

STUDENT PROFILE



# New SGA president looks to increase diversity, champion student services

This year's Student Government Association (SGA) president lives and breathes Georgia College. He's been involved in several organizations from Young Democrats to the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society as well as held senate posts on SGA throughout his college career.

The presidency didn't fall into his lap. His engagement with the campus community opened the door for him to run for the post, and since then, he hasn't looked back.

"My favorite thing is getting to help people and making people who feel like they don't have a voice realize, yes, you can just pop into my office and let me know what's on your mind," Robertson said.

A self-identified nonfiction and sci-fi nerd, Robertson's key interest in the political sphere began in childhood. As his parents listened to the news, he tuned in. "The West Wing," a political drama series, he said, helped pique that interest.

"My parents say they pay attention because it's important, not because they enjoy it," Robertson said. "I pay attention because it's important, and I enjoy it."

While these topics have always interested him, he was spurred to action by frustrations over the modern political environment and a desire to help students.

In addition to leading students by example of reason, respect, and responsibility, Robertson plans to use his platform to champion services to students and bring greater diversity to the organization and university.

"Sometimes we'll have leftover resources at the end of the semester," he said. "It's always a bit frustrating because I know there's a student group that could use this. And yet, we are not inundated with the requests that I know are out there."

He didn't get here on his own, he said. His predecessor, Nathan Graham, serves as a sounding board for the new president. And Dr. Gennady Rudkevich, assistant professor of political science, has opened Robertson's eyes to the world of international relations.

"He's allowed me to think very critically about a lot of the issues that I enjoy, and sort of evaluate to a deeper level when I read something," Robertson said. "To look at something and go, 'is that really what's happening?'"



Outside of his political interests, he appreciates academia and the challenges that come with complex topics and murky answers.

"I get this fun title of president, but at the end of the day, I'm still a student," Robertson said. "My passion lies in politics, and I love student government, but I also love the academic world we're in as well."

For the immediate future, however, he knows his number one priority is his fellow students.

"My door is always open," Robertson said. "The only bad communication is no communication, so if you have an issue on campus, you can come in. We may or may not be able to do something about it, but at the very least I can point you in the right direction."