

## Internships: enhancing a liberal arts education

STAFF EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The Davidsonian commends the Office of Career Services for their latest attempts to help students secure professional learning experiences outside the classroom. Specifically, the hiring of Ashley Neff, Assistant Director for Internships; the new 100 Internship Challenge; and Davidson's recent membership in the Nationwide Internship Consortium (NIC) will help boost the range of opportunities available to Davidson students during and beyond their years at Davidson.

Students with a liberal arts background have the potential to be at a disadvantage in the job search, particularly in the eyes of employers who feel that such students might be "unfocused" or have few practical skills to offer. The lack of formal pre-professional training can be compounded by the fact that liberal arts students may be more likely to spend their summers doing research or studying abroad rather than finding jobs or gaining valuable work experience. In the past, the College has not allowed students to receive academic credit for internships, which impacted their chances at landing the internship on a non-credit basis.

However, the College's recent decision to begin offering academic credit for internships is a crucial step in helping students secure the best internships, which will help them land the best jobs down the road. Traditional proponents of the liberal arts have feared that offering credit for internships is not consistent with Davidson's aims as a liberal arts institution that emphasize broad learning rather than pre-professional skills. By offering the EXPL 099 credit the College seems to have found a good way to ensure its commitment to the liberal arts and also meet the interests of students who would like the chance to do pre-professional work during their summers.

Students should take advantage of the recent changes that help facilitate learning opportunities outside the classroom.

## NC and gay marriage

Dr. David Perry

According to the National Opinion Research Corporation, more Americans now support (46%) than oppose (40%) the right of gays and lesbians to marry. A new NORC report entitled "Public Attitudes toward Homosexuality" also notes that same-sex marriage is now supported by a whopping 64% of Americans under 30.

Meanwhile, what have we seen in Raleigh since the 2010 election, at least in the state house and senate? A regression to the mean, as in mean-spirited; regression to fear, hatred, ignorance and bigotry. This is my conclusion in light of recent efforts by state legislators to amend the constitution to ban same-sex marriage. North Carolina lawmakers are heading down the same sad, nauseating road that led them in past eras to preserve slavery and prohibit interracial marriage.

Same-sex marriage is not a threat to heterosexual marriage. The key factors undermining traditional marriage are the same in every era: infidelity, cruelty, and incompatible personalities. Banning same-sex marriage won't do away with those problems. It will merely reinforce a petty and shameful denial of basic rights to

same-sex couples that heterosexual married couples enjoy. It violates our core American constitutional principle of equality under the law.

"North Carolina lawmakers are heading down the same sad, nauseating road that led them in past eras to preserve slavery and prohibit interracial marriage."

Gays and lesbians are our brothers and sisters, daughters and sons, uncles and aunts. There is no good reason to prevent them from marrying someone they love.

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The Davidsonian is published Wednesdays during the academic year by the students of Davidson College.

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## Ask Lunsfordamus

Lunsfordamus

Dear Lunsfordamus,

I've spent my first three years at Davidson doing everything by the book. How can I stick it to the man senior year?

Straight-Laced Senior

Dear Straight-Laced Senior,

I can definitely empathize with your situation. As a senior, you might find yourself overcome with a sense of malaise and regret for lost opportunities. You ask, "Why did I spend all night studying for a meaningless sociology test/class when I could have been sticking it to the man?" But fear not! Although Fall Break quickly approaches, there is still time to defy authority in all sorts of petty and juvenile ways.

Now, I know what your thinking - "How can I rebel without becoming a hipster?" An important question, the answer lies in your purpose for rebelling. Are you sticking it to the man to be alternative or ironic? Will you declare something over or not cool if others start doing it after you? If the answer to these questions is "yes," then your motives are not pure, and Lunsfordamus wants nothing to do with you.

Assuming you are sticking it to the man for the right reasons (i.e. to annoy, troll, or out of pure boredom), a world of opportunities awaits you! Some rebellions are obvious: Walking out of the commons tray drop-off the wrong way (you may also choose to enter from the wrong direction as well), walking on the grass instead of the sidewalks, breaking

the honor code, etc. These are no brainers.

The true rebel digs a little deeper. He is the type of person that orders a water cup at a restaurant, and gets

"The true rebel...sees an attractive girl and leers instead of observing discreetly."

soda instead. He sees an attractive girl and leers instead of observing discreetly. He takes the handicapped stall in the bathroom. He tells a joke with a 20-minute set up and no punch line. He laughs in your face as he does this and then asks, "Problem?" or "You mad bro?"

In many ways, the troll and the rebel are kindred spirits. Mastering both personas will allow you to stick it to the man in ways you never dreamed. If there is but one thing Lunsfordamus can impart upon you, let it be this:

Problem?

~Lunsfordamus

(Footnote: Lunsfordamus does not actually advocate breaking the honor code.)

Lunsfordamus '12 is an economics major from Raleigh, NC. Contact him or send him a question at [lolunsford@davidson.edu](mailto:lolunsford@davidson.edu)