

# The Davidsonian

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

## 1998 Category II Election Candidates

As next Monday's school-wide elections approach, the Elections Committee and the Staff of the Davidsonian have worked to produce this special issue of the Davidsonian in order to give the students a chance to meet their candidates. Each candidate was required to answer questions that were posed both by the Elections Committee and by those who hold the office which the candidates seek. The ATC Vice Chair has only this chance to campaign. The other candidates are using this opportunity to share their plans with the student population.

The elections this year will be conducted in a different manner as the ballots will be processed by ScanTron. This new method will hopefully reduce counting errors and cut down on the time in between the closing of elections and the notification of runoffs. Enjoy this special feature and please stop by one of the voting tables in either the Commons or in Chambers to vote for the future leaders of important student organizations.

— Matt West

## SGA PRESIDENT

1. What prior experiences qualify you in particular for this leadership position?
2. How do you propose to keep the student body motivated and involved in the agenda of the Student Government?
3. What is your biggest weakness and how do you feel you can use this to best serve the student body?

1. The position of SGA President requires much more than boardroom experience. Not only does the president need patience, organizational skills, and strong leadership abilities, but also he/she must have certain natural intangibles: unwavering enthusiasm, persistent drive, and selfless willingness to defend students' concerns. My service in the SGA Senate, although brief, was substantial because I gained first-hand knowledge of the bureaucracy that stalls constructive proposals. Through dedicated service as an athlete, hall counselor, member of Patterson Court, and community volunteer, I have learned to promote action and accomplish goals in an efficient manner.

2. The SGA President must be a highly visible/approachable member of the college community. Through my diverse campus experiences I interact with multiple student groups in a variety of environments. As President Vagt has promoted support for Davidson's extra-curricular activities through his participation, I will motivate students to cherish college events by my endless involvement in Davidson's athletics, social, and cultural facets, as well as in SGA activities.

3. Clearly my perceived weakness is a lack of SGA boardroom experience. However, I feel that this exclusion from the entrenched SGA elite will enable me to provide new energy and ideas to a group that has, justly or unjustly, gained a reputation as a stagnant bureaucracy that is removed from the student population.

4. The SGA must be prepared to more efficiently analyze students' concerns in the 21st century. By



Daniel Cowan

initiating a restructuring renaissance focusing on reducing the number of committees, diversifying people on each committee, implementing and fostering mechanisms for student input, and identifying goals and initiatives vital to the student population, the SGA can increase its accreditation with the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty, becoming a more effective and subsequently more powerful governing force in the future.

5. I envision a Davidson that is willing to acknowledge and be proud of its time-honored past while actively embracing changes that will enhance Davidson's image in the 21st century.

By not being entrenched in the current SGA bureaucracy I am well suited and willing to adapt the SGA into an efficient which ensures that the college remembers who Davidson (e.g. veterans, civil servants, administrators, professors, etc.) while continuing to solve students' problems and needs well into the 21st century.

6. Every member of Davidson College's student-body is a participant in SGA. The SGA President should not be seen as the leader of an exclusive club, but rather a stand-up facilitator who relates to, and therefore can sufficiently represent, a vast majority of Davidson's students. Davidson's diversified constituency should be represented not only in weekly SGA meetings, but also in meetings with the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty. As a dedicated athlete, hall counselor, community service activist, member of Patterson Court, and student, I feel that I have experienced and embody several aspects of a Davidson College student that are treasured.

1. Currently, I serve as the SGA Vice President and have also served as Sophomore Class President and a Freshman Class Senator. I am a member of the CCRL, the Student Conduct Council, and the Priorities Planning Group. Also, I have been the Chairperson of the Charters and Bylaws Committee and the SGA Leadership Committee.

2. Active recruitment of students for the 20 committees and councils, better publicity of SGA events, and stronger senator—constituent relations.

3. I have trouble thinking and leading politically. To me, the SGA is not a strict political body. It is simply an agency for concerned students to sort out solutions.

4. Membership structure and student involvement. Every student is a member of SGA, and over the last year, campus-wide participation has increased. The SGA must continue to recruit active committee



Ann Harriott Fisher

members and dedicated senators. More voices need to be heard. Maintaining this upward trend in student involvement is most important.

5. A more unified and active, yet diverse, Davidson. I would continue to work to strengthen the SGA's Solidarity Committee and the Council on Minority Affairs.

I would also promote greater student use of the SGA as a forum to implement change.

6. Commitment to the SGA, knowledge of the system, accessibility to students, and a strong working relationship with senators and administrators. I have been actively involved with the SGA in many capacities for 2 1/2 years. I know the system and I know the issues. I have the experience and I have the dedication. I would love to continue to represent the student body.

# SGA VICE PRESIDENT

1. I've been an SGA class senator since my freshman year. I co-chair two SGA committees; the Public Relations Committee which is responsible for events like SGA day every semester and the Town Relations Committee where I act as a student voice at Town Council meetings. I am also the House Manager of Warner Hall. I've been in a leadership position every semester that I've been at Davidson.

2. The Vice President has an important connection not only to the Senate, but to the students, via the SGA committee system, which the VP works closely with through the Intercouncil. I plan to basically listen, watch and ask question among the Senate and the student body, then relay what I learn to the President.

3. I think that the majority of the campus is aware that SGA exists, but not aware of just how many of the needs of the students their representative body can address. The SGA can channel student input throughout the school, and I intend to encourage students to exercise their opinions.



**Julie Chevallier**

4. I see the SGA moving toward a more unified and concrete direction. I hope to encourage the committees to solidify and meet more regularly and for senators to better meet the needs of their constituents. Because the SGA is defined as the major representative body, I would like to see it better fulfill this purpose. The SGA should energetically and enthusiastically address every need of the students.

5. I see my position as essentially a more responsive, intense, SGA senator. As a voting member, I will try to represent the entire school, and I assist with the President's duties. The VP is distinct from a Senator and the President as random but very important duties often befall on the VP. I feel that I'm qualified to occupy

this position. I know the needs of the students, whether through my eating house, or through committees. I will exercise the opinions of the students. I know the SGA. I know how it works. I know what it needs to serve the students better.

1. I have almost two full years of SGA experience, as independent senator and Junior class President. I have been on numerous committees, chair of the Roundtable Committee, and most recently co-chair of the SGA Rides Committee. I am also a Hall Counselor on 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich.

2. I have a lot of SGA experience, so I know the process very well. I am a member of the Student Executive Committee (SEC), so I have seen a lot more of the detail work and daily interaction that occurs outside of the meetings on Tuesday nights. I feel that I have excellent communication skills and work well with almost anyone.

3. I feel that right now a number of issues will determine the fate of the SGA in the future. Town Relations (and the response to the Christmas Day tragedy) are very important, as well as the level of student involvement. I feel our voice among the faculty is growing, but still has a long way to go. If elected, I have a lot of plans to further organize and increase accountability among the committee system, as well as promote discussion between campus groups and the SGA in order to make our campus better



**Chris Tuttle**

4. I have seen the SGA take a lot of positive steps during my time serving in it.

Student involvement, even in the last year has dramatically increased, especially on SGA committees. I think those elected in the next year have a wonderful opportunity to continue this growth. I feel that I have the energy and enthusiasm to be able to get out and really promote the SGA and build upon the foundation built by previous administrations.

5. The Vice President has to know and be able to help the President and the SEC. But I feel the SGA Vice President's most important duty is the chairperson of the Intercouncil.

It would be my job to supervise the chairpersons of all the SGA committees, where I feel most of the real work of the SGA is done. This would be a great chance to truly be able to steer the direction SGA goes—building student involvement and increasing accountability. I know how the system works, have a lot of quality experience, and have a concrete vision for how important and influential the SGA can be.

# UNION BOARD PRESIDENT

With plans for a new Union underway, it is crucial that the Union Board not only continue their excellent programming, but also have the vision for how the new Union has to be constructed, physically and philosophically, to serve the Davidson community. I find it exciting to contribute to this vision. Since freshman year, the Union and the events planned by the board have been an important aspect of my education because they taught me and entertained me, helped me get to know a wide range of people and kept me sane as a break from academic life.

I have served on a number of Union committees since freshman year, and on the board before the current one held the Literary Arts Chair position. Because separation anxiety was so great when leaving my Union family for China, I hung around last summer and worked for the Union part-time. More important than my experience, although it is a vital part of my qualifications to head the Union Board, is my love of what the Union is all about and the people who work there. Some think the Union is just the café, or a place to pick up packages, but these people are really missing out, and I want to show them why.



**Cintra Pollack**

I am not out to dazzle with shiny new proposals. I am there to contribute to other board members' ideas and make them come to fruition. I serve as a collective student voice when discussing what the new Union building will contain. If I do my job right, people never have to think I am doing anything, because the work of the President is in a lot of cases is behind the scenes, and only when things don't run smoothly is it evident that the Union President has had a hand in it. I am committed to being open to the ideas of everyone in the Davidson community and encourage those with gripes, praises or visions for the Union to talk to me any time.

It's not an easy role I assumed, and I know this. But my job can be a lot easier and productive with a strong Union Board and student support. I look forward to an educational, busy, fun (because above all that is what the Union is) year. From here on out, in case you are wondering, those bags under my eyes aren't fatigue, they are bags of joy... See you at the Union!

The following candidates are also running during the 1998 Category II Elections. Those candidates who are running unopposed will not appear on the ballot.

Debate Advisor

Richard Hahn  
Dana Nelson

Student Relations

John Bell  
Lacey Hester

Fish Gul  
Michael J. Kruse  
Corynn Pace

Buildings & Grounds  
Athletic Policy

Lee Burnett  
Lisa Benjamin  
Michael J. Kruse  
Drew Lindsay  
David Tomasetti

# UNION BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

## ◆ CO-CURRICULAR ◆

1. In response to student interest in the Union, I believe that a major issue that needs to be examined is extending the Union to represent the entire student body. I would like to see a more active interaction between the Union and Patterson Court to create more interest in the supporters of both of these organizations. I also believe that a better system of advertising events needs to be cultivated to increase student awareness of what is happening around campus. Options in this area could be a consolidation of event fliers to provide one source of information, or even the development of an electronic information system like a college events web site.

2. The experiences I have had so far have been my involvement on the 900 room committee and the Artist Series committee. From these committees I have received a glimpse of the work required to run a successful Union. However, I believe it is my strong desire to make a long term commitment to the Union that best prepares me for the job. I enter this election knowing that this post will require a great deal of time and effort, but I look forward to the challenge that it offers and feel certain that I can do a good job.



**Tyler Aycock**

3. Along with the new ideas that I have already stated about advertising, I think that as the Co-Curricular Vice President I would try to introduce new ideas into Solidarity Week to create more campus involvement as well as campus and community interaction. Also, I would be more than willing to listen and include any other ideas students might bring to me.

4. I believe my biggest weakness is that I have been fairly inactive with the Union Board so far. However, my inexperience should serve the student body well because I believe I can bring new ideas and insights to the board.

5. My job as Co-Curricular Vice President will involve working along with the Union president and the other vice president in order to fill the Union Board, and then working with those committee chairs and members to carry out the business of the Union. I believe I am the best candidate for the job because I have the leadership, teamwork, and support skills that it takes to get everyone moving towards the common goal of a smooth functioning Union..

1. I think that the key to student interest in the Union is an exciting and diverse schedule of events and activities. For the most part, these activities are planned by the committee chairs, who are appointed by the Union Board President and Vice Presidents. My role in helping shape the board will be crucial to the success of the board when it comes to student involvement. If we have a group of dynamic, enthusiastic committee chairs, this will ensure active student interest in the Union.

2. During my almost three years at Davidson, I have served on several Union Board Committees. I have been on the Artists' Series Committee, and am currently a member of the Films Committee and the Woman's Issues Committee. I am also an avid attendee of Union events. I feel I am qualified for this post because of my organizational ability, and my commitment to the mission of the Union. Just this past weekend, I was responsible for the overseeing a group of volunteers, procuring food, managing set-up and clean up, and doing crowd control. This sort of organizational experience is what I will be able to draw on when planning events such as Solidarity Week.

3. My job as Union Board Vice President is more of a coordinating position that it is a place to develop new ideas. My function will be to encourage committee chairs to pursue new and exciting ventures, and



**Elisabeth Malphurs**

to make sure that they have the support and resources they need to carry their activities out successfully. If I can help the Union Board Committees to do their jobs more effectively, then this will create an atmosphere where Committees themselves become forums for innovation.

4. While I am a member of Union Board Committees, my lack of experience serving on the Union Board itself is probably my biggest weakness. This means that I will need to actively seek out the input of more experienced people and my fellow Union Board members.

This flow of communication can be a real asset to the development of the Board.

5. The Co-Curricular VP is responsible for presenting a diverse array of enriching speakers, activities and events for the college community. The job of the Union Board Co-Curricular VP entails maintaining open lines of communication between the committees I oversee, ensuring that the Board itself functions smoothly, and planning next year's Solidarity Week. I feel I am best qualified for this position because of my organizational ability and my commitment to providing diverse social options for the students of Davidson.

## ◆ SOCIAL ◆

1. How do you propose to keep the student body motivated in and involved in the agenda of the Union Board?  
 2. What experiences and interests qualify you for this post?  
 3. What new and exciting things would you propose for your term?

1. I would like to increase campus-wide awareness of Union Board events through more aggressive advertising, especially on a personal level or word of mouth. Also, I think often members of Patterson Court feel removed from Union Board events, as if the North-Campus and South-Campus social events took place separately. I would like to include these students by having more co-sponsored events in order to allow everyone to become more familiar with social options.

2. Although my official experience is not as elaborate as most Davidson students, I feel I make up for that in enthusiasm. I have been involved in the Executive Board of Warner Hall House which has helped me learn how a student-run organization works. Also, in participating in several Leadership Universities and retreats, I have come away with invaluable skills in motivation and communication which will allow me to be a better leader in the community and involve more students.

3. The event that I will focus my energies on is a campus-wide Field Day to start the year off. The



**Thirza Sayers**

4. What is your biggest weakness and how do you feel you can use this to best serve the student body?  
 5. Briefly explain in your own words what exactly makes you the best candidate for the job.

teams would consist of students from all classes and willing professors. There is nothing like a little physical activity to draw members of our community together and get people excited about being back at Davidson.

4. My biggest weakness is a lack of self-assurance. This causes me to seek recognition and assurance outside myself. The student body will benefit from my weakness because I will apply myself whole-heartedly to my position in attempts to satisfy and surpass the expectations of the Davidson College Community.

5. A Union Board Vice President has the challenging job of trying to attract students from all areas of interest to become more involved in our community activities. The Social VP should make the student body aware of the amazing opportunities that Davidson has to offer, not only in its academics, but also within our diverse student body and personalities. I am the best candidate for the job because I have enthusiasm, energy, and humor to motivate people. Also, my ears are always open to any concerns or suggestions.

