



Students discuss bringing a black sorority to campus at an open forum last night.

## Sorority, from page 1

would be subject to the same rules as the other PCC organizations. Representatives would be required to attend PCC meetings, and the president would also meet with Hamm.

According to supporters of the initiative, a historically black sorority would do more than just increase diversity on the Court.

Jeffries stressed that participation in the organization would help students even after they graduated from Davidson.

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-Ernest Jeffries,  
Assistant Dean of Student Life

Hamm also believes that a historically black sorority would increase leadership opportunities on campus.

"These organizations run almost like a business," Hamm said. "It's [a leadership position] a tremendous asset to have on your resume after you graduate from college."

Ashoosh spoke from an admissions perspective and described the sorority initiative as a "manifestation of what we promote Davidson to be."

"I think that one thing this type of organization might bring to campus is to show in another way how Davidson is changing, how Davidson is opening up," Ashoosh said.

The panel followed a 24-2 vote in support of a historically black sorority by the Patterson Court Council (PCC) on Monday night.

The initiative will next go before the Committee on Campus and Religious Life (CCRL). If it passes through the CCRL, President Bobby Vagt will make the final decision on whether to bring a the sorority to campus.

If the initiative is approved, the college will follow the process it used to bring the historically black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha to campus two years ago.

Representatives from the four historically black sororities will be invited to campus to give presentations.

Students will be encouraged to attend these presentations and give feedback on which organization they think fits best at Davidson.

A committee comprised of students, administration, and faculty will then decide which sorority to invite to campus.

There are many challenges in the process, however.

"It's not automatic that you will get approval from national offices to get an organization," Jeffries said. "They scrutinize the campus very heavily."

The small number of minority students on campus, as well as other factors such as grades and interest level among students, may discourage a Greek organization from coming to Davidson.

Leaders of the historically black fraternity initiative went through a 15-year process before Alpha Phi Alpha was finally established on campus.

The students involved in the sorority initiative are optimistic about the future. Although they have experienced some backlash, they have received more support than they expected.

"It's definitely an uphill battle, but we're encouraged by the support on campus," panelist Whitney White '08 said.

## Convocation, from page 1

dren who were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Spellings, who plays an important role in the Bush Administration's No Child Left Behind Act, expressed her desire that all children receive a quality education regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.

She admitted that as a nation we still have a long way to go as far as having all of our children on an equal educational playing field but expressed optimism about our system, saying, "education can and will break the cycle of poverty."

Spellings also expressed her faith in the data from the new standardized test that has come with the implementation of No Child Left Behind and said actual testing data is the most powerful tool our government can use as a measure of academic success.

"In God we trust," Spellings said. "All others: bring data!"

Overall, Spellings' speech followed a theme of "you just never know." She reminded graduates that they "just never know" what is going to happen in their lives, telling them that they should keep their minds and eyes open to opportunities in order to realize their dreams.

Some professors and students expressed concern prior to Spellings' speech that her record and affiliations would reflect poorly on the school.

German professor Maggie McCarthy was uncomfortable with Davidson inviting Spellings to speak because she condemned a PBS television show that featured a segment



French professor Lauren Yoder

about a child with two mothers earlier this year. McCarthy said she was concerned Spellings had reacted in a way that could only be seen as "blatantly homophobic."

Although she does not oppose speakers with different viewpoints, McCarthy said she found Spellings' views to be completely out of line with the college's values, making her an inappropriate convocation speaker.

McCarthy initiated a discussion among faculty to express their disapproval of Spellings' views.

After others expressed similar feelings, many decided to wear rainbow-colored ribbons, which are commonly associated with

support of gay rights, to the convocation as a sign of protest. A solid number of faculty, including senior members in the front row, wore the ribbons at Convocation.

Others in the Davidson community, however, did not believe that Spellings' speech would affect Davidson's reputation.

"I do not think it sends any message other than that she is the U.S. Secretary of Education," Barratt Park '06 said.

Kathleen Cour '06 felt that inviting Spellings was a good decision because she is more conservative than past speakers.

"The fact that they chose a more conservative-minded speaker is actually a good example of the college balancing out their speakers' ideologies," Cour said.

Many students who heard the speech applauded Spellings for shying away from political messages.

"One of the things I was worried about - as a strong Democrat - was that the speech was going to be a little too political," Elizabeth Rugala '08 said. "Obviously she did have to plug Bush at some points (he is her boss after all), but I thought she did a good job at keeping the speech focused on the graduating class."



History professor Sally McMillen

President Bobby Vagt had a similar reaction to Spellings' speech and said, "she pretty much stayed above the political fray."

Several awards were presented at Convocation.

History professor and Chair of the History Department Sally McMillen was presented with the first ever Boswell Family Faculty Fellowship, which will allow her to take a one-year sabbatical with full pay and benefits.

The Thomas Jefferson award was presented to French professor Lauren Yoder for "going above and beyond the call of duty" as a professor, according to Dean of Faculty Clark Ross.

Students who were honored included Halley Aelion '08, who was presented the Alumni Association Award for having the highest GPA of her class in her first year.

The Goodwin-Exxon award was presented to a member of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes who demonstrates the "highest standards of character, good sportsmanship, and consideration of others." This year's recipients were Sarah Allen '08, Brendan Watkins '07, and Amee Patel '06.

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## CAMPUS POLICE BLOTTER

10/17 Main Street Vandalism

A sign was stolen from 310 Main Street between 8 a.m. on October 14 and 3 p.m. on October 16. There are no suspects at this time.

10/22 Greenhouse Parking Lot Mugging

Students reported that they were robbed in the Greenhouse Parking Lot at approximately 2:30 a.m. According to the victims, there were at least four black males involved, one of whom threatened violence if they did not relinquish their wallets. Although no one was physically injured, a total of \$13 was taken from the victims. Campus police are working with local agencies to investigate and apprehend the individuals.

Students with information about campus crimes can contact Campus Police anonymously by logging onto [www.davidson.edu/publicsafety](http://www.davidson.edu/publicsafety)