

Be safe, vaccinate early at student health center

By: JESSICA ANDREWS
Health Advisor

The Health Center is offering a new vaccine for women called Gardasil, which protects women against the Human papillomavirus (HPV)—a virus that can lead to cervical cancer. The vaccine has demonstrated an enormous success rate.

"The vaccine is one of the easiest things that a woman can do to protect herself," Jan Poole, R.N. and Supervisor of Student Health, said. "It is right up there with the yearly check-up."

Genital HPV is passed through direct skin-to-skin contact, including oral and anal sex, as well as through genital-to-genital contact. Genital HPV is very common, and most health officials agree that it is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Most sexually active people are thought to have it at some point during their lives.

"The HPV vaccine has been shown to be nearly 100 percent effective at blocking infection with the 'high-risk' HPV types found in 70 percent of cervical cancers and additionally protects against the 'low-risk' types that cause most genital warts," Poole said.

The vaccine is currently approved for use in females 9-26 years of age, but the Center for Disease Control recommends it as a routine vaccination for females age 11-12.

Ideally the vaccine is given before sexual activity begins, but females who are already sexually active should still be vaccinated.

College-age women are at a perfect age to begin this vaccination. Even if a woman is not planning to become sexually active, health professionals still recommend the vaccination, because it is highly effective, and side effects are rare.

Studies are currently underway to determine whether the vaccine can be used with men.

There are three shots in the Gardasil vaccination process. The first shot is delivered after a quick check-up and discussion with a physician. The second shot is then given two months later and the third, four months after that. The last two injections are simply given by a nurse.

"The HPV vaccine has been shown to be nearly 100 percent effective."

--Jan Poole, R.N.

Supervisor of Student Health

While the injections are in a series of three, they can be administered from any medical location. It is convenient to have the injections at the Student Health Center.

If the Gardasil vaccination is begun early in the semester, all three injections can be acquired at Davidson.

"The Student Health Center charges \$125 per shot," Poole said. "We pay a few dollars less than that for each dose and only add on a couple of dollars to offset the cost of the syringe, needle, alcohol swab, Band Aid,

nurse time, etc. This is much less than most private offices would charge for the shot, but the Student Health Center does not file with insurance. We cannot possibly be a part of all of the insurance networks from 50 states and other countries. We place the \$125 charges on the student's tuition bill."

Students typically file the cost of the vaccination with their insurance companies, and most are reimbursed.

Any student wishing to obtain the Gardasil vaccine should call the Health Center and request an appointment. The procedure is very brief, and the pain is minimal compared to the effects of HPV or cervical cancer.

It is also imperative for all students to receive the influenza vaccine. Flu season in the United States typically ranges from November until March, and the flu can spread rapidly at any time, especially during those months.

"Our dates for administering flu shots this year at the Student Union are Thursday, Nov. 8 and Wednesday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.," Poole said. In the Union, students can obtain their vaccine in a relaxed setting with beverages, cake and comfort from caring students and staff.

"Students should understand that sometimes vaccines are hard and maybe a little painful, but they are necessary. We will do our best to make vaccination experiences as comfortable as possible."

*--Georgia Ringle,
Health Educator*

Flu shots will be available before that time and afterwards on a walk-in basis at the Student Health Center. The cost of the shot is \$20, and that cost will be placed on a student's tuition bill.

"Influenza spreads from an infected person to the nose or throat of another person and is highly contagious. As you can imagine, classrooms and dormitories are ideal settings for the rapid communication of the flu from person to person," Poole said. "The influenza virus changes slightly each year, so it is necessary to get a fresh shot each year. Especially when keeping up with Davidson commitments, no student can afford to even risk this illness."

"Students should understand that sometimes vaccines are hard and maybe a little painful, but they are necessary. We will do our best to make vaccination experiences as comfortable as possible," Health Educator Georgia Ringle said.

Despite the little bit of pain or inconvenience that accompanies vaccinations, one must consider the alternative; a sore arm is preferred to a severe illness any day.

Students must remember to be smart, be responsible and be sure to get vaccinated early this fall.

The Health Center can answer questions.

"Wow," Kallman said, "is your education going to start after graduation from Davidson?"

The committee agreed that pressure to deflate grades would be detrimental to actual education.

The Academic Policy Committee has also created a blog on Blackboard in order for students to voice their concerns. The committee encourages participation because, as White said, "Students do have the power to make some changes."

Students can contact the Academic Policy Committee with questions or suggestions.



SGA discusses the Jena 6 protest, other concerns

By KATE GILLESPIE
Staff Writer

At last Thursday's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, senators debated a proposal to allow students studying abroad to serve on SGA and approved a motion to find financial aid for Davidson students traveling to Jena for the protests.

Students present at the meeting discussed ways for the campus to respond to the "modern-day lynching" incident that occurred last year.

In September 2006, black high school students sat under a "whites-only" tree. The next day, there were three nooses hanging from the tree.

A fight broke out in December 2006, and one of the black students, Mychal Bell, was consequently charged with aggravated assault despite having used a shoe in the fight. His hearing was scheduled for September 20. At a discussion sponsored by the BSC last week, 45 Davidson students signed up to travel to Louisiana for a protest that day.

The second-degree battery charges were dropped on Saturday, but senators discussed how to support these Davidson student protesters in the meeting on Thursday.

"We can't just talk about things," President Chris Burton said. "When are we going to take that potential and make it something practical? That whole situation is just a microcosm for greater tension down here that we as student leaders must voice some kind of opinion on."

According to Whitney White '08, there were over 90 people at the discussion at one point. This number included 11 faculty and staff members, who, White said, "looked at us as future leaders and wanted to know what we were going to do."

The Davidson group plans to leave campus at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday evening and leave Louisiana immediately after the trial so as not to incur hotel expenses. They will arrive back at Davidson on Friday morning.

Burton asked SGA to approve a motion to find a way to cover the expenses of this trip.

"This is where we really earn our salt," Burton said. "We have to make sure that we're shining that light outward and not just inward."

SGA approved the motion, and Burton said he would talk to President Tom Ross.

In other proceedings, Senator Mordecai Scott '10 and former senator A.J. Hergenroeder '08 asked senators to consider changing the by-laws so that senators who wanted to go abroad could still put their names on the SGA ballot.

Hergenroeder and Scott said that the current SGA policy discourages students who want to serve on student government from going abroad.

Hergenroeder, who was junior class president last year, resigned when he went abroad in the spring.

He claimed, however, that he was still actively engaged in SGA activity during his time abroad. He corresponded with Registrar

Hansford Epes and Dean of Faculty Clark Ross regarding a policy to limit the number of tests a student can take per day.

According to Scott, one of the presidential candidates on the 2007 ballot was allowed to run despite having exceeded the number of permitted absences in SGA. He argued that since this unqualified person was still allowed to run, senators serving abroad should be allowed to run as well.

Many senators disagreed with Scott and Hergenroeder's proposal.

"The purpose of the senate is to represent the student body in a forum," Treasurer Blake Poole '08 said. "If you can't be in that forum because you are abroad, it's difficult to serve your constituency with the tenacity that one can have in this body."

Hergenroeder said, "What's done outside the meetings is the most important part of what you do as a senator," and he also suggested the possibility of abroad senators casting their votes through e-mail.

Christie Mason '10 raised several other objections. She said that attendance policies in the by-laws would also have to be revised since abroad senators would miss every meeting.

Mason also pointed out that many students studying abroad do not have regular e-mail access.

"The lifestyle isn't the same, so you can't be checking your e-mail all the time," Mason said. "It's also about having your finger on the pulse of the campus. Students can't readily come talk to you. It's just not as feasible to represent the students."

Other SGA business included an update from Scott about buses for the basketball games against UNC and Duke.

Scott asked Poole for \$1,000 to make a deposit on the buses, which works out to a \$100 deposit for each of the five buses.

SGA will get this money back if it chooses to drop one of the buses during the add/drop grace period that lasts up to 10 days before the actual game date.

Vice President Davis Greene '09 continued work on the Real Talk Ballot Project by showing senators a draft of the ballot. The issues included on this ballot were alcohol policy, diversity, environmental policy, mental illness, sexual misconduct policy, town development and the Honor Code.

Both Brandon Davenport '09 and White gave committee updates.

Davenport's Auxiliary Services Committee plans to advocate for Muslim students fasting for Ramadan who wish to use their meal plans after normal hours.

White reported on the success of her Academic Affairs Committee's first forum last week, saying that future discussions will focus on professors being pressured to deflate grades and the difference between learning and excessive reading.

The committee's blog is also up on Blackboard, available to every student on campus. One student has already posted a complaint about not getting enough academic credit for labs.

The blog can be found at blackboard.edu.

Forum, from page 1

workload and responsibility each student has at Davidson.

According to Zwierzynski, professors could be attempting to deflate grades with the difficulty of their classes, as well as obtain tenure and the reputation as a tough grader.

Kallman said she heard a student, talking about the workload of his classes, say, "I can't wait until I graduate so I can read all these [books], because it looks really interesting."