

SERV Elections Spring 2013

Candidate Information Packet



Hi everyone!

Here is the Candidate Information Packet for the elections **Tuesday, April 16th at 9PM** in **AC 113**. We have six positions open for this election – Chair, Vice Chair, Manager of Finance and Records, and **three** General Members! Speeches will take place next Tuesday, April 16th in the auditorium, and elections will be open for 24 hours after that.

Here are your awesome candidates, by position:

1. **CHAIR** – Ariana Chae
2. **VICE-CHAIR** – Daniel Leong
4. **MANAGER OF FINANCE AND RECORDS** – Emily Guthrie, Daniel Leong
5. **GENERAL MEMBER** (electing 3) – Amanda Sutherland, Michael Searing, Hayley Hansson, Emily Guthrie

In order to be an Informed Voter in the election, you need to read the following Candidate Information Packet and/or come to speeches on Tuesday evening.

Questions, comments, or accolades can be directed towards our inbox: SERV@olin.edu

Have a fantastic day!

-SERV

Here's the order of the packet:

1. Ariana Chae
2. Amanda Sutherland
3. Michael Searing
4. Daniel Leong
5. Emily Guthrie
6. Hayley Hansson

Name: Ariana Chae

Year: 2015

Position(s) You're Running For: Chair

Please answer the following questions:

1. What are your motivations for running for SERV?

I want to run for SERV because community service is an important part of my life, and I think it should be a large part of Olin culture. We've accomplished a lot of great things this year as a SERV board, but I also found myself frustrated time and again over how community service is treated at Olin, and I think the current structure of the SERV board is partially to blame. I want to try to revamp SERV to provide an enjoyable and meaningful experience for everyone who wants to give back to the community.

2. What qualifications do you have for this position?

Aside from having dedicated much of my time to various community service projects in the past, I think being on the SERV board this past year as a Friday Service coordinator has given me the experience I need to organize service events at Olin. I am running to be the chair of the SERV board because I want to find meaningful service opportunities and share them with others. I also thrive on organization and large quantities of emails in my inbox. :)

3. What direction would you like to lead SERV in next year?

I am eager to implement the changes we have come up with to restructure the board. I think the main problem with SERV and Friday Service in general this year was that people didn't find much lasting meaning in the activities we were organizing. By focusing on larger committee-based projects, we will be able to do activities that have more of a lasting impact.

4. How do you view SERV's role on campus?

I have learned this year that SERV is more of an enigma than it should be. We're here to promote community service, no matter what shape or form. I believe most Oliners care about community service and want to give back to the greater community, so SERV's role is to find the right types of activities for every student who wants to engage in service. I'm hopeful to make SERV more prominent and useful for the student body in the next year!

Name: Amanda Sutherland

Year: 2016

Position(s) You're Running For: General Member

Please answer the following questions:

1. What are your motivations for running for SERV?

I have two main motivations for running for SERV.

Firstly, I believe, as I did when I first came to Olin, that community service is an essential part of the Olin's goal as a different engineering school. We are trying to create engineers who have an understanding of the implications of their work. One essential part of this is to see the importance of helping those who are less fortunate than us, and to instill in our fellow students the importance of aiding the community.

Finally, I do not feel satisfied with the work I was able to do for SERV this year. The way SERV was previously organized made it difficult to get more than a core group of students involved, and I strongly believe that almost everyone should want and be able to join in. I see that much more should be done, and I am deeply interested in being one of the people there to implement it. The restructuring of SERV should prove invaluable to furthering our ability to put these changes into action and get more of the Olin community excited about community service.

2. What qualifications do you have for this position?

I have been on the SERV board for one year already, and I have had a chance to see what did not work. I have observed the issues with participation we have been experiencing and I have a clear understanding of how we should put the changes into action.

Apart from Olin I have been involved in many service activities. I am most involved with a community dinner program in my community, where I serve dinners and interact with the guests. This led me to create a non-profit organization called "The Simple Things" which provides toiletries and other essentials to the guests at the dinner.

3. What direction would you like to lead SERV in next year?

As I outlined in the first section, I have been disappointed with the interest most Oliners take in community service, and I want to change this. Restructuring SERV to be more student driven (through committees), should play an integral part of this change, but it will probably not be enough. We also need to simply be more motivational; enthusiasm is a powerful tool and we need to use it to make students feel inspired to help their community. Essentially, SERV should have be more student driven, provide options which better reflect the interests of students, and be more fun!

4. How do you view SERV's role on campus?

SERV's role on campus is to provide students with community service options. We do not necessarily need to CREATE these options, but we need to make sure that students are aware of the options available to them and to make it easier to take part in these options.

Name: Michael Searing

Year: First-Year

Position(s) For Which You're Running: General Member

Please answer the following questions:

1. What are your motivations for running for SERV?

I am passionate about helping others and doing community service. If SERV needs someone such as myself, I would be more than happy to fill the role and do whatever I can for SERV and the people it serves. I do not want this position just to have the position, but the position would make it easier for me to do what I love doing.

2. What qualifications do you have for this position?

I've managed many projects in Boy Scouts, the OA, my high school's robotics team, etc., so I know how to get things done efficiently. I've helped plan/lead a few SERV projects this year, so I have an idea of what goes on and I feel I am adequately prepared to do what SERV needs me to.

3. In what direction would you like to lead SERV next year?

This year, I noticed that SERV members generally took it upon themselves to organize projects, while there are students outside of SERV (such as myself) who would have loved to be more involved in planning community service. I want SERV to facilitate projects happening and to reach out to students who want to help, instead of making projects happen itself.

4. How do you view SERV's role on campus?

SERV's role should be to, obviously, Support and Encourage volunteerism, meaning that it helps students who wish to volunteer for something. I'm not so much a fan of the Recognize part myself, but I understand that it's important for some people so am ok with it being a part of SERV's role. SERV has been doing a great job and they're very enthusiastic, which is awesome, and I believe it should definitely continue in the direction it's going, encouraging more students to volunteer and making it as easy as possible.

Name: Daniel Leong

Year: 2016

Position(s) You're Running For: Vice Chair, Manager of Finance and Records

Please answer the following questions:

1. What are your motivations for running for SERV?

I really enjoy community Service and I've really enjoyed my past year on SERV. I see this as a formative year for SERV, and I'd like to be a part of it.

2. What qualifications do you have for this position?

I've spent the last year on SERV, and I've participated in several projects, including the Luminary walk in Needham and the SERV auction. In addition, I was the vice president of my high school's volunteer organization, a position through which I coordinated and participated in many volunteering endeavors.

3. What direction would you like to lead SERV in next year?

I think that SERV needs to be more involved with the student body. Since we're abolishing Friday service in the coming year, we need to expand our internal projects to include the student body.

4. How do you view SERV's role on campus?

SERV is a group of dedicated individuals who organize and coordinate service activities at Olin. The members often do too much of the work themselves though, and community involvement within the organization is low.

Name: Emily Guthrie

Year: 2016

Position(s) You're Running For: General Member/Manager of Finance and Records

Please answer the following questions:

1. What are your motivations for running for SERV?

SERV represents a unique side of Olin that I want to help foster next year. I am constantly amazed by the compassion that Olin students have for the community within Olin and outside. As a member of SERV, I want to help make opportunities for my fellow students to demonstrate that compassion. I specifically want to do everything in my personal power to increase participation in SERV projects. A large portion of students believe in service and giving back but don't get involved. There has to be some means of increasing involvement and I want to discover what that is. I'm applying for both the positions of general member and manager of finance and records because I'm satisfied in either position and know that both positions are in need of applicants. Ultimately I want to be a part of this organization that I believe makes Olin great.

2. What qualifications do you have for this position?

I'm qualified for these positions because I'm very structured and organized as well as enthusiastic about service. I'm capable of planning and organizing events because of my strong emphasis on communication with all involved parties. I promise to schedule things in advance and pay attention to details on bigger projects. I would be glad to help organize any committee I was placed on and plan any event I was given. As manager of finance and records, I would be sure to keep a very open dialogue with STAR to get reimbursements in time and keep the budget under wraps. My detailed note taking abilities would help me keep minutes for the meetings that would be useful to those not in attendance. Finally, regardless of my position in SERV, my passion for service will make me a very valuable member of this team. I'll use this enthusiasm to get my peers involved as well as help make the changes SERV is envisioning for next year.

3. What direction would you like to lead SERV in next year?

I think that SERV could benefit from the proposed restructuring that the current board is looking at. I support their efforts to change Friday service to better involve students in projects and activities. I like the proposed longer projects to supplement smaller activities. I'd hope to help implement these changes as well as propose a few of my own ideas. I think that we could increase the number of projects that involve student based committee planning. I also would like to help improve the publicity of projects so that the involvement goes up. My main direction for SERV would be in the direction of positive change.

4. How do you view SERV's role on campus?

I view SERV's role on campus as an organization to help connect students to service projects and opportunities. I think this can be done by scheduling activities on campus as well as informing students of opportunities in the area. I think ultimately the group should encourage people to be involved in the community and give back. SERV also provides encouragement and inspiration to others by leading as examples. The board members' dedication to their work can inspire increased involvement in the community.

Name: Hayley Hansson

Year: 2016

Position(s) You're Running For:

General Member

Please answer the following questions:

5. What are your motivations for running for SERV?

I have a few causes of my own that I would like to bring forward to the whole Olin community. I feel that serving others should always be one of my top priorities, and I think being a part of SERV would be a great way for me to do just that.

6. What qualifications do you have for this position?

I volunteered at a variety of locations over the course of a three week trip to Costa Rica during one of my high school summers. I also helped build the foundation for a library in Cape Three Points, Ghana during another summer. I was an officer for my high school's SOS (students of service) Club for two years, and did projects with various organizations affiliated with school and church. However, I dedicated more of my time to volunteering at Texas Children's Hospital. I started there at the beginning of my sophomore year and continued through my senior year working for a couple hours every week. This past year I was a member of the Junior Volunteer Board at the hospital and helped plan events for patients.

7. What direction would you like to lead SERV in next year?

I would love to diversify the projects and open SERV up to some new ideas. I would also really like to get as many people involved as possible, and find ways to get people even more interested in the projects.

8. How do you view SERV's role on campus?

I feel like the organization really grounds the Olin community and reminds all of us to stop and remember really important things that we might otherwise forget. I like the fact that there is a time once every week for everyone to come together, take a little break from whatever we may be doing, and focus our efforts on the world around us rather than ourselves.