of Texas community in a strong and clear way, and offering plausible and logical solutions to them. With the Texan Opinion Department's strong reach, I think that could lead to having a major positive impact at UT.

Along with content, as Daily Texan editor a priority for me would be to make the Opinion Section less inclusive. I've heard time after time of students having difficulty running pieces that they wrote for the Opinion Section because of formatting issues, like word count or style. I'd like to work more closely with students interested in expressing opinions through the Texan, to help them come up with content that can be run. The Daily Texan Opinion Section should serve as a voice to the broader UT community. To help in that goal, I would also like to make it easier to contact opinion editors and to submit content, with an open submission system for the campus to use to submit firing lines and other pieces.

Furthermore, I would like to make the section less inclusive in terms of staff and coverage. By working extensively in UT journalism over the last three years, I know how much work many sections of campus do without getting much of the attention that they deserve. Taking Greek life, for example, as editor of The Odyssey, I've gotten to delve into it with my staff, and have been meet with a section of the campus community that we much more often than not have positive stories coming out about, because that's what we find is going on. That's often not the case with the Texan, and I would like to make it more representative of what is going on in Greek life and other aspects of UT.

In terms of the financial situation of TSM, I think that the current plight cannot be ignored. While it is a trying time for TSM, I think that more involvement from the TSM players would be very beneficial, with increased oversight and an ability to get creative and flexible with funding. There are so many means of getting help now. The Friends of The Daily Texan have been incredible in their efforts to find funds to help the publication. That should be utilized to the fullest extent possible. Also, the Moody College of Communication has gotten substantial funding for UT to this point, has promised more and has offered its resources to help TSM succeed. That should be explored more as well. There should be a strong effort to explore these and other funding options throughout the year, and to work diligently with these parties that have offered to help TSM succeed.

With my experience, ideas and diligence, I think I would be an ideal candidate for Daily Texan editor, and would strongly appreciate your support.

Thank you,

David Malay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (printed)</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Position at Daily Texan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Tidrick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Photographer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Sanchez</td>
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<td>Social Media Editor</td>
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<td>Mary Cantrell</td>
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<td>Life &amp; Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Zhang</td>
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<td>Associate Photo Editor</td>
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<td>Chantele Gibson</td>
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<td>Associate News Editor</td>
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<td>Darlin Vengler</td>
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<td>Senior Photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Walsh</td>
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<td>Life &amp; Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Aichart</td>
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<td>Life &amp; Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlynn Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Associate Copy Editor</td>
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APPLICATION FORM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY TEXAN
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA
Term of Office: June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016

Please complete all sections of this application and return it to HSM 3.200 (William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue).

Application Deadline: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

Candidates will be certified at the TSM Board of Operating Trustees meeting on Friday, February 6, 2015. Please plan to attend the meeting to discuss your application with the Board of Operating Trustees.

SECTION I. Name and Address

Claire Smith
Full Name
c54398
UT EID

2005 University Avenue
Local Address

Austin, TX 78705
City, State, Zip Code

History, Humanities
Major
c54398@utexas.edu
Email Address
(512) 927-9914
Telephone Number

SECTION II. Authorization for Release of Information

I hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify the information requested below for the purpose of application for an elected or appointed office of Texas Student Media. Further, I understand that the information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Claire Smith
Signature of Applicant

1/29/15
Date
SECTION III. Include the following with this application:

A. Resume

B. Two samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)

C. Two letters of recommendation

D. Cover letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position

E. UT transcript of all work done at the University (unofficial is ok)

F. Signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting your application

SECTION IV. Experience Record

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):


Senior Columnist, Editorials Section Jan. 2015 - present

Copy Editor Jan. 2015 - present
SECTION V. Certification

*** This section is to be filled out by the TSM Director, Editorial Adviser, or a TSM Business Office employee designated by the Director.

The Board of Trustees will follow the Handbook's qualifications to determine the eligibility of applicants. If no qualified candidate has filed by the deadline, the Board may certify one or more candidates by waiving some or all of requirements 4, 5, and 6 by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

1. Is the applicant currently an enrolled UT Austin student? Yes / No

2. Does the applicant meet the minimum GPA requirements? Yes / No

3. Does the applicant agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position? Yes / No

4. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent staff member of The Daily Texan in opinion? Yes / No

5. By the start of their term of office, will the applicant have completed at least one semester as a permanent or issue staff member of The Daily Texan outside opinion? Yes / No

6. Has the applicant obtained signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting their candidacy? Yes / No

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications.

Signature of Applicant

Date

You are subject to the TSM Election Code, as detailed in Chapter 7 of the TSM Handbook. You are subject to the Student Government Election Code and the Election Timeline (available at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/campuswideelections/). Read these documents carefully. Ignorance is not a defense to complaints of rule violations.
EDUCATION
The University of Texas at Austin
B.A., Liberal Arts Honors; Concentration: History and Humanities
GPA: 3.6264 after completion of 80 hours

HONORS
Normandy Scholar, Frank Denius Normandy Scholar Program
UT Austin
Jan 2014 – May 2014
- Selected for a class of 20 scholars out of a pool of applicants exceeding 50
- Studied the political, cultural, and military histories of World War II, the interwar period, and the post-war period

Jefferson Scholar, Thomas Jefferson Center for Core Texts and Ideas
UT Austin
Fall 2013
- Received a stipend from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Core Texts and Ideas to build a personal library of great books
- Attended faculty lunches and lectures hosted by the Jefferson Center for the Fall 2013 Jefferson Scholars

Member of Liberal Arts Honors Humanities Program
Liberal Arts Honors Program, UT Austin
Aug 2014 – Present
- Currently pursuing a thesis on human rights and violence in the Egyptian Revolution and Syrian Civil War and a degree in an interdisciplinary major of my own creation

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The Daily Texan, newspaper for the University of Texas
Editorials Columnist
Aug 2014 – Dec 2014
- Wrote editorials every week or every other week over state and national politics

Editorials Senior Columnist
Jan 2015 – Present
- Writes weekly editorials over state and national politics

Copy Editor
Jan 2015 – Present
- Edits stories for style, grammar and accuracy

Life & Arts Staff Writer
Jan 2015
- Wrote an alumni portfolio

Leadership
Director of Target Membership Marketing, Alpha Phi Sorority
UT Austin - Omega Chapter
Dec 2012 – Dec 2013
- Appointed to the recruitment team to aid in leading chapter-wide recruitment workshops and facilitate the Vice President of Recruitment’s several responsibilities
- Evaluated more than 1,400 membership applications
• Created the daily schedules and oversaw the mechanizations of eight days of “work week” and a seven-day formal recruitment period

Academic Chair
Liberal Arts Honors Student Council April 2014 – Present
• Elected to direct the administration of biannual student- and faculty-led reading groups
• Coordinates an annual Quiz Bowl between the Liberal Arts Honors, Plan II Honors, and Business Honors Programs
• Applies for funding from the University Co-Op for the program’s reading groups

Peer Advisor and Registration Aid
Liberal Arts Honors Freshman Orientation Summer 2013
• Volunteered to advise and coordinate schedules for LAH’s entering Class of 2017
• Assisted in registration and orientation processes

Mentor
Liberal Arts Honors Peer Mentoring Program June 2014 – Present
• Mentors the current freshman class of the Liberal Arts Honors Program by serving as an experienced advisor during the significant transition period freshmen undergo their first year of college
• Schedules group events to provide opportunities for freshmen to branch out within their class of LAH

Recruitment Counselor
University Panhellenic Council, Formal Recruitment Summer 2014
• Formally disaffiliated from current membership in Alpha Phi Sorority throughout the 2015 formal recruitment period spanning from May 2014 to August 2014 in order to provide unbiased counsel to young women throughout their participation in formal recruitment

Finance and Fundraising
Finance Intern
Texans for Greg Abbott Fall 2013
• Participated in and facilitated statewide fundraising efforts on behalf of the Finance Team of Greg Abbott’s gubernatorial campaign

Campus Ambassador
Neema International Oct 2014 – Present
• Coordinates efforts on UT’s campus to rebuild the Tuleeni Orphanage and fund the private educations of 20 Tanzanian orphans currently benefitting from educational sponsorship from the philanthropy Neema International

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE
Central Texas Model United Nations Fall 2013
• Participated in debates with other members of CTMUN regarding international issues
• Directed the General Assembly chamber of CTMUN’s Fall 2013 conference for high schools students

Admissions Committee
Liberal Arts Honors Program Oct 2013 – Feb 2014
- Accepted an invitation from LAH’s Associate Director Stacey Amorous to serve on LAH’s Admissions Committee for LAH’s Class of 2018 with only two other students
- Read close to 1,000 applications from high school seniors to join LAH’s Class of 2018
- Formed a class of 140 first year students with LAH’s Associate Director Stacey Amorous, Advisor and Director of the Humanities Program Linda Mayhew, and two other LAH students

**Student Secretary**
Liberal Arts Honors Office

- Assumed basic office responsibilities and scheduling duties
- Facilitated normal office mechanisms during breaks

Summer 2013, Winter 2014
Militarization of nearby police forces dangerous to community
Published September 9, 2014
By Claire Smith

Leander Police Department and Cedar Park Police Department recently joined the over 13,000 American communities benefitting from the Department of Defense’s 1033 Military Surplus Property Program, which redistributes surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies. Although most communities only receive basic equipment, both the acquisition of military vehicles and the lack of policies governing their use are dangerous.

Redistributing surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies is a good idea. CPPD has been able to take advantage, free of charge, of trauma kits and first-aid supplies that the military could no longer use. Both departments will also be able to use the two former-military Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPs, that they acquired through the 1033 Program to resolve threatening situations with less risk to their officers and citizens. According to Lieutenant Chanse Thomas of Cedar Park, the vehicle would only be used to safely deliver personnel to emergency settings, such as an incident in Cedar Park involving an active shooter approximately 18 months ago. Lieutenant Derral Partin of Leander said rescue would be the primary purpose of the two armored vehicles under LPD’s jurisdiction, calling it a safer solution to natural disasters such as the 2007 floods in Leander. Although neither agency has any reason to anticipate the need for such vehicles, both officers said it is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies to have equipment in the event of a threatening situation.

The danger of outsourcing military vehicles is the lack of standard procedures for their use. While most of the agencies benefitting from the 1033 Program only receive basic equipment, such as self-aid trauma kits, rifle optics and binoculars, others receive so-called “special equipment,” such as weaponry, armored vehicles and aircrafts. The problem with the assignment of “special equipment” is that there are no governing protocols for their use from the U.S. Army, the federal government or the agencies now in possession of them.

Both CPPD and LPD said they would consider using the vehicles on a “case-by-case basis” but could not provide concrete policies. Additionally, CPPD and LPD differed on what they saw as the proper chain of command regarding the use of the vehicles: LPD said that Leander’s Chief of Police was the only person able to implement the vehicles, while CPPD said that the decision would fall to the seven commanding officers of its department. Finally, because MRAPs contain openings at the top, the machines may be used for offensive or defensive purposes; although both agencies only plan to use for the latter, there is no procedure ruling when the switch from defensive to offensive tactics should be made. In short, the use of these vehicles is completely at the discretion of the respective agencies.

The complete lack of standardized procedures is dangerous for communities. Leander and Cedar Park are not the only police departments in Central Texas that have acquired armored vehicles. If a threatening situation had arisen in the last five months, with no concrete regulations, the results could have been catastrophic. Because both Cedar Park and Leander state that if the circumstances arose, both of their respective agencies would lend the vehicles to a neighboring community in need, the lack of procedures in place are dangerous to all Central Texas
communities. The state government is the only body that could create uniform policies, procedures and standard orders for all law enforcement agencies in Texas. In light of recent events in Ferguson, Miss. and the recent militarization of Central Texas police forces, it should be the hope of every citizen in the upcoming elections that candidates aspiring to fill state or municipal offices propose viable solutions to such dangers.
Davis’ education proposals unrealistic for Texas schools
Published on October 8, 2014
By Claire Smith

State Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, the Democratic candidate in the upcoming gubernatorial election, first received attention when she filibustered $5.4 billion in cuts to the Texas education system during the 2011 legislative session. Since announcing her bid for governor, Davis has structured her campaign around the improvement of the Texas education system, and Texas liberals have branded her Republican opponent, Attorney General Greg Abbott, as an anti-education “insider.” But if Davis’ proposals seem too good to be true, it’s because they are.

While both candidates aim to expand existing opportunities for high school students to gain college credit and increase high school and college graduation rates, Davis and Abbott diverge on other issues. Abbott’s education plan focuses on improving pre-kindergarten through third grade by implementing what he termed “gold standard” programs with incentivized funding based on standardized testing and increasing state support of research universities for a combined cost to the state of a modest $198 million — $158 million for pre-K and $40 million in research grants. By comparison, Davis proposes introducing universal full-day pre-kindergarten, raising teacher pay, reducing standardized testing, fully funding the college educations of an unknown number of students through state grants and pushing Texas colleges to attain Tier One status, all while becoming more affordable. These proposals won Davis the endorsement of the Texas State Teachers Association at the end of August. While Davis’ ambition is both evident and commendable regarding the improvement of education in Texas, the feasibility and practicality of implementation remains unspecified.

Davis would have Texas voters believe that the reason these measures are not already in place is because of “insiders” working against the Texas education system. Davis even asserted that Abbott was one such insider via Twitter on Aug. 28. The reason that Davis’ proposals, revolutionary as they are, are not already in place is simple: The state cannot afford them.

Although Davis has repeatedly failed to put a price tag on her proposals, despite the urgings of her constituents and opponent, independent researchers have not. W. Steven Barnett, the director of the National Institute for Early Education Research, said a conservative estimate for Davis’ universal pre-K program alone is $2 billion. Davis has stated on the record that she plans to pay for her proposals with the $4 billion she believes the state could gain by cutting corporate tax loopholes or with Texas’ Economic Stabilization Fund, colloquially known as the ESF or rainy day fund, which Davis projects to contain $8.6 billion by the end of the 2015 fiscal year. Half of the funds directly at Davis’ fingertips would be depleted through the execution of only one of her proposals. Once Davis spends the rest of the money, the execution of her other proposals lies in the hands of another lawmaking body entirely: the Texas State Legislature.

Access to the ESF can only be secured by a two-thirds vote in the Texas House of Representatives. To further complicate matters, Davis’ plan to fund her proposals operates on projections for the end of the 2015 fiscal year. The Legislature doesn’t meet in 2016, delaying the House vote on this issue until three years into Davis’ term, unless Davis plans to call an emergency legislative session for a non-emergency. Even then, it is unlikely that a Democratic
governor could secure the votes needed to access the ESF or raise taxes, her only other option for funding in an overwhelmingly “red” state. To be blunt, Davis’ ideas are impossibilities, at least for the present. And nobody knows this more than Davis. The Davis campaign remained either unwilling or unable to answer questions regarding the details of executing her proposals after five days of ongoing communication.

As a Texan, it is irresponsible to vote for something that can never be a reality, simply because it’s a good idea. Let me be clear on one thing: Davis’ education proposals cannot become a reality. The money is not there and neither is the will of the legislature. But this should not be news, and I should not be the person telling Texas voters this. Senator Davis has repeatedly refused to put a price tag on her proposals, and she has misdirected her constituents to believe the impossible. Senator Davis’ proposals are excellent ideas, but she lied to Texas voters when she said she could execute them, and that is not the governor Texans need.
January 27, 2015

Recommendation of Claire Smith

I am writing to support, with great enthusiasm, the quest of Claire Smith to become Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Texan, 2015-2016. Claire, a fine high school student--she graduated from Austin’s Westlake High School--is thriving at the university, tackling two majors, History and Humanities, and achieving to date a 3.62 GPA on 64 hours.

As director of the Liberal Arts Honors Program, I have had the pleasure watching Claire grow, in and out of the classroom. I saw her during her first semester at the university each week in a one-hour course that introduces the disciplines in the Liberal Arts to LAH freshmen. As a second semester sophomore, Claire was selected, one of twenty to be so honored, to participate in the Normandy Scholars Program, these students taking four course together focused on World War II and then traveling to Europe--London, Paris, Caen, Berlin, and Krakow--to visit and engage in the history they have been studying in the classroom. This is a rigorous course of study, and Claire excelled, achieving three A- grades and an A. It was partly this experience and partly her concern for human rights that has led Claire to declare her second major, Humanities, and to take up the study of Arabic, being currently enrolled in Intensive Arabic II. Humanities majors--there are 30 or so at any one time--take on the responsibility under my guidance of constructing their own 42-hour major. Drawing upon courses in History, Middle Eastern Studies, and Core Texts and Ideas (CTI 325 Empire and the Soul and CTI 325 Morality and Politics) has focused her Humanities contract on “Culture and Conflict: Human Rights and Ethics in the Contemporary Middle Eastern Civil Rights Movement.” She will be writing her Humanities senior thesis next year.

We in LAH thought so much of Claire, her intelligence, serious commitment to ideas, and quiet efficiency, that we invited her to volunteer in our office in the second semester of her freshman year. She became invaluable, completing task quickly, accurately, and gracefully. A self-starter, she would see things that needed to be done and do them, quietly, without fanfare but always just right. Now we cannot do without her; last year we asked Claire to be part of our admissions team, a paid position. She along with two other student co-workers read and evaluated nearly a 1000 applications. Claire has a great work ethic, pays attention to detail, and has good judgment.
As you can see from her résumé, Claire’s activities have not been confined to LAH. She knows her campus and The Daily Texan. She assumed a major leadership role, that of Director of Target Membership Marketing, with her sorority, Alpha Phi, and served as a Recruitment Counselor for the University Panhellenic Council. Note as well her work as an intern for Texans for Greg Abbott and her efforts to rebuild an orphanage in Tanzania. And a year ago, Claire began work at The Daily Texan, writing editorials and articles for the Life and Arts section.

Both in her studies and in her extracurricular activities Claire has equipped herself well to take on the responsibilities of one of the most important student offices on our campus. I hope she will gain your endorsement and will be a candidate for the Editorship of The Daily Texan.

Sincerely,

Larry Carver
Professor of English
Director of The Liberal Arts Honors Program
January 29, 2015

It is a pleasure to write in support of Claire Smith’s application to be editor of The Daily Texan. Claire is a superb student with an appealing, levelheaded personality. As her overall record at the University of Texas demonstrates, this Liberal Arts Honors student is also very diligent and self-disciplined.

I am in a strong position to evaluate Claire since I was one of the five faculty members, and she was one of twenty students, in the University of Texas’s 2014 Normandy Scholars Program on World War II. In this program, which requires a 3.5 GPA just to apply, after a demanding set of courses during the spring semester, the students and faculty traveled together to Europe, where over the course of three weeks we divided our time between London, Normandy, Berlin, Warsaw, and Krakow. My course, “Stalin’s Russia at War,” met twice a week to discuss two-hundred or more pages of readings. Over the course of the semester, students were required to write four five-page critiques of the readings. The demands were similarly high in the other three core courses in the program (students in addition also took a language course). As I hope is obvious, UT’s Normandy Scholars Program prepares students well for the demands of being a writer for The Daily Texan and such a challenging responsibility as its next editor.

In my course, as in virtually every course she has taken at UT, Claire excelled. I rank her performance among the top in this class of honor students, a large number of whom will undoubtedly be admitted to some of the top law and graduate schools in the country. Claire always read the assignments closely and critically and came to class prepared to analyze them. In our class discussions, in which she was always an active participant, Claire distinguished herself as an especially articulate and confident student. Her comments, unlike many of her classmates, were always to the point and forcefully argued. She never shied away from taking a strong position on issues while at the same time thoughtfully considering her classmates’ comments. Her written work was even better. Claire’s historiographic essays, all four of which earned an A, were among the best in the class. In these well-reasoned and insightful essays, Claire effectively and provocatively supported her arguments with the most pertinent evidence presented in the readings.

Both in the classroom and during our travels together, Claire enjoyed the respect and friendship of her classmates. During our trip to Europe, Claire continually struck me as, quite simply, an extraordinarily interesting individual with whom I thoroughly enjoyed traveling. She was endlessly curious and took the opportunity to pursue with me and the other faculty members her questions about European society as well as WWII. In fact, what impress me most about this appealing student are her intellectual curiosity and the seriousness with which she grapples with issues.
I have no doubt Claire Smith will excel as editor of *The Daily Texan*. Her application enjoys my unreserved, enthusiastic support.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Charters Wynn
Associate Professor
Director, Frank Denius Normandy Scholar Program on World War II
January 29, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today in support of Claire Smith's candidacy for the Editor in Chief position at the Daily Texan. I taught Claire this summer in a study abroad program, the Rome Institute for Liberal Arts, and have kept in touch here at UT this semester. I am familiar with her academic work and with her personal qualities. You can see for yourself, by looking at Claire's resume, that she has plenty of relevant experience and that she is already quite accomplished: she has an excellent academic record and has held leadership positions with Liberal Arts Honors and with her sorority. Those are not empty achievements. Claire is everything her record suggests and more. I believe she is a perfect candidate for Editor in Chief and I am pleased to write in support of her candidacy.

First and foremost, I have spoken to Claire about her vision for the Texan and I have been incredibly impressed. Her passion for the work is palpable upon talking to her. She earnestly believes in the importance of the service that the Texan performs for the campus. She spoke quite movingly to me about how necessary it is that the Texan be a paper that serves all members of the UT community. She knows the history of the Texan and has a compelling vision of what it should be. On the basis of what I know about her, I am confident in her ability to make her vision into a reality.

Claire excels academically. She is intelligent, thoughtful, and very hard working. In the class she took with me, she showed a very high level of professionalism, producing fine papers and consulting with me before writing her papers. The papers themselves were excellent; she is a very fine writer and a clear thinker. I also got to know a bit about Claire as a student of the history of political thought. She has very good and balanced judgment, precisely the sort of skill she will need to be able to evaluate what kinds of pieces the Texan ought to publish.

In terms of her personal character, I have nothing but positive things to say about Claire. I was able to see how she conducted herself abroad and how capably she handled the challenges of getting along in a foreign country. She is very responsible and very adaptable. She was put into a group with many people she had never met, and I was quite impressed by the quality of her interactions with her peers. Not only was she a good friend to her fellow students, but she was a leader. In a group of students among whom there were sometimes divisions, she was one of the few who got along with everyone and was able to make them all feel welcome. On the last night of the program, the other students chose her to give a toast to the program directors, the teachers, and her fellow students. The toast she gave was simply beautiful. A friend of mine visiting from Boston College happened to be present that evening. She said something to the effect that, if many UT students are of Claire's quality, our university is quite fortunate indeed.
Claire also has a hard-to-articulate quality of personal grace that is rare in people her age. She is humble without being overly self-deprecating and is very sensible in everything she does. She will not compromise on what is important but she will never be coarse in her judgments or dismissive toward people whose opinions deserve a hearing. I predict that she will be an effective and well-loved Editor in Chief.

Claire is a fantastic candidate for this position. She has the academic and personal skills that she needs for it, and more importantly, she has a real vision for what the Texan ought to be. I think the paper would flourish under her leadership, and realize its potential as an important institution for all students on campus. I support her candidacy with absolutely no reservations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Erik Dempsey  
Lecturer, Department of Government  
Assistant Director, Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and Ideas  
ed6335@utexas.edu  
(512) 471 6659
February 1, 2015

Board of Texas Student Media
HSM 3.200
University of Texas At Austin
CAMPUS

Dear Board Members:

Claire Smith, a candidate for Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Texan, has asked me to write on her behalf. I do so happily and with great enthusiasm. I’ve known Claire for over a year, taught her as part of the Normandy Scholar Program in World War II, and think very highly of her. From what I can tell, she would make a splendid Editor-in-Chief.

I first met Claire when she applied for and was granted admission to the Normandy Scholar Program (NSP) in the fall of 2013. The NSP is a prestigious, highly competitive hybrid study-abroad program, now in its 26th year. Students spend the spring semester studying the Second World War in a four to five course sequence, then travel for three weeks exploring several memory sites in Europe. The course work is demanding and easily the equivalent of the most rigorous honors curricula on campus. It requires students to master a great deal of information, write a near-endless number of papers and take part in vigorous class discussions daily. What makes the program truly unique is the fact that students take virtually no other courses during their spring semester and travel in Europe together with their professors. As a result, students and teachers get to know each other very well, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Claire was one of 20 students chosen from a pool of several dozen to participate in the NSP last spring. She was a superb Normandy Scholar—smart; conscientious; creative; disciplined; and frankly great fun. Her research paper, a study of the fate of major league baseball during the war, was among the best in the class, a class arguably the best I’ve taught in nearly 20 years with the program. Prodigiously researched, cogently argued, and beautifully written, the paper was a model of undergraduate research and writing. Indeed, it could have been written by a graduate student, so doggedly researched, so persuasively argued, and so fluently written was it. I should add that Claire is also an excellent editor, as she demonstrated in peer reviews of her classmates’ papers.
As important, Claire was simply a delight, both in the classroom and in Europe. What struck me about her was her sense of humor (often about herself), her empathetic understanding of her classmates and her quiet but clear capacity for leadership. She gave no orders, demanded no obedience and never sought center stage, but time and again, she found herself taking the lead in organizing student activities and get-togethers and dispensing much sought-after (and much valued) advice. She has a gift for organization and management and superb judgment, as mature as I've seen in an undergraduate.

These qualities—of intellectual and emotional maturity—will serve her well in life and certainly as Editor-in-Chief. If there were a single word I would employ to describe Claire, it would be "balance," whether politically or personally. She has it and she keeps it, even in the most trying times. I do not hesitate to endorse her candidacy for Editor.

Best regards,

Michael B. Stoff
Director, Plan II Honors
Associate Professor of History, University Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor, & Regents Outstanding Teaching Associate Professor
Esteemed Members of the Board,

My name is Claire Smith, and I present this letter to you as part of my application for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan.

When I first began working for The Daily Texan last August, I never imagined I would be in this position. But after spending just a few days at The Daily Texan, I fell in love with the way so many talented people work tirelessly to put out a wonderful product each day. The staff includes many of the most talented students I have ever encountered. As editor-in-chief, I would strive to burnish the Texan’s legacy of principled student journalism and to empower the staff to continue its service to UT’s campus community.

During my time with the opinion section, I have seen the importance of ensuring that the opinion page serves as a platform for the diversity of expression that exists on UT’s campus. My chief goal as editor of the opinion section will be to further that principle. In the past, the Texan has sometimes marginalized parts of the student body. In my 2+ years on campus, I have learned that some students don’t feel that the Texan serves them. My own experience joining the Texan bears this out. I did not feel confident in being hired when I first tried out because I considered my own beliefs to be more moderate than the opinions often expressed in the Texan. Thankfully, I quickly learned that a diversity of belief is welcome on the staff. My candidacy will be founded on the idea that inclusiveness, fair and factual reporting, and informed journalism provide the strongest for the opinion section. I will foster an opinion section that welcomes talented and thoughtful student writers from a wide variety of campus groups, service and social organizations, and the Graduate Student Association. As editor-in-chief, I will encourage and support a work environment of mutual respect and openness.

I also believe that positive improvements can be made to the opinion section. The Daily Texan is both a teaching newspaper and a full-fledged business. In other sections of the newspaper, mandatory one-on-one feedback and editing sessions are cornerstones of the journalistic process. These are valuable tools to forge a community among the staff and to create better writers among our ranks. Today the opinion section edits too much work online, and our writers spend little time in the Texan’s office. Convenience sometimes trumps collaboration at the expense of improving our editorial product in the long-term. I will maintain the opinion section’s strict policy of turning work in via email at least three days prior to publication, but adjust it to include a meeting between the writer and an assigned editor the day before publication to make final edits and discuss ways in which the writer can improve.

I have also worked for the Copy Desk and published work through the Life & Arts section. While both sections offer great examples of professionalism and top-tier journalism, they too can be improved. The Copy Desk is sometimes overwhelmed due to the overall office inefficiency. To combat this, I will implement a policy with the Life & Arts and Sports sections of creating a defined period between submission and publication in order to allow guided editing. Ideally, I would also implement this practice with the News department, though the quick pace and nature of that section may not allow for this change. Overall, my
goal will be to give editors a more scheduled period to do their work so the Copy Desk can
do its work more efficiently. As much as possible, I want the trains to run on time.

As editor-in-chief, I will also strive to create a closer community among the staff. The
opinion section is historically separate from the rest of the paper. While traditionally this
has allowed the editor-in-chief to focus mainly on the opinion section, it also isolates
opinion writers from the rest of the Texan staff. I want to remove this divide. My policy and
practice will be to attend the managing editor's daily meetings with the department heads
as well as weekend meetings to cultivate a close working relationship between all of the
staff's leaders. I will avoid sending a delegate to attend those meetings in my stead. As
editor-in-chief, I will also take an active role in recruiting staff beyond the opinion section
by personally reaching out to organizations on campus, and joining the staff "tabling" on
the West Mall during the two-week try-out period at the beginning of each semester.
Finally, I will collaborate with the Copy Desk Chief and Design Editor. I understand the
purpose and history of the opinion section's independence, but will make common sense
adjustments to improve our daily product with them.

There has been a lot of talk about changing the Texan's distribution level or printing
schedule to accommodate a tighter budget. While I value the Texan's 115-year history of
print publication, and hope above all else to preserve it, I am not attached to maintaining a
printing schedule at the cost of the paper's or the staff's integrity. I will encourage an open
dialogue with the staff, and if the time comes, make a decision with the interests of the
Texan's legacy, the express wishes of the staff, and the Texan's long-term goals in mind.

You know better than I that the landscape of print media is changing rapidly.
Unfortunately, the Texan's budget has not kept pace. I am not a novice fundraiser. I served
as a finance intern for Texans for Greg Abbott in the fall of 2013 and as a campus outreach
ambassador and fundraiser for the philanthropy Neema International. I will put these
experiences to work as I seek to independently fundraise for the Texan, but I can assure
you that I will never accept contributions with editorial strings attached.

In closing, my purpose in seeking the position of editor-in-chief is to protect the Texan's
rich history, legacy, and promise.

Sincerely,

Claire Smith
Signatures of support for the candidacy of Claire Smith for editor-in-chief of The Daily Texan from current staffers of The Daily Texan.

[Signatures and dates]

J. Matt

J.B.

J.K.

J.C.

D.C.

C.K.

A.J.

T.K.