

Career center introduces new job search platform

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In June, the Center for Career Development released its annual Career Outcomes Report for the Class of 2014, indicating the highest number of graduates employed six months after graduation in the last five years. The report revealed that 75.8% of the 465 students in the graduating class are employed, interning or completing military or volunteer service. In response to the college's postgraduate employment success, the Center for Career Development is currently undergoing some critical changes.

"What are your goals? What are the places you want to go to?" These are the first questions Jeff Kniple, Associate Director for Employer Relations for the Center, asks every student who steps in for an advisory session. According to

Kniple, the Center's goal is to find where the student's interests and skills collide and, as a result, identify possible careers for the student. As of last year, 70% of students in each class visited the Center for various reasons, including advising, career placement and resumé building.

In years past, the Center has successfully paired students with jobs. Additionally, it has provided the groundwork for career building through a series of workshops, information sessions, and the use of digital platforms.

In July, the Center announced its migration from WildcatLink to a new platform called Handshake. Currently, Handshake caters to over 100,000 students, 2,000 employers, and 55 schools in the country.

In comparison to WildcatLink, Handshake operates with similar technology to Google and LinkedIn, in that it personalizes job searches

based on students' interests and search histories. Students complete a profile, which includes personal information and a resumé that can be accessed by prospective employers. Further, Handshake allows employers to view students' visa and citizenship statuses. This allows both students and employers to track the options that are best suited for their interests and to immediately know whether or not companies are willing to work with foreign students. Through the new interface, the Center has begun to post job applications and information sessions, as well as advertise workshops.

The most beneficial aspect of Handshake, Kniple remarks, is its partnership with other

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Julie Lucas manages the inner workings of Career Development. Photo by Shea Parikh.

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Questions About Race event encourages discussion among students

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"Racism doesn't exist anymore."
"We live in a colorblind environment."

"I moved my family to a different neighborhood so they could go to good schools."

"What affects persons more? Socio-economic class or race?"

"Don't all lives matter?"

This is how the conversation started last Wednesday, when students were invited to engage in "The Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask About Race." This event was held as one of four breakout sessions after Monday's State of the Campus address with President Carol Quillen, hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA).

"The purpose of the breakout sessions is to really go in depth with student issues," said Ricki Hollins '16, Director of Multicultural Affairs for SGA.

This session was held as an open and honest conversation about race and how the student body talks about race on campus. The goal was

to create a space where people felt comfortable bringing up their experiences, questions, and thoughts about race.

To accomplish this, students were split into different small groups for interpersonal conversations about the above topics. After about 45 minutes of organic conversation, the groups came back together to tie up what they had discussed in the smaller settings. Before reconvening, however, each attendee was given a notecard to anonymously write questions they had for the larger group, to which professors and students alike could respond at the end.

A very diverse group of students attended, and the end results were positive for SGA.

"According to Dean Shandley, this was one of the largest groups of people he's ever seen," Hollins said.

About 100 people came out to the event, but the real mark of success for Emily Rapport '16, Co-Director of Special Projects for SGA, was that it got people talking. "It's not enough to just have a conversation about this," Rapport said. "It's a good first step."

"It was a great starting point for future talks," Hollins said.

What is the next step, though? For SGA, the next step lies in a future series of dialogues, known as SGA Collaborative. This is an initiative to get students talking about issues important to them. Every Thursday, during Common Hour, SGA will host a smaller talk on issues that David-

son students choose. It will be a chance to invite voices into the conversation about issues faced every day here at Davidson College. The hope for SGA is to get the whole campus involved in speaking up about what matters to the student body.



Students hear each other out over tough issues. Photo courtesy of Bill Giduz.

*"It was a great starting point for future talks."
-Ricki Hollins '16*