

Film and Media concentration to be added to curriculum

By KATIE PFEIFFER
Staff Writer

The 2004-2005 school year will see the addition of a Film and Media Studies concentration to the ten concentrations already currently offered.

According to Dr. Alan Singerman, the faculty liaison, creating a concentration in film is the result of a long-term special interest in media on the part of both faculty members and students.

The concentration may be fulfilled by numerous courses scattered across nine departments: Anthropology, Chinese, English, French, German, History, Music, Psychology, and Spanish.

Many classes that now complement the concentration are ones that have been offered in previous years but until now only counted towards specific majors.

Singerman hopes that the creation of the concentration will encourage the interest in film at Davidson.

"It rewards students who are willing to do a sufficient amount of work on film as an international and interdisciplinary phenomenon to gain a relatively in-depth knowledge of the subject and an ability to appreciate its subtleties," he said.

The film concentration will require the completion of six courses: Introduction to Film and Media Studies (CIS 220) and a seminar varying in subject according to professor, as well as four electives.

In general, the concentration is centered around film as it enhances other subjects. The mandatory courses, therefore, will give students a foundation in the art of film itself prior to a study of its applications.

The process of creating the concentration was, according to Singerman, not difficult, since the college has had the resources and faculty support for a while.

There are continued hopes for academic and financial investment in film and film production as the concentration gets under way.

Next year's introductory class will be taught by Professor of Music Neil Lerner and the seminar will be taught by Professor of English Zoran Kuzmanovich.

For those students interested in the film industry in addition to the liberal arts perspective on film, courses in that area will be applicable to the concentration.

Despite its visible benefits, the introduction of another concentration raises the question of whether Davidson's courses of study are becoming too specific and therefore becoming incompatible with the idea of a liberal arts education.

As the number of majors/minors and concentrations offered to students increases, there may be a corresponding decrease in the subject matter that is studied by individual students.

Singerman does not believe that this will be the case. The film concentration represents a needed branching out of academic options and is the answer to an already established foundation of support for the study of film and media, he said.

He believes "knowing how to 'read' a film can lead to a whole lifetime of more sophisticated and more enriching experiences with film."

In this light, the film concentration will only help to sharpen the analytical tools that are so prized by the liberal arts institution. Singerman said.

Graffiti, from page 1

continue to happen on this campus. This is precisely the kind of blind and ignorant hate that the GSA tries to combat, regardless of its form. Davidson's campus has come a long way in becoming more welcoming to its gay students but there is obviously still a lot of work to be done," said Talbert.

Marsicano said, "For a Davidson student or students to engage in this juvenile behavior on a continuing basis over a period of months

seems remarkably immature at best - perhaps even a little sick.

"I am deeply disturbed by the turn the last incident took as it singled out gay students in a way that was at least harassing and could be considered threatening. This, of course, is entirely unacceptable on a campus which values its diversity and seeks to be a community that recognizes the dignity and inherent worth of every person."

Trustees, from page 1

soon after it was introduced.

The Executive Committee's decision to form the subcommittee came out of last February's trustee retreat, where members of the Board explored "What it means to be a church-related college in the Reformed Tradition."

One of the outcomes of the weekend-long discussion was a request for the Executive Committee to examine the trustee religion requirements.

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, President, Chairs of the various standing committees, and three members appointed by the Chair.

In addition to this request, a few recommendations emerged from small group discussions of trustees during the retreat. The recommendation regarding the religion requirement as it

pertains to alumni trustees struck the Executive Committee as one deserving special attention.

While Vagt did not expect any recommendation by the committee to be made by the Board's annual April meeting, he is optimistic of one being announced by October.

The requirement has been a topic of debate for many students, faculty and trustees. Several sections of the Board's Bylaws require trustees to affirm their commitment to the Christian faith. Some feel the requirement does not exemplify the religious diversity of the student body, while others claim the Board's Christian membership requirement provides a more open and inclusive atmosphere to students of all faiths.

Once a recommendation regarding the trustee requirements is made, the entire Board will discuss and vote on the issue.

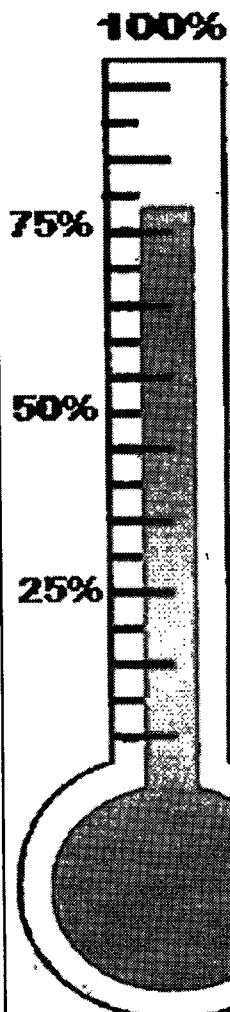
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