



Greenblatt meditates on Shakespeare.

photo by Lauren Massey

## Greenblatt delivers keynote RSC address

BY SAMANTHA TALLEY  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 12, renowned Shakespeare scholar and literary critic Stephen Greenblatt of Harvard University presented the keynote address to the Shakespeare symposium in the Lilly Family Gallery.

The room was completely full as students, faculty and town residents alike waited eagerly for the lecture to begin.

Professor of English Cynthia Lewis introduced Greenblatt, calling him the "Father of New Historicist criticism."

She said that his biography of Shakespeare, "Will in the World," "reads as engrossingly as a novel."

As Greenblatt took the stage, he gestured to the words on the screen behind him.

They read: "Beauty is that reasoned harmony of all the parts within a body, so that nothing may be added, taken away or altered, but for the worse."

Greenblatt looked at the audience. "According to this quote, 'Pericles' and 'A Winter's Tale' are ugly plays," he said.

And so began the lecture, entitled "Shakespearean Beauty Marks."

Telling the audience to let him know if the pictures on his slide show weren't moving "because I'll feel like an ass just standing here," Greenblatt began by discussing the concept of beauty in the Elizabethan age.

During this era, he explained, "featurelessness was the ideal beauty," a claim he illustrated by presenting portraits of Elizabeth I and highlighting the contrast between her vividly detailed clothes and expressionless face.

Such a standard was rooted in religion, in this case the Last Judgment's promise of "the resurrected face."

Accordingly, Shakespeare references radiance (he uses the word "fair" more than 700

See Greenblatt, page 5

### Poetry, from page 1

a human existence. "Prisms," a fractured poem of 20 sections, represents Glück's general conception of the way her poetry works.

"It's a mosaic," she said, "You don't get a single take, but multiple points of view."

The final poem of the evening, "October," grew out of Glück's need to write some kind of response to September 11.

The poem is full of questions, which she read in rapid succession as if demanding answers to the unanswerable.



Louise Glück read poems last Thursday.

Glück's poetry often includes subtle allusions and direct references to mythology, particularly Greek.

"The stories of the gods and heroes were the first stories I was ever told," she explained. "Instead of fairy tales, I got myths. The characters of myth, they were my companions in my head. But I must say, I think it's a very dangerous thing to use these figures because they feel to the reader like

the earnest effort to puff up quotidian life with these mythic figures."

When asked about her use of mythology in

*"Poetry is like a message in a shell: it's meant for one ear. Ideally, it's suitable for many ears, but the connection is complete when it's one on one. Art forms are dialogues between human souls."*

--Louise Glück

poetry after her reading, she laughed.

"Every time it happens, I think, 'Oh no, not again.'"

To the question of the sometimes pessimistic, disillusioned tone of her poetry, Glück responded that the ephemeral nature of this world incenses and disturbs her.

"As a child, I was horrified at the idea of mortality, it seemed that either you were going to be given a gift—earth—and it was going to be yours, or not, but not something in between, that it's there and then it's taken away from you. I couldn't stand it."

Glück also addressed the issues of the relative unimportance of poetry in mainstream American culture.

She said that she does not have an interest in speaking to large crowds, using the comparisons of rock concerts and football games.

Rather, she emphasized the individual nature of the relationship between poet and reader.

"Poetry is like a message in a shell: it's meant for one ear. Ideally, it's suitable for many ears, but the connection is complete when it's one on one. Art forms are dialogues between human souls."

## Sorority approved regionally, awaits national response

BY NINA MACE  
Senior Staff Writer

Alpha Kappa Alpha may soon become Davidson's only sorority. The college sorority has received permission to start a chapter at the regional level but has not yet been approved at the national level.

The sorority is still awaiting a response.

Patterson Court Council Advisor Cheyenne McPherson and Dean Jeffries went to Charlotte two weeks ago to meet with the regional director of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

In March they will meet with the national officers who will approve or deny Davidson's offer.

"It's very likely we'll get approval," McPherson said. "We're concerned because we have so many senior women who started this, and we would be disappointed to not see them initiated."

If the sorority does get approved, AKA will not have a house on Patterson Court. There's a thirty person requirement to have a house on the Court, and there is also currently no empty house.

"I would say that they will operate very similar to the way Alpha Phi Alpha, our historically black fraternity, operates. Meetings would happen in the Union, they do a lot of partnering with UNC Charlotte and the chapter there, and they do some off-campus and on-campus social events," McPherson said.

The effort to bring the sorority on campus was student-led.

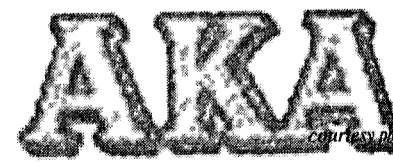
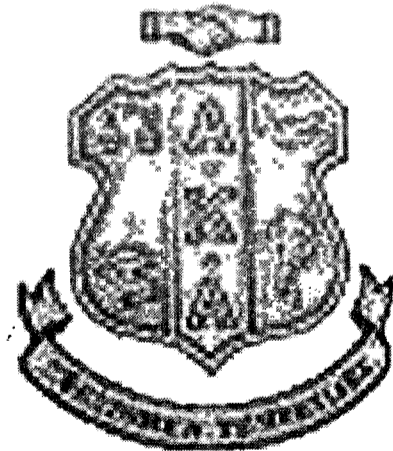
"The women who started this effort did everything they needed to get people on board," McPherson said.

The students spoke with members of Patterson Court organizations, faculty and other students to explain the sorority and describe how the organization would benefit the campus.

Whitney White '08 has been very involved in bringing AKA onto campus.

"We saw the addition of an NPHC sorority as a way to bridge the gap that existed between the majority of Davidson women who were in eating houses and women of color who by and large weren't in eating houses," White said.

McPherson sees AKA as a positive addi-



tion to the campus.

"From a service standpoint, it's a strong value for this organization," she said.

As do the sorority's other proponents, Cherita Jeffries '08 agrees with McPherson.

"What interests me are the organization's commitment to certain values included but not limited to leadership, community service (greater and local) and academics," Jeffries said. "They strive to bring the best out of every woman with their initiatives and are great avenues to pursue in order to help one

See AKA, page 5

## The Davidsonian

ALLENDA LUX LIBI ORTA LIBERTAS

Editor-in-Chief  
Summerlee Walter  
Managing Editors  
Nathan Bradshaw & Pierce Trumbo  
News Editors  
Kate Gillespie, Alissa Irel & Monica Jamouneau  
Perspectives Editors  
Joe Reed & Laura Van Oudenaren  
Arts & Living Editors  
Paige Taylor & Mike Wellman  
Yowl Editors  
Brendan Parets & Jeff Yeakel  
Sports Editors  
Will Bryan & Suzie Eckl  
Photography Editor  
Lauren Massey  
Business, Advertising, and Circulation Manager  
Halley Brantley, Laura Fontaine & Robbie Squibb

The Davidsonian is published Wednesdays during the academic year by the students of Davidson College. One copy per student. Please address all correspondences to: The Davidsonian, P.O. Box 7182, Davidson, NC 28035-7182. Phone (704) 894-2148. E-mail Davidsonian@ davidson.edu. Our offices are located in Room 411 of the Alvarez College Union. Opinions expressed in letters to the editors or commentaries do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board of The Davidsonian. Subscriptions cost \$55.00 per year. Advertising rates are available upon request.

Copyright is held by the Trustees of Davidson College.