

College praised by national media

By CLAIRE COVINGTON
Staff Writer

When students are asked where they attend school, those who proudly answer "Davidson College" usually get a follow-up question: "Oh...Where is that again?" However, after all of Davidson's recent national publicity, blank stares and confused faces are being replaced with recognition.

Davidson is all over the news, and people are noticing.

"The publicity has served to put Davidson on the radar. It gives us greater name recognition and levels the playing field. People are seeing more parallels to other competitive schools."

—Chris Gruber,
Vice President and Dean of
Admission and Financial Aid

"Instead of being known as the 'Princeton of the South,' we are finally getting our own name and the recognition we deserve," Brady Evans '08 said.

Davidson has been featured in five different national publications since July.

The Jul. 30 edition of the "New York Times" mentions Davidson as an increasingly popular destination for Northeastern students.

Davidson is also listed in "Newsweek's" Aug. 21 issue as one of the 25 New Ivies, and "Black Enterprise" names Davidson as one of the 50 great colleges for African-American students to attend.

Once again, Davidson remains on the top 10 list of best liberal arts schools in "US

News."

"We were very pleased with all of the positive coverage," Director of Media Relations Bill Giduz '74 said. "There is no way you can campaign for inclusion in those lists."

On Aug. 21, Time Magazine featured a story, "Who Needs Harvard," that began with a picture of James Sanchez '07. The article reports that Sanchez turned down Harvard for the greater experience and opportunities that Davidson provides.

As a neuroscience major, Sanchez was particularly interested in research opportunities when he chose to come to Davidson.

"You can get a great education at any school," Sanchez said, "but the breadth of experience, the contact with professors and the research experience are things that are only available at smaller schools like Davidson."

Sanchez works with memory and learning in rats, developing new insights into Alzheimer's disease. He praises the research opportunities at Davidson.

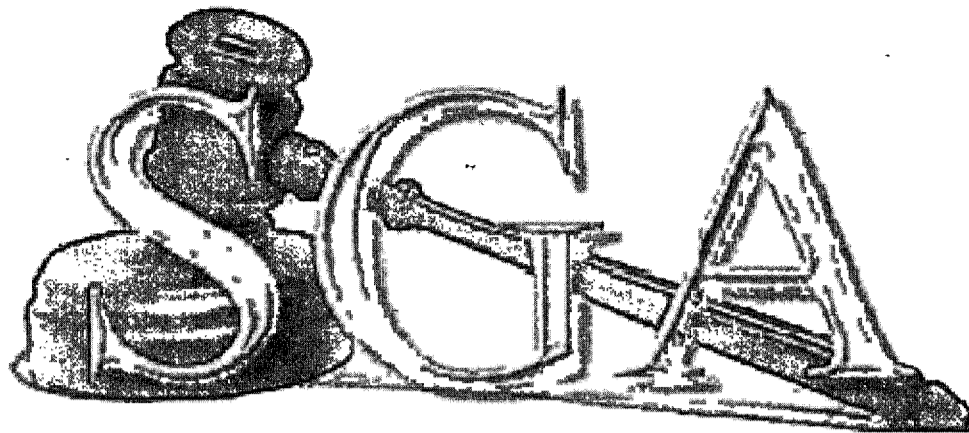
"I get to work independently, without someone looking over my shoulder," Sanchez said. "It is difficult to stand out at the bigger schools. The confidence I have now is not easy to get at other places."

One result of the national coverage has been an increase in local media focused on Davidson. Both the Charlotte Observer and the Lake Norman Times have published articles detailing the publicity that Davidson has received.

"It's kind of like 'the rich get richer' effect," Giduz said. He believes that the more buzz Davidson generates, the more attention it is going to receive.

Prospective students have also showed greater interest in Davidson since the publi-

See Media, page 4



DCC lobbies for creation of minority senator position

Leonard explains Presidential Search Committee

By LYDIE WHITE
Staff Writer

The selection of a new College president and the possible creation of new senator positions to represent minority groups under the Diversity Coordinating Committee (DCC) formed much of the discussion during the Student Government Association's Aug. 31 meeting.

SGA met with the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, Paul Leonard '62, who updated the senators on the current stages of the selection process and offered them a chance to voice their concerns and clarify uncertainties.

Leonard explained that on Aug. 29, those members of the Committee who had already been selected met and decided it is necessary to hire an outside professional consulting agency to find presidential candidates. After assessing the College's needs, the Committee will then begin selecting candidates.

Addressing the need for the selection process to remain secretive by withholding certain information concerning progress, Leonard explained that currently four of the nation's top twenty colleges are searching for new presidents. Leonard explained that this will make the hiring process more competitive.

Members of the Committee will sign confidentially agreements.

Eighteen members will comprise the Committee, which consists of faculty, staff, students and trustees. Three students will participate on the board on behalf of the entire student body.

Leonard explained that it is still uncertain what will happen with regard to students' knowledge of who the candidates are because specific candidates may or may not want their interests to become public.

Leonard concluded that, in order to keep elite candidates available, it is in the Committee's best interests to remain circumspect.

Questions from senators and students centered on whether the new president will be a Davidson alumnus and whether he or she must necessarily affiliate with a Christian

denomination. Leonard answered that, while in the past both conditions may have applied, the criteria for selection will not necessarily be the same this time.

After Leonard's presentation, Faris Al Mazrui '07 and Whitney White '08, speaking on behalf of DCC, presented SGA with projected statistics for the number of minority groups on campus and delineated the options available to provide more representation for these students.

DCC asked that SGA create four new senatorial positions to represent the nine minority groups on campus included within DCC. Currently, according to a DCC survey, only nine percent of SGA senators directly represent minority students and groups.

"The DCC is a board of the Student Government Association that seeks to promote a positive campus consciousness of diversity through participation and sponsorship of social, cultural and leadership development events," said White. "In the upcoming academic year, we plan to increase campus awareness of issues relating to diversity, bring minority groups together and promote a heightened level of interaction between minority and non-minority students."

Many students supporting the DCC proposal were present to make their support visible to the senators.

"I believe that SGA should accurately represent the entire student body, and through this proposal I know that there will be fair representation if it is implemented," DCC treasurer Charisma Loney '08 said. "I have confidence that SGA is truly an organization that sincerely wants to change and develop our campus for the better, and I know that they will do whatever it takes to make Davidson College the greatest academic and social institution it can be."

While there was some opposition to the proposal, the response was generally positive.

"There is a huge interest from the organizations within DCC to have better representation in SGA," SGA senator A.J. Hergenroeder '08 said. "I foresee several dedicated new senators entering into student government in the near future thanks to Whitney's proposal."

The Joel Conarroe Lecture Series presents
Thursday, September 14, 2006
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 Duke Family Performance Hall
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