

Panelists call for AIDS awareness

BY JULIA EDWARDS
Staff Writer

An AIDS awareness panel discussion culminated a week of events coordinated by Warner Hall and Professor of Biology Dave Wessner's HIV/AIDS seminar to raise awareness about the local, national and international effects of AIDS.

DaVondia Roseborough, a community advocate with AIDS; Mary DeWalt, a local nurse who works with AIDS infants; and Deborah Bix, the director of the Global AIDS Program for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) composed the panel.

"Our goal was to give those who attended a 360 view of the virus and its effects," Warner Hall service chair Courtney Sanders '09 said. "The fact that we had someone who works with AIDS from the CDC, a nurse who takes care of AIDS babies and an AIDS victim really gave attendees a full perspective of the virus and its effects."

Each panelist presented different issues associated with AIDS, providing the audience with a variety of unique perspectives.

The AIDS victim, for example, discussed how difficult it is for low-income patients to afford their prescriptions.

"There is even a black market for AIDS and HIV drugs now," she said. "People can sell the drugs that they don't use for a cheaper price. The problem you run into, though, is that many of the drugs sold on the black market aren't effective for the patient they are sold to."

Dewalt then discussed the testing she does for the infants of infected mothers. Babies born to mothers with HIV or AIDS may or may not contract the virus, depending upon the delivery. Her job is to test the newborns and to instruct the mothers on the type of care their child needs if it is HIV positive.

The problem that she often faces is that pediatricians do not properly test the infants.

"Many mothers call me, outraged that I tested their child negative and the pediatrician's test said positive," she said. "This happens frequently because many doctors are using tests that aren't searching for the right things in infants."

Bix then spoke about her work with the CDC.

She has witnessed the progression of the AIDS epidemic from its outbreak in 1981. She recalls working in hospitals before the virus had been identified or any treatment

had been invented, when doctors were helpless to aid the dying children of infected parents.

"Today we still have no cure for AIDS," Bix said, "but the prescription drugs available allow victims to live much longer and control their symptoms, which at least gives health care workers a greater sense of control."

Bix's work in AIDS now frequently takes her to Asia and Africa as part of American efforts to promote international AIDS relief.

While the AIDS epidemic is drastically more widespread in the developing world than in industrialized nations and the stigma is so strong in Africa that mothers with AIDS are often shunned from their villages, she remains optimistic.

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-Deborah Bix,
Director of the Global AIDS
Program for the CDC

"Because of the President's Emergency plan for AIDS, we are able to get the same drugs that we use in America to Africans for free," she said.

Also because of the President's Emergency plan for AIDS, more people are being treated than ever before. Every day in Sub-Saharan Africa, 14,000 people are infected with HIV, and hospitals treat 1,000 new patients each day. While this leaves much room for improvement, it is a drastic change from 10 years ago.

Bix left the audience with the message that advocacy is needed still today in order to continue combating the epidemic.

"One person, one voice can change people's lives," she said.

Students appear to have taken the speakers' messages to heart.

"Individuals can and do make a difference in the fight against AIDS," panel coordinator Rebecca Jameson '07 said. "Combating the pandemic requires more than just scientific advancements."



Deborah Bix, Mary DeWalt and DaVondia Roseborough discuss AIDS awareness.

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Diversity, from page 1

wigs to swap races.

The two speakers were Brian Sparks, the father from the black family, and Rose Wurgel, the daughter from the white family.

In addition to organizing this speech, the Union Board also helped to sponsor the Human Race Machine and provide publicity.

"We are fortunate enough that, being such a large and well-funded organization, we are able to cosponsor events with other campus organization," said Union Board President Elizabeth Berndt '07. "We can provide publicity support and other personnel assistance to help various campus events happen."

Berndt noted that the Union Board was glad for the opportunity to help promote issues of social justice.

"The Union Board tends to focus on mainly fun events that try to give students relief from their academic work," she said. "We

thought this would be a great opportunity to stress social awareness and education."

The week of programming culminated on Dec. 1 with a campus-wide recognition of World AIDS Day. Davidson celebrated the day with the lighting of AIDS luminaries across campus, a screening of the movie "Philadelphia," a panel discussion on HIV/AIDS and the display in the Union of an AIDS quilt honoring members of the Davidson community affected by AIDS.

Brown hopes DARE week will serve as a springboard for continual discussion of diversity issues at Davidson.

"We don't expect any great resolution," she said, "but we want to make sure Davidson feels comfortable talking about these issues as a community and that people know that there are resources on campus when they have questions or want to have more discussion."

Sorority, from page 1

statement and recommendations must be submitted.

The application for admission notably has no option for reporting of race, as all are welcomed and encouraged to join.

Once the sorority is present at Davidson, it will bring a new element of diversity and service to Patterson Court. No special rules will be made for the sorority, as all the same rules apply as they do with the fraternities and eating houses.

There will be no Alpha Kappa Alpha house at Patterson Court, as historically black sororities traditionally do not have houses. This will allow the sorority to co-sponsor events with other Patterson Court organizations, providing more student interaction and inclusion with this sorority.

"The goal with the sorority is to have all of campus feel very included. Our service opportunities and speakers will be open so

that anyone can feel like they can contribute," Moore said. "I hope that people will not have preconceived notions of the name 'historically black sorority'. I hope that everyone will be open-minded and understand that it is open to all women who want to make a difference."

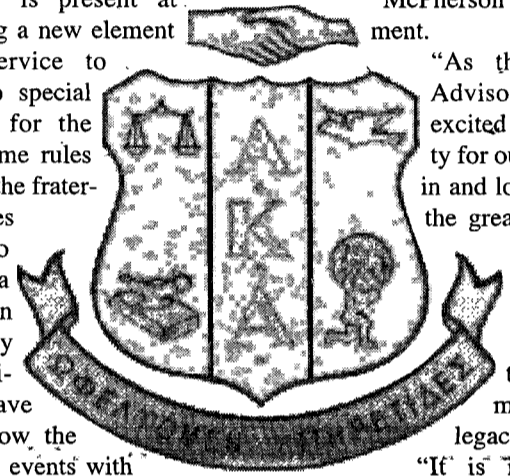
McPherson echoed her excitement.

"As the Patterson Court Advisor I am extremely excited about this opportunity for our women to take part in and look forward to seeing the great things that I know

the organization will do in years to come," McPherson said.

Its advocates view the sorority as a means of leaving a legacy at Davidson.

"It is important that this organization be present as an organization aimed at minority women because it is not transient in nature. I want to see something that is more institutionalized, something that will be here every time I come back to Davidson," Moore said.



Financial Aid, from page 1

admission policy, which means that a student's financial need does not influence whether or not he or she is admitted into the school.

Once a student is admitted, the college is dedicated to meeting demonstrated need through a variety of available options that are assembled into a personal financial aid package.

Last year, Davidson increased the grant awards it distributes in aid packages and imposed a cap on loans.

The cap is designed to limit student debt after college.

Now, the highest annual loan included in a package is \$3,000, which means that the maximum debt a student could accrue in their time at Davidson is \$12,000.

Davidson meets any remaining financial need with grants and student employment, also called self-help.

Sarah Rice '08 said that she would not have attended Davidson if it were not for her financial aid package.

"I would have gone to the University of Virginia. The only reason I came to Davidson is because they gave me \$500 more [a year] than UVA did," Rice said.

Rice also said that it's important to for Davidson to offer significant financial aid packages "so that Davidson doesn't turn into a school filled with people of all the same background."

The College is also trying to reach prospective students through their high school guidance counselors.

On Nov. 17, the Office of Admission and Financial Aid hosted high school guidance

counselors from the surrounding area for a half-day presentation on the realities of college affordability.

Several students who say they could not have attended the colleges they did without financial aid spoke to the assembled guidance counselors about their experiences.

"They had someone who helped them realize that college can be affordable," said Gruber. "It was counselors and advisors within [their schools] who made that happen."

Gruber and other staff members felt the program was a success.

According to Gruber, when Steve Brooks, the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, stood to make his closing remarks, he applauded Davidson's effort.

"This [initiative] is something we need to take statewide," Brooks said. "This clearly can make a difference."

Davidson would like to attract more low-income students, partly to enrich the school's student body.

"The person who is seated to the right or left of you in class is going to contribute to your education," Gruber said. "We're looking to open the door in many ways to increase diversity in this campus."

Gruber pointed out that already the school is diverse in ways that some may not realize.

"Diversity isn't spotted when you walk in the room," he said. "The richness of stories that is out there on this campus is wonderful."

Gruber mentioned a Davidson student who worked 45 hours a week during high school to help support his family.

"Is that diversity?" he asked. "You bet."