

# The Davidsonian

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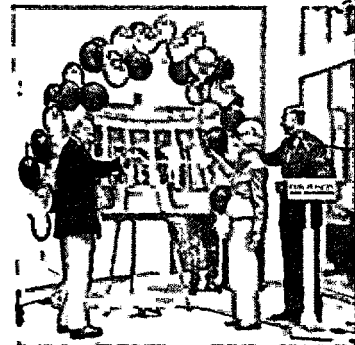
DAVIDSON COLLEGE

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Marcus and Carol Weinstein honor former president Sam Spencer with donation and help President Ross dedicate new Weinstein Center, which will house Dean Rusk program

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Dance Ensemble hits the stage for its Fall show with successful performances Friday and Saturday nights

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### 'CATS WRAP-UP TRAVELING REGULAR SEASON WITH WIN AT CITADEL



'Cats finish road season with win at Citadel, loss at home to Georgia Southern leading into Senior Day this coming Saturday

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## Spach leads forum on homosexuality and Christianity

KELLY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Monday night, College Chaplain Dr. Rob Spach '84 hosted "Homosexuality and Christianity: A Conversation with the College Chaplain" to discuss concerns emerging from last week's publication of two articles in The Davidsonian which presented opposing opinions on Christianity's view of homosexuality.

After opening remarks, Spach facilitated discussion about the issues raised by the articles, answered specific questions about how a Presbyterian should interpret these issues and acknowledged the broad range of community reactions.

Key themes included the value of open discussion in the Davidson community as well as the affirmation of diverse viewpoints. Spach stressed the importance of embracing differing views and the College's full support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning people.

Spach noted that biblical interpretations regarding homosexuality vary from religion to religion and believer to believer. "Clearly, faithful Christians differ about the question of whether homosexuality is sinful or not. I fall in the camp that would say that homosexuality is not sinful, and I base that on my own understanding of scripture... I also want to be very clear that I'm presenting my perspective. I understand that there are other Christians who disagree with me, and they do so in ways that are thoughtful, in

ways that are careful, and in ways that I respect, though I don't agree."

Spach highlighted passages in the Bible that make reference to same-gender sex. He explained how some theologians interpret the text as a condemnation of homosexuality while others note that the cultural context of when these words were written suggest alternative meanings.

He spoke extensively about the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, which contains passages that say a man shall not lie with another man. "The question becomes, how do you interpret passages like that? You need to always put the text in a broader context," Spach said. "Ask, what's a proper interpretation? Is it just because the lines say it that we know immediately what it means?"

"In this case, the prohibitions in Leviticus are part of what's called the Holiness Code," he continued. "It's a code that was given to the Jewish people to set them apart from the other nations. A big part of that code was making the distinction between things that are clean and things that are unclean."

"It becomes very difficult as a Christian, I think, to go back and



photo by Bill Giduz

Spach addresses concerns about homosexuality and Davidson's Presbyterian tradition on Monday night

say, well this one line says it in the Holiness Code, and therefore it applies across the board," Spach argued. "The Holiness Code says a lot of different things. It talks about how you shouldn't eat pork; it talks about not eating shellfish; it talks about not wearing clothes woven of two different fabrics. And so it becomes a question of on what basis do you select these passages and say this is how you apply it."

In light of these Biblical passages, Spach noted that Davidson's Presbyterian affiliation is grounded in the Reformed tradition, which encourages followers to hold their beliefs with a sense of humility.

"While we may believe that there is Truth, we are never the possessors of that Truth. We cannot know the full Truth. We are limited by our historical circumstances, our cultural circumstance, and as Christians would say, by our 'fallenness' - by the fact that we are sinful beings."

"I completely respect people who want to disagree with that," he continued. "But I'm just telling you that's a basic Christian way of seeing the world. Because we are who we are, limited in the ways we are, we have to hold our Truth in a way

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## Women's soccer clinches first ever NCAA tournament berth

JOHN MORGAN  
Staff Writer

Entering the month of October with a 3-8 record, the 'Cats narrowly snuck into the SoCon tournament off a tiebreaker. But last weekend they won, defeating UNC-Greensboro and College of Charleston for their first conference championship in 13 years and first NCAA tournament bid, ever.

Over the season's first weeks, a tough out-of-conference schedule handed the team a 3-8 record, but also left them with a host of experiences. "For us, scheduling those tough teams early on, we didn't beat them, but ultimately we learned from them, so it served its purpose," Head coach Greg Ashton said. On Oct. 2, the team did the unthinkable, handing UNC-G its first SoCon loss in 33 games.

Last Friday, the in-season rivals squared off again, this time on Spartan turf for the first round of the SoCon tourney. UNC-G strolled onto the field as the No. 1 seed, motivated to avenge the earlier loss. But the 'Cats played to their

confidence, knowing they could do it again.

Just six weeks ago, Davidson was marred by chronically slow starts, getting itself bogged down in early mistakes it couldn't recover from. That all changed in October, and the momentum evidently continued this month.

The 'Cats launched an early offensive attack, matching the aggressive Spartans shot for shot. In the end, it turns out only one mattered. In the 19th minute, the trio of Lauren Conner '10, Blakely Low '10, and Kyri Bye-Nagel '10 led the charge as they've done all year.

A shot by Low ripped off the top crossbar, and before it drifted out of bounds, Bye-Nagel redirected the ball to the close box. A waiting Conner punched it in with authority for Davidson's first score.

After the early goal, the team played possession ball to avoid costly mistakes. "In the first 45 minutes, we played the best we've ever played, any time of mine at Davidson," Ashton said. "We dominated the game, we scored our goal, we were confident, and we were mov-



photo by Tripp Bartholomew

Kyri Bye-Nagel '10 breaks away from a defender. Women's soccer will play #2 seed USC Friday in the NCAA tournament.

ing the ball."

The second 45 minutes were not much worse. UNC-G mounted a frenzied attack in the second half, outshooting the 'Cats 14 to 1. But backed by the profound progress all year, the defense refused to allow easy chances.

Jessie Baxa '12 posted up be-

tween the pipes, snuffing out the 5 on-target Spartan shots in the second period. At the final buzzer, she had recorded her third shutout of the year, and Davidson had beaten the SoCon's perennial champs twice in regulation.

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