



## Four candidates vie for three SGA spots

By **TINEA PAYNE**  
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association opened polls on Monday, March 17, for students to vote for candidates in both the executive committees (EC) and senate for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The EC consists of a president, vice president and secretary.

There are exactly four candidates running for the EC: Junior Chris Drew for president, freshman Steven Biter for vice president, freshman Kenny Kennedy for vice president and freshman Hykeem Craft for secretary.

### Chris Drew, presidential candidate



Drew is an accounting major who currently serves as SGA secretary. He said time management, organization and forward thinking are necessary skills that qualify him for the presidential seat.

Drew said he views himself as a representative of what an APSU student could strive to be. "I think I'm a



SGA held an Open House March 13 so that students would be able to meet the candidates.

MATEEN SIDIQ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

good role model, that isn't perfect, but learns from mistakes [and] doesn't repeat the same exact mistakes."

He said students have many concerns but aren't sure which are most important to them. "Students have a hard time figuring out what they want."

Students are concerned, among other things, about the campus leaders' lack of communication and knowledge, according to Drew. "They want more interaction face-to-face. Students have no idea who their representatives or senators are."

He said he would aim for "more of a community feel." He stated the college environment should act as a community for students. "We don't encourage that as much as we could."

### Steven Biter, vice president candidate



Biter, a political science major, is also running for vice president. The current SGA senator said that experience is key to winning the election.

Biter has served as president for the Mayor's Youth Council for two years and said his strong relationship with APSU

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### INAUGURAL MONTH

## Shay sheds light on vets' distress



Jonathan Shay received the MacArthur Prize in Fall 2007. This is a prestigious academic award worth half a million dollars.

### Psychiatrist compares vets to Greek heroes

By **JAKE DAVIS**  
Staff Writer

Jonathan Shay, author of "Achilles is Vietnam" and "Odysseus in America," spoke at APSU March 13 in Clement Auditorium.

Shay, a psychiatrist specializing in counseling combat veterans, spoke about leadership and several other topics from his books as part of the Inauguration month for President Timothy Hall.

Professor of Classics and Adviser of Eta Sigma Phi Tim Winters surprised Shay with an honorary membership to the classics honor society.

"Dr. Shay has done so much for Classics," Winters said. According to Winters, Shay's book has helped scholars look at "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" in a fresh light.

Shay's newest book, published in 2002, is about soldiers coming home from Vietnam and how it compares with Homer's "The Odyssey."



Shay spoke on the similarities of characters in "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" to modern day combat veterans.

This military topic was very appropriate due to APSU's large military connections.

"Growing up here in Clarksville, I've seen veterans around all my life, and I wanted to see how he related their

experiences to the characters in "The Odyssey," Scott Cochran, a senior Classics major said.

The question and answer session that Shay provided was very lively and full of debate.

Soldiers and students, as well as members of the faculty were all present for Shay's talk.

"It was very enlightening and very informative. I've been looking forward to it," J Grammer, junior English major, said.

Both of Shay's books have attempted to link the experiences of combat soldiers to those of the classic epic poems "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey."

Shay argued that his ideas were not novel but do hold some weight. Many students and faculty agreed with Shay's arguments.

Several guests have come to speak as a part of the inaugural events including Holocaust survivor Nessel Godin. Future speakers include historian Jacque Petit and how to identify American soldiers from World War II; Allen Weir, the author of "Tehano" and Frank Gibson, executive director for the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government, will speak about open government. ♦

## Sunshine Week 2008

## Campus opens up to 'Sunshine' events

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**  
Managing Editor

Sunshine Week will shed its light on campus this year as APSU plans several events to make the public aware of what information they have a right to know.

Since 2005, the week has been designated to celebrate and educate the public that government operations should stay open to public view and public information should remain public.

According to Ann Butterworth, the newly appointed ombudsman for Tennessee, "Sunshine Week has everything to do with transparency and open government, and having the public be able to access what is going on."

Both Butterworth and open records specialist, Elisha Hodge, who works with her, agree that it is important for media outlets to build a strong network, one that as Hodge said, is "resourceful and pro-active," with a university in order to facilitate an environment of openness.

### APSU sees spread of Sunshine

Sunshine Week is currently in progress until March 22, but the campus will welcome speakers to talk throughout the week and into next week.

Communications specialist for APSU Office of Public Relations and Marketing, Melony Jones spoke yesterday in the UC for the third Library Athenaeum titled, "Spreading Sunshine: Right-to-Know Laws Must Hold Strong."

"Though spearheaded by journalists, Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing and why," Jones said in an APSU press release.

Jones added that the goal is to "enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger."

Currently working on her doctorate in higher education administration, Jones plans to combine her graduate research from Murray State University with her current doctoral work in order to assess whether postsecondary level journalism education "adequately addresses open meetings and open records laws," according to the press release.

In addition to Jones's talk, Executive Director for the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government Frank Gibson will be visiting campus at 4 p.m., Thursday, March 27 in UC 305. Gibson will give a lecture entitled, "Argument for Open Government: Why Should You Care?"

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## Committee ends search for new dean; Webb selected to serve in meantime

By **NICOLE JUNE**  
Staff Writer

Dixie Webb, chair of the art department and professor of art, has been named interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters for the 2008-2009 academic year.

James Diehr, the current dean of the art department, chose to step down and return to

his position as a professor of art. This prompted the former provost to form a search committee in Fall 2007 for a new candidate.

The committee advertised the position and narrowed the applicants down to the three most qualified candidates, according to David Denton, interim provost.

Two of the candidates were unable to accept

the position, and the committee could not come to a consensus on the third. The search was then temporarily postponed. The committee then chose Dixie Webb as the new interim dean.

"Her name was the first that came to my mind," Denton said. "[Webb] is a veteran faculty member who is familiar with the institution and its programs, and she is very successful,

respected, and qualified," he said.

However, Webb has made it clear that she will not apply for the position after her year's term.

"I like my job here," she said. "I really enjoy working in the art department. The faculty is

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