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The Davidsonian

◆ "THE SOUTH'S FOREMOST COLLEGE WEEKLY" ◆

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2004

VOLUME 95, NUMBER 15

\$1.7 million soccer stadium expected by fall

New location risks decrease in game attendance

By ADAM MARTIN
Senior Staff Writer

The success of fundraising efforts over the last two years will bring the Varsity Men's and Women's Soccer teams a new \$1.7 million stadium hopefully in time for the fall 2004 season.

The new facility will sit directly over the current varsity soccer field, behind the F senior apartment, and will come complete with lights, locker rooms, concessions, restrooms and 2,000 seats.

"Construction is starting right away with the goal to be ready for games this fall," said Jim Murphy '78, Director of Athletics.

According to Murphy, the final plans have not yet been selected, but the preliminary work, which involves resculpting the current field, will begin immediately.

"This is a massive step forward for our program," said Matt Spear '93, the Men's Varsity Soccer Coach.

In years past, Varsity Soccer teams have had to switch back and forth from their current "lightless" field to Richardson stadium for most of their scheduled home games.

These transitions involved the sharing and transforming of Richardson Stadium, for games, including removing goalposts,

see Stadium, page 5

Admissions braces for record high apps

College to firmly 'hold the line' at 460 incoming freshmen, restoring smaller class sizes

By BRANDON CARROLL
Managing Editor

The class of 2008—next year's freshmen—figures to be the most competitive class in Davidson history.

At the end of last week, the Admissions office had received 4,079 completed applications, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Nancy Cable said. The number might creep higher after some applications now only partially complete are received.

This represents 150 more applications than last year's 3,927, which set a record 16 percent increase over the previous high. Rather than a single-year anomaly, the increase now appears part of a trend.

Cable said national trends are partially driving the increase in applications, but that



Photo by College Communications

Last year's admissions officers struggled with stacks of applications. Even more applicants this year will strain Admissions.

"frankly, the quality of our current student body and the faculty are driving it. They are ever more national and ever more diverse."

Director of Residence Life Leslie Marsicano

has coped with a housing crunch from this year's record freshmen class. She has just one plea for Admissions, "Let's hold the line." Marsicano said she had been told to expect 460 to 465 students, the low end for a typical Davidson class size.

Political Science Professor Lou Ortmyer confirmed that President Vagt had

capped the maximum number of incoming students at 460, down from 465 in the fall. Ortmyer is chair of the Faculty Committee of Admissions and Financial Aid.

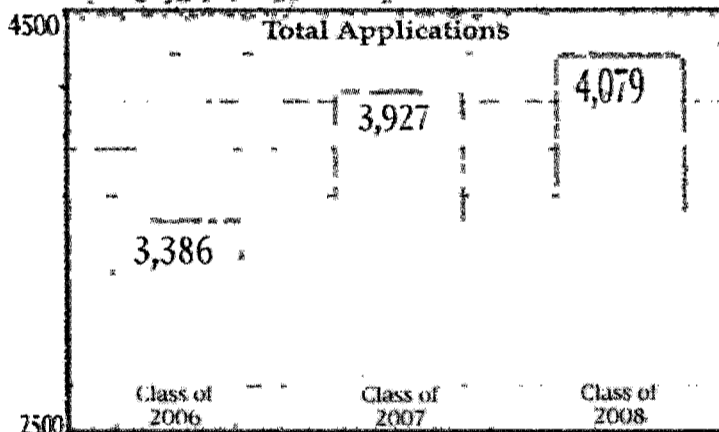
Cable said it is important "not to press one class to rebalance."

Early Decision

Making Davidson even more selective this year is the fact that nearly 190 of those spots have already been filled by Early Decision applicants.

Out of Early Decision I, 151 are confirmed to be in next year's class. They represent a highly qualified and talented mix of students, and were drawn from a pool over 300 applicants. Early Decision II should add 37 students, and those decisions were mailed this week. In

see Admissions, page 4



Administration strives to increase diversity among faculty

By BLEVIN SHELNUTT
Senior Staff Writer

As Davidson College attempts to incorporate more underrepresented groups into its predominantly white student body, the administration is also working to attain a more demographically diverse faculty.

In order to help encourage this movement, two faculty members from other institutions that have made progress in diversifying their own faculty recently visited Davidson.

As part of these visits, Davidson faculty and administration reviewed several recruitment strategies that could be used to attract a variety of candidates for faculty positions to the college.

One strategy that has been in consideration

since before the arrival of the visiting consultants is the plan to be open to possible curricular change.

According to this approach, when academic departments design an advertisement for a faculty position, they should consider how the courses and needs advertised will be received by minority candidates.

Departments should also be willing to adjust the position to better fit a candidate's background and educational training.

Clark Ross, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, hopes departments will comply with this suggestion.

"We hope they will make an effort, to the extent possible, to design adds that will show flexibility in course offerings and be attractive to minority candidates," Ross said.

This movement is not in response to a particular event but is rather a culmination of Davidson's efforts over the last 20 years to diversify its faculty.

While the school has made progress in integrating female faculty, Ross says that it has been more difficult to achieve the goal of integrating minority faculty members.

With a flexible curriculum, Davidson will be able to offer courses that might better coincide with the academic interests of some of the candidates for faculty positions.

"You have to make the position attractive, and the curriculum is one way to do that," said Ross.

Ross pointed out that students, both majority and minority, have also expressed desires for creating greater diversity both among the

faculty and within the curriculum of various departments.

Sean Chan '06 said, "Diversity in the faculty and the in the curriculum is integral in any educational environment, because as young and maturing adults, we are for the most part still trying to find out who we are and where we want to go."

"Diversity, including race, gender, political affiliation, and even hobbies, helps to give a balanced approach to education, especially a 'liberal' education, while also revealing topics of interests to students who might not otherwise have been exposed to them."

Departmental willingness for curricular change is only one of a number of strategies that Davidson is currently employing to attract a more diverse faculty.

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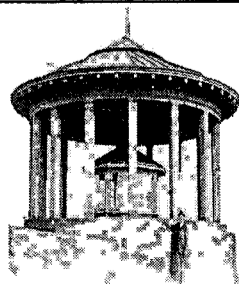
SPORTS: Cat Pack bursting with school spirit

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