

Surplus, from page 1

come," Marsicano explained. After having put in the request for the additional 300 meals, the College received 204 late RSVPs. In addition to low student response, many parents also neglected to RSVP. Marsicano explains the final number of uneaten meals as a result of several factors. "Given the impact the rain had on attendance and that a surprising number of people who attended the inauguration left without picking up a lunch, I figure we paid for up to 300 lunches (counting vegan options) that went uneaten by Davidson inauguration guests," Marsicano said. Marsicano also estimated that around 200

baskets remained from the luncheon. The College now plans to resell or reuse the baskets for other College events. As for the cost of Inauguration and Fall Convocation, Marsicano could not provide exact figures due to the fact that the bills are still arriving. Marsicano did, however, say that the event cost around \$30 per head, a figure that takes into account food, baskets, setup, staffing and other expenditures. Marsicano also said that the College tried to save money by reusing centerpieces from one dinner to the next. Ross wanted to combine Inauguration and Fall Convocation, which might have otherwise been separate events, both to minimize costs and to celebrate the College rather than him.

White board, from page 1

topic, "How can Davidson best embrace the GLBTQ community?", one student wrote "Davidson basketball is awesome!!!" Just Peace feels that the erasing of such off topic comments is necessary. "We're trying to foster intelligent and meaningful discourse," Goldberger said. "If we were holding an open forum conversation about a certain topic, and someone in the audience made a comment that had nothing to do with that topic, we, as the moderators, would move the discussion back to the central point or idea. It's the same thing with the board—if something gets written that is really not adding to the conversation, we take it off." Several students have questioned the heated, sometimes hostile, anonymous debate that fills the board. For instance, a recent response to the death penalty topic referred to "frying" convicts, a response which disgusted other writers.

According to Student Government Association (SGA) President Chris Burton '08, the anonymity associated with the Free Speech Board can make it "a conduit for cowardice." "People can take license to say things that they would never say if they were held accountable for it," Burton said. "On the other side, I think it's wonderful that such a spectrum of opinions comes to the light, and we truly see people's opinions on a variety of topics. The writing on the board, at times deliberately provocative, allows us to see the underbelly of Davidson's sentiment. This is the kind of dialogue that strengthens our commerce of exchanged thought." "We all get so caught up in what we're doing here that we stop thinking about what is going on elsewhere and how it affects us," Goldberger said. "Just Peace is hoping to get people talking about, thinking about and ultimately acting on those things that are so frequently forgotten but which are definitely important."

Mason brings enthusiasm

BY NINA MACE
Staff Writer

Dr. Sarah Mason, the newest member of the Mathematics Department, brings to Davidson a specialization in combinatorics, a passion for students and a love of triathlons. The Georgia native was drawn to Davidson because of its emphasis on both teaching and research, as well as the caliber of the students.

"Dr. Mason brings strengths in teaching and research that have been well-recognized, including three different teaching awards as a graduate student and an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship," Richard Neidinger, the Mathematics Department chair, said.

Before coming to Davidson, Mason still had three years left in her fellowship. When she heard Davidson had a position open, however, she applied.

"Davidson was the only place I applied," she said. "It's my dream job." Mason said she enjoys being at Davidson. "It's very challenging and rewarding," she said. "It's more than a job; I already feel it's home. I feel like I've been here a long time even though it's just been a few months."

When Mason began her undergraduate education at the University of Georgia, she planned to major in English. She admits that she still loves to read, but her educational plans changed when she got a job tutoring math because she had done well in her high school math classes.

Mason then wanted to go into math education, planning to teach high school, but she enjoyed the upper-level math classes so much that she decided to go to graduate school for research in math. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2006.

"She is very interested in working with students in her research and, in fact, is already working with senior Katie Daves '08

on a year-long project," Neidinger said. "Her expertise is in combinatorics, an area where problems are accessible to undergraduates." In describing combinatorics, Mason said, "I look for patterns and different ways to count phenomenon." She has been able to continue her research at Davidson, attending a workshop in September as well as one in Tennessee last weekend.



Dr. Sarah Mason, the new Math professor. Outside of teaching and research, Mason is a triathlete. She trains year-round and competes a few times every year. She said that there is a great triathlon community in this area.

This semester, Mason is teaching Calculus I and Discrete Methods, and she said that she has been surprised by the interest her students take in learning and understanding the material, even if they are taking the class to meet a requirement.

"I'm really impressed by the work ethic and intellectual curiosity of the students," Mason said.

In the spring, Mason will teach Multivariable Calculus and Finite Methods

CAMPUS POLICE BLOTTER

10/29/07 Patterson Court	6:16 p.m.	Fire alarm
An officer received a dispatched call from North Mecklenburg Communications advising that Davidson Fire Department was on scene at 122 Patterson Ct. Cir. (BSC House) in reference to a fire alarm. On arrival, the reporting officer was advised by the Davidson Fire Department that a fog machine, being used outside the front door for a haunted house, had activated the fire alarm. The alarm was reset, and the house was advised not to use the fog machine anymore.		
10/30/07 Row Dormitories	11:23 p.m.	Illicit substances
The Public Safety Office received a call via an officer's cell phone from an RA who told officers that he had received a complaint that the smell of marijuana was coming from a dorm room. Upon arrival, the two reporting officers could smell an odor that was believed to be marijuana. They knocked on the door: a student answered. When officers explained the problem, the student immediately walked to his dresser and removed from his top dresser drawer a blue glass pipe and a small pill bottle containing a small amount of marijuana. There was another student in the room, who, based on the officer's training and experience, was under the influence of some incapacitating substance. He displayed a lack of coordination and a glassy-eyed appearance with no odor of alcohol present. When asked, the student admitted to smoking marijuana. After a search of the room for additional contraband, a brown wooden container used to store a small pipe, marijuana and a machined aluminum leaf dicer used to grind marijuana were found. During the search of the room, 48 cans of Milwaukee's Best Light beer were also discovered.		
10/31/07 Row Dormitories	12:30 a.m.	Drug training
At the request of some students, two Public Safety officers conducted a community meeting with RAs and students in connection with an illicit substance bust the night before. The officers instructed the students about the use and smell of marijuana and what to look for in an affected person. The officers went over the types of pipes and bongs that can be used. The group was allowed to smell the pipes and see what the substance looks like, as well as how to recognize the signs that someone is using drugs, like bloodshot eyes and the attempt to hide the smell with perfume or incense.		
10/31/07 Martin Court-F	11:20 p.m.	-Non-students at party
The Public Safety Office received a phone call from a concerned student that three suspicious males were in attendance at a party at Martin Court-F. The responding officer received the call in the parking lot and found three male subjects who were not Davidson students. It was discovered that they were students from the NASCAR Technical Institution in Mooresville and had walked down to Martin Court from their residence on Beatty St. None of the subjects had identification on them, and the officer advised all three that they were on private property and had to leave immediately. The three subjects left the area without incident.		

News in Brief

BY MONICA JAMOUNEAU AND SUMMERLEE WALTER
News Editor and Editor-in-Chief

Knight Foundation funds no-loan policy.

With the recent award of a grant, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is supporting Davidson's initiative to replace student loans with a combination of grants and campus employment. The no-loan policy makes it possible for underprivileged students to graduate debt-free, and follow their post-graduate dreams without worrying about the financial implications of their decisions.

The Knight Foundation will provide a \$250,000 grant during the '07-'08 school year. It will cost Davidson up to \$3.5 million a year to eliminate loans, and the college will be raising \$70 million to permanently endow the policy. In making their commitment last February, Davidson's trustees also pledged neither to raise tuition, nor to reduce academic programming to meet its costs.

In June 2006, loans were capped at \$3,000 per year, which limited student debt to \$12,000 upon graduation. But, believing they needed to do more to ensure access for all qualified applicants, Davidson's trustees made the pledge to eliminate loans altogether.

Headquartered in Miami, Fla., The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes journalism excellence worldwide and invests in the vitality of the communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers.

Student-faculty dinners commence soon

Beginning Monday, Nov. 26, the College will host a series of monthly student-faculty dinners designed to build community and foster open exchange between the groups.

"Sometime there's a perception among students that faculty don't understand life is like for students," President Tom Ross said, "and sometimes there's a perception among faculty that students don't understand what it's like to be a professor at Davidson."

The idea for a series of dinners and lunches was a suggestion that Ross received during Senior Dinner.

Each dinner will include approximately 10 students and 15 faculty members. For students, the dinners are not only in order to keep the number of attendees high, but also to ensure that students and faculty members in attendance are diverse.

Initially, the dinners will include students because, according to Ross, they are the students with the most experience and the most likely to be comfortable expressing their honest opinions.

Ross has reminded the faculty that academic retaliation for remarks that students make during the dinners would be unethical.

The College hopes to host four or five of these dinners throughout the course of the year. The dinners will not have a pre-determined agenda.

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