

A Moment of Loudness



Davidson students, faculty and staff members gather at the campus flagpole on Monday to make noise in support of diversity. The event was organized by Leadership Davidson.

SGA update: Lake dock, Commons, Davidsonian

CRISTINA BUSTILLO
Staff Writer

This meeting began with Christie Mason's final presentation for the investment on a new dock for the Crew team, since the dock they are using for now is in bad condition and sinks whenever it is used. The research process was thorough and everything was done in order to guarantee that this investment will be a good one. This motion was passed and the Crew team will be able to fully practice.

Immediately after this, Meikaela Zwierzynski '10, SGA President, intervened in order to announce that planning was taking place for the Social Life Forum, an event where the climate of social life would be discussed. The idea of this forum is to further understand the social climate and culture at Davidson in order to figure out what the needs and potential problem areas are.

Next, Faheem Rathmore '12 commented on the Feedback Dinner that took place on November 3. The biggest debate during the dinner was the freshness of fruit in Commons and the Union. Dee Phillips, the head of Dining Services, said that she wished to make this better and the increase of fresh fruit in Commons should be seen soon. Rathmore wishes to identify any further concerns from students.

Zwierzynski took the floor next in order to discuss the safety signs that have been up around campus for all of the semester. Particularly, the "If it matters take it with you" signs. There was a long debate on the impression that these signs make on visitors and

students. Many believe that the signs make it seem like the campus is more insecure than it actually is and that it makes the Honor Code look like it is not a big part of life on campus. The opposing point of view is that 97% of the crime that occurs on campus is avoidable and that these signs will help to prevent crime. The topic will be further discussed in future meetings.

Next in the order of business was the appointment of a new Publicity Chair, led by Baker Shogry '10, SGA Vice-President. Since there was no student interest, the appointment of someone within SGA for the remainder of the semester was approved, but next February, when elections are held, this position will be open to all students. Until then, Chipper Jones '12 will be responsible for this office.

After the vote, some Davidson community concerns were discussed. Leading this discussion was Zwierzynski, who brought it up because of the articles printed in the previous edition of the Davidsonian that touched upon sexuality and the Christian faith.

The main concerns that were brought up during the meeting were that SGA feels like this is a community in which we live and that all of us should feel safe to be themselves within this community.

In addition to this, SGA wants to further evaluate what the articles printed mean to the community and how SGA should respond to them. SGA believes that Davidson is a community that accepts and invites diversity and that everyone is welcome into the community.

"Then and Now" alumni panelists discuss diversity

KATIE VOEGTLI
Staff Writer

In the fall of 1964, Davidson ushered in its first students of color - Leslie Brown and Wayne Crumwell. Though dozens of minority students have traipsed through Chambers since, their participation in reunions, alumni gatherings and fundraising efforts remains distressingly low.

In an attempt to reengage alumni of color, the Davidson College Alumni Association organized a weekend devoted to sharing past struggles and envisioning the future. Saturday morning's panel discussion, entitled "Davidson Then and Now: Where We've Been and Where We're Going" featured graduates Calvin Murphy '70, Mitzi

"No matter what is going on right now, your attitude about it is the prism through which it will shape your life."

-Calvin Murphy '70

Short '83, Romy Cawood '89, Izzy Justice '90, Rosie Molinary '96, Gagan Gupta '07 and professor Magdalena Maiz-Peña.

Among the first black students at Davidson, Murphy hailed from a decidedly segregated community. He came to school expecting that "everything would be honky dory," but trials abounded, from racial slurs to dismissive professors. However, after his initial disillusionment, Murphy decided that he was "master of [his] fate" and pressed onward, assured that "being tested in the crucible of adversity makes you stronger."

In time, he learned to embrace the David-



Panelists at Saturday's Alumni Diversity Weekend speak about their experiences with diversity at Davidson.

son community and left a legacy in the form of the Black Student Coalition. But traces of bitterness haunted him for years after graduation and did not fade until he reconciled himself with his past racial tensions. He now advises, "Once you let it go, your life will blossom."

On the other end of the spectrum, Justice felt that, "Coming here was like escaping prison... It was very liberating for me." As a colored male in Zambia, Justice was a third class citizen and suffered intense segregation. Any injustices here paled in comparison to those in Zambia, where he could not even travel without a pass. While he experienced times of discomfort, he said, "For every negative experience... I can give you five to six

positive ones."

Both Cawood and Gupta hailed from progressive, fully integrated high schools. The former was "naïve about the state of racial relations in the US" and the latter had "no sense of race consciousness." Gupta wrestled with his place at Davidson. He realizes, however, that had he gone to a school without racial awareness, "maybe that consciousness would not have been sparked." Now, he gratefully considers Davidson the beginning of his search for identity.

Many of the panelists agreed on this point. As Murphy said, "We had the same struggles as every other student who comes to Davidson... because college is a discovery period."

The questioning of identity is not limited to race. Molinary felt that, "My family's socioeconomic status was really obvious." Justice eventually severed his Muslim roots. Murphy underwent and said, "No matter what is going on right now, your attitude about it is the prism through which it will shape direct your life."

Davidson is certainly continuing to grow in diversity, and Murphy affirmed that, "What you see is a long, long way from 1966." Nonetheless, it can be an uncomfortable place for students of all races. Alumni agree that self-questioning the issue sparks leads to valuable growth. Murphy said, "If you stop becoming, go ahead and stick one foot

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