

College launches new fundraising campaign

Davidson seeks to raise \$425 million for students in five years

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Staff Writer

On Saturday, faculty, students, and alumni gathered in Duke Family Performance Hall for an introduction to Davidson's comprehensive five-year campaign. The campaign is centered on the concept of Davidson's "Game Changers" – alumni, faculty, staff and students who are transforming the world, setting higher standards, and solving problems in fresh, innovative ways.

The showcase featured a brief message from Carol Quillen, who revealed that the goal was to secure \$425 million to be used for the school's scholarship programs, to enrich the academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular experience, and to provide a smooth transition for students in their lives beyond Davidson. According to President Quillen, the Game Changers campaign is an ideal platform to demonstrate the impact that Davidson has in society.

"Our world urgently needs Davidson graduates – creative, disciplined, humane leaders – with courage, integrity, and intellectual curiosity to tackle complex questions, lead in service of something larger than themselves in their communities and around the globe," she said.

On Saturday morning students and their mentors discussed past projects and future initiatives, and upperclassmen reflected on how the unique liberal arts program at Davidson has prepared them for careers and lives of service. Throughout the program, video clips were presented of current students discussing academic challenges and Davidson's exceptional qualities.

A speech from former mayor of Charlotte and current Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx followed. Foxx graduated from Davidson in 1993 with a major in history, and he described his experiences during his four years at Davidson, highlighting the school's commitment to providing opportunities for those of lower socio-economic status. He admitted that the "turning point" of his academic career was when a Davidson professor challenged him to write a paper arguing for the side he did not agree with – preparation, he said, for the life that follows an undergraduate education by asking students to think in ways they have not before.

Kelly Knetsche '96, campaign manager, described the goals of the campaign and the process behind it. "We have concluded a quiet phase,"



Students form a tunnel outside the Union; kick-off new campaign. Photo courtesy of Bill Gudiz.

Knetsche said. "We have raised more than \$210 million to date. In the quiet phase, many of our lead donors stepped forward to partner with us on key initiatives, like the New Academic Building and scholarship support. This early success builds great momentum around Davidson's vision for re-imagining the liberal arts, which we hope will encourage others to partner with us as we strengthen existing programs and launch new initiatives."

When commenting on the \$425 million fundraising goal, Campaign Co-Chair, Alison Hall Mauzé '84, said, "We're excited about it. It's a stretch goal, but it is achievable. And we know that it's going to do great things for Davidson."

Because the quality of our student community drives every Davidson aspiration, 50 percent of Davidson's campaign is targeted to support a robust scholarship program that enables the best and brightest to choose Davidson. 40 percent is targeted towards strengthening the Davidson campus to perpetuate a community of excellence.

This includes investments in the learning environment that enables Davidson to remain flexible and relevant as student and faculty needs evolve and enhance funding around athletics. Five percent will fund initiatives that support students in their transition to careers and lives of impact. The remaining five percent of campaign funds will be unrestricted through The Fund for Davidson to support current college priorities and operations.

Knetsche also explained how students can get involved with the campaign. She promoted the hashtag "#DavidsonGameChangers" and talked of the campaign's website that includes stories of the impact of members of the Davidson community, updates from the campaign, and a "Recommend a Game Changer" tab, where individuals can identify those in the Davidson community who inspire others and "champion positive change."

To learn more about the campaign and to recommend a game changer, please visit www.davidson.edu/gamechangers.

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Residents adjust to first semester of mixed-gender halls at Davidson

RLO staff members and residents work together to shape mixed-gender hall communities

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Last spring, the Residence Life Office (RLO) introduced a new option for students living on campus – mixed-gender housing. While many Davidson students have probably heard the term at least once, many students are still unclear on what it actually means for a hall to be "mixed-gender," what life is like for students on these halls, and what gender neutral housing means for the future of residence life at Davidson. According to the official RLO description given

to students, "Mixed-Gender Housing is a housing option in which two or more students share a single occupancy apartment, suite, or community regardless of the students' sex, gender, gender identity, or gender expression."

Essentially, mixed gender housing at Davidson allows for people of different genders to live on the same hall or communal space (such as an apartment or suite). However, mixed-gender housing does not mean that people of different genders will be allowed to share the same room at Davidson.

"Gender-Neutral" is also commonly used to describe these halls and is often a source of confusion for those unfamiliar with such new terminology.

Jason Shaffer, Associate Dean of Students and the Director of Residence Life, explained that the terms are surprisingly similar, saying, "They're different terms used by different people for effectively the same thing at Davidson."

However, there were specific reasons the Residence Life Office officially uses the term "Mixed-Gender." According to Dean Shaffer, "Gender-neutral implies things around gender identity that some people find really hurtful, and when we think about how would we best describe being able to live on a hallway where men are living on one side of the hall and women are living in the room right next door or across the hall, mixed gender seems to be an easier explanation about

what that means...Gender-neutral to some people implies that we don't take a look at people's gender when we're making room assignments, so any two people could live together in the same double room for instance, and that's not where Davidson is at."

Many colleges and universities around the country have had mixed-gender housing for years, with some schools (such as Amherst, several Ivies, and Duke) going even further than Davidson in providing not just mixed-gender halls, but allowing students of different genders