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Part of the way Davidson has tried to raise LGBTQIA inclusivity is through the Safe Space program. Photo by Michelle Wan

## Patterson Court tackles LGBTQIA inclusivity

Recent survey sparks conversation about acceptance of LGBTQIA students in PCC

Braden Beaudreau

Staff Writer

A survey conducted last week amongst Patterson Court Council (PCC) representatives revealed that Davidson's fraternities, sororities and eating houses believe they are inclusive of individuals who identify as LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual).

PCC president Savannah Erwin '14 picked questions from a Campus Pride survey, called the LGBT-Friendly Climate Self-Test for Fraternities and Sororities, to deliver to the 14 social organizations down the hill. Campus Pride is a leading LGBT organization and resource network for college inclusivity. SGA task force member Rob Stevens '14 presented the survey data at the most recent meeting.

In response to the survey, Patterson Court Advisor Sarah Pankratz determined "all of our organizations are mostly inclusive." Pankratz noted that the organizations tended to agree on most topics, though the differences highlight issues that need to be worked on. For example, the most contentious topic concerned the acceptance of

transgender individuals.

The campus-wide LGBT climate survey showed that only 3.5 percent of students who identified as non-heterosexual strongly agreed that their sexual identity is welcomed on campus, a statistic that suggests a lesser degree of inclusivity than indicated by the results of the survey. The survey was conducted by the Student Government Association's task force on LGBTQIA Affairs. (See "Task force presents LGBTQIA climate survey results," published Feb. 5.)

During the PCC meeting, Stevens highlighted the gap between how inclusive of all organizations fraternities, sororities and eating-houses claim to be and how inclusive they really are. Pankratz voiced that LGBTQIA students have spoken up about these differences through previous surveys, with some individuals saying they "feel like animals on display."

Plans have been set in motion to turn social organizations into safe environments for students of all sexual orientations. Fraternities and other groups will begin to collaborate with the Gay-Straight Alliance on social events, which will help ensure that the events are appropriate.

Pankratz hoped that in time, these

See PCC page 3

## Archival exploration: Bringing history to the classroom

Dr. Anelise Shroud affirms that Davidson is uniquely situated to employ archival research.

Matt Landini

Co-News Editor



Professor Shroud, a Visiting Professor in the History Department, is taking an archival approach to environmental history. In doing so, Dr. Shroud meticulously studies maps for application in the classroom, thereby allowing students to act as historians – extrapolating from given information, critiquing and arguing their theories, and forming material conclusions.

Dr. Shroud, a New Jersey native and graduate of New York University and The University of Chicago, has always employed maps in her research as a historian outside of Davidson; however, Shroud – through the Davidson College Map Collection and the William Patterson Cumming Map Collection – hopes to better apply such resources in a classroom setting.

As most historians would contend, maps are often the lenses through which we explore our own pasts. Maps can not only illustrate shifting landscapes and ever-changing architecture, but also can inform us of how individuals once envisioned their surroundings.

Shroud upholds such a position, saying, "I think there is also something interesting about the assumptions that people make about nature and how that tells us things about society."

In supporting such a statement, Shroud argues that we need only look at Davidson's own archives for affirmation. "At Davidson, when we went to the archives, one

of my favorite documents is the shrub map that shows all of the plantings (and they're very precisely placed to give the impression of bucolic nature) because Davidson is meant to be this space that nurtures learning, and I think that it absolutely is, but the landscape is structured to reinforce that idea."

Shroud stipulates that properly employing archival research in a classroom setting can better inform students about the significance of their own environment and of the natural world around them.

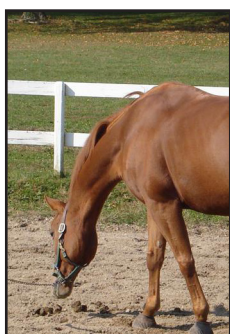
Furthermore, Shroud acknowledges that using an archival approach is familiar for most students, as it allows them to draw the same conclusions that they might also reach when studying detailed, written accounts of the environment. Shroud comments, "One of the things that environmental history does is it says that we can read landscapes in the same way that we can read texts."

Shroud also contends that Davidson students are uniquely equipped to take advantage of such learning processes, as Davidson maintains the best collection of Southeastern maps in the country.

Shroud explains:

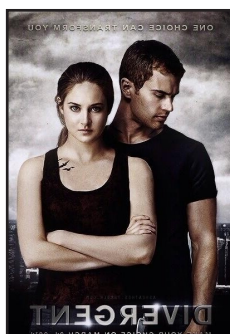
"The Davidson Southeastern early maps collection is the best collection of Southeastern maps in the country...It is the best collection of colonial to early Republican maps of the Southeast. That makes teaching environmental history here a lot of fun, because one of the sources, that is sort of a natural source, is maps."

See SHROUT, page 2



How can horses help with psychotherapy? Editor Emerita Laura Chuckray profiles Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy, a unique form of treatment with a facility located up the road on Concord.

See NEWS, page 3



Tommy Barquinero reviews Neil Burger's film, Divergent, a science fiction action film that depicts a futuristic world in which people are divided into factions based on their personalities. The film stars Shailene Woodley and Theo James.

See LIVING, page 6



Emma Johnson sits down for an exclusive interview with Davidson slugger Nathan Becker, who discusses all things related to Wildcat's baseball.

See SPORTS, page 11