Rise of the Superdads
Maggie Birgel ’14

SENIOR THEATER MAJOR Maggie Birgel is doing what she loves. In less than four years, she has appeared in nine productions at Davidson and served as a summer intern with Penumbra, the nation’s oldest and most vital African American theatre company. She’s also president of the college’s a cappella group, Auroguy. During a transformative semester abroad studying at the British American Drama Academy in London, where she cultivated a passion for classical theatre, Birgel took a side trip to Paris to visit her Davidson roommate and stumbled upon a “lovelock” bridge. The padlocks, affixed to bridges all over the world, symbolize unbreakable love. “When we came across the bridge I decided to take the yarn bracelet off my wrist, make a wish, and tie it to the chain link for good luck,” she said.

—Lisa Patterson
Our world is changing and the higher education landscape is changing with it. The cost of higher education continues to escalate, and government officials and the public are questioning the value of a residential college education in light of current and future economic realities. Formerly regional schools are rising to national prominence, and world-renowned institutions are offering online courses for free. The number of males applying to college is in decline, the demographics of talented high school kids are changing, and K-12 educators are moving increasingly from print to digital curricula and tablets. In the face of these changes, Davidson’s strengths and competitive advantages become even more powerful, and our commitment to a liberal arts philosophy grows stronger each day as we see the urgent need in the world for the leadership our graduates provide.

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Our students learn to analyze complex questions rigorously and to express themselves to multiple audiences. In the classroom and beyond, we cultivate students’ compassion, creativity, resilience and moral courage. And we nurture these values in a community founded on our highest aspirations, promoting what makes Davidson so distinctive and fostering new relationships with the world what makes Davidson such a special place.

We need to show how together we enable students to wrestle for themselves with challenging, complex questions in the classroom, the studio and in the lab. To this end, we are entering year two of an exciting effort to tell our story to a national audience. Through our national visibility program, we are working hard to make known throughout the country and around the world the impact our students, faculty and staff are exerting. Together, we are communicating our highest aspirations, promoting what makes Davidson such a special place.
Burning Down the House

AMONG ABOUT 70 area firefighters were (l-r) Seth Saylors '14, Tyler Murray '15 and (kneeling) Stefano Blandino '16 who took part in live-fire training at an abandoned home near Davidson. For several hours instructors lit small interior fires for trainees to extinguish. After everyone had a turn, the fire was allowed to burn the home to the ground, offering opportunities for dramatic portraits. The three students are volunteers with the Davidson Fire Department. Murray grew up with a fire station down the street from his house. He joined that department in high school and earned his Emergency Medical Technician certification. The work has inspired him to follow Davidson’s pre-med track and apply to medical school. Saylors and Blandino joined the department to fulfill community service requirements for the Bonner Scholarship, and Saylors also has developed an interest in medical school through the work. The Davidson students are full-fledged departmental volunteers, serving three or four 14-hour shifts per month. They are the first out the door to take any calls that come in during those shifts, and respond to other calls as their academic schedules allow.

—Bill Giduz
Access and Opportunity
New initiatives announced at White House summit.

Math Improves Campus Social Life
By Christina Ritchie Rogers

Python Navigation: A New Discovery

Invasive Burmese Pythons in South Florida are able to find their way home even when moved far away from their capture locations, a finding that has implications for the spread of the species. "What we found was an ability of these snakes to travel in straight paths all the way back to their point of capture," said lead study author Shannon Pittman '08. Pittman is now a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Professor Mathematics Laurie Heyer and a small group of students from her "Mathematical Modeling" course developed a sophisticated algorithm to maximize overall satisfaction with the results of eating house placement for women. At Davidson, women do not pledge sororities; rather they may choose to participate in the social and service-based eating house system, and any interested woman is guaranteed placement into one of the college's four houses. Until Heyer and her students developed the algorithm, women were placed into houses through a basic lottery system, and many ended up in their last-choice houses. This led to volatile membership and low morale. Since implementing the algorithm in 2004, women rarely are placed in their third- and fourth-choice houses, with most being placed into their first- and second-choice houses.

By Danielle Strivickland

Davidson College President Rusty Lindley ’76 and Earl Wooten ’84 announced a gift from the Belk Foundation to Davidson College, in collaboration with the College’s Admissions Office (CAC) and other North Carolina higher educational institutions, will place 60 recent graduates in full-time education advising roles in underserved rural North Carolina high schools. As many as 20 Davidson graduates will join the initiative, which aims to increase access to college for more than 18,000 rural North Carolina high school students over a three-year period. The CAC provides advising to more than 400,000 underserved students across the nation as they navigate the college admissions process and secure financial aid. Davidson’s CAC advisors also identify high-achieving, low-income North Carolina high school students who will be invited to attend a free campus experience at the college. In another initiative to help underserved high school students, Davidson will partner with The Posse Foundation to recruit and enroll students from across the nation to study in STEM fields at Davidson. For five years, Davidson will receive a two-year STEM Posse from Miami, totaling 50 students (10 students per year). Davidson will provide each student with an academic and tuition scholarship, offer them a two-week STEM immersion program, and provide them with faculty mentors.

The announcement was made in January at the White House Summit on Educational Access and Success, where President Barack Obama’s second-term initiative to support academic access and completion and to make college education affordable for all Americans. These two initiatives bolster Davidson’s efforts to recruit and involve underrepresented students in its academic programming. The college encourages enrollment of students with limited financial resources by practicing need-blind admission, and meets demonstrated financial need for all admitted students through grants and campus employment.

By Cameron Halverson

At Davidson College Trust, Rusty Lindley ’76 and Earl Wooten ’84 announced a gift from the Belk Foundation to Davidson College, in collaboration with the College’s Admissions Office (CAC) and other North Carolina higher educational institutions, will place 60 recent graduates in full-time education advising roles in underserved rural North Carolina high schools. As many as 20 Davidson graduates will join the initiative, which aims to increase access to college for more than 18,000 rural North Carolina high school students over a three-year period. The CAC provides advising to more than 400,000 underserved students across the nation as they navigate the college admissions process and secure financial aid. Davidson’s CAC advisors also identify high-achieving, low-income North Carolina high school students who will be invited to attend a free campus experience at the college. In another initiative to help underserved high school students, Davidson will partner with The Posse Foundation to recruit and enroll students from across the nation to study in STEM fields at Davidson. For five years, Davidson will receive a two-year STEM Posse from Miami, totaling 50 students (10 students per year). Davidson will provide each student with an academic and tuition scholarship, offer them a two-week STEM immersion program, and provide them with faculty mentors.

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Creating a Safe Space
New training program embraced by faculty, staff

By Christina Ritchie Rogers

In addition to data and historical information, “the training provides more nuanced information about what the experience is like for LGBTQ individuals on campus, and that is powerful,” said Associate Dean of Students Kathy Bray. In fact, in a survey taken after the training, a significant majority of participants—82 percent—said they found the panel discussion with existing students and staff members the most powerful/useful portion of the training.

Upon completion of the Safe Space training, participants receive placards they may hang on their door or in their offices, indicating that they are informed allies for the LGBTQ community.

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300 Words
Notes from a Davidson classroom

By John Syme

A T 12:30 P.M. on a Wednesday in Chambers 2068, open copies of the Harper Collins Study Bible outnumber open laptops. It’s time for “God,” a course nudging its 30-person enrollment limit, co-taught by Associate Professor of Philosophy Paul Studtmann and Craig Family Distinguished Professor in Reformed Theology and Justice Ministry Doug Ottati.

Today, Ottati takes Genesis. The juxtaposition of this message and this professor is striking, all booming Old Testament and quirky critical analysis.

Ottati cites Genesis 2 and following. But first, let’s get one thing straight: Monotheism is not monolithic. You’ve got your Yahwists, who present God as a person, a tribal god. Then you’ve got your Elohist, who focuses on the heavenly host. And you have Priestly sources often looking on God’s more abstract, well, personality traits, which brings us back to the Yahwists. Hmm.

“God’s no dummy,” says Ottati. He points out that God shows up in Eden for his big say about the apple, according to one translation, “at the time of cool breezes.” God as a cool breeze: an image to live by.

But first, God took Adam’s rib to create woman. “You can count the ribs and all the other happy stuff people in the West have done because they’re such literalists,” says Ottati. “This is a Hebrew text. The serpent has a speaking part! If you’re looking for something that’s going to stay in the bounds of later Western decorum, you’ve come to the wrong place.”

Clearly, this iteration of “God” as an academic course channels generations of Davidson religion and philosophy professors’ insistence on shaking up preconceived notions, on making Davidson students think about deep meanings, and on opening young minds wider than either a Bible or a laptop.
EALIER THIS YEAR, more than 160 members of the Davidson family gathered to celebrate the impact of The Davidson Trust at the 5th Annual Dinner at Davidson. This student-led fundraising and awareness effort aims to showcase student achievements that tell the story of diversity on campus and why it matters to our community. In support of the college’s longstanding commitment to need-blind admission, The Davidson Trust makes it possible for talented students from all backgrounds to imagine coming to Davidson, irrespective of their financial circumstances. “This is an event about the Davidson community,” said Emily Rapport ’16, chair of the Dinner at Davidson. “The Davidson Trust is important because it allows students from diverse backgrounds to build off of each other’s talents in a diverse community, and that makes Davidson distinctive.”

While the money raised from the event for The Davidson Trust scholarship program—$36,500 this year—is a principal goal, the student committee focuses just as much energy on the awareness and understanding components of the event. Another important factor is to illustrate how committed to this effort Davidson students are, whether or not their financial aid packages benefit directly from the program. “Not only do the students serving on the Dinner at Davidson committee benefit from a one-of-a-kind community,” said Rapport, “we are intentional about giving thanks and contributing to our campus. We express our appreciation for The Davidson Trust in a way that current students can—by harnessing different talents from within the student body.”

“The not only do the students serving on the Dinner at Davidson committee benefit from a one-of-a-kind community,” said Rapport. “We express our appreciation for The Davidson Trust in a way that only current students can—by harnessing different talents from within the student body.”

The Dinner at Davidson committee—10 students in the core leadership group who meet weekly plus approximately 15 others who serve on subcommittees—was advised by annual giving staff members Katharine Hubbard Atkins ’05, associate director, and Kate Ceremysak ’12, coordinator. “Davidson students are pulled in so many different directions, and to see the students’ commitment to something that affects their current experience is really inspiring,” said Atkins. “This is not a typical extracurricular experience; this is truly a labor of love.”

In total, students have raised approximately $175,000 for Dinner at Davidson over its eponymous scholarship.

Dinner at Davidson Celebrates Fifth Successful Year

By Danielle Strickland
VIEWFINDER

Blurred Edges

THIS PICTURE FEATURES Humayun’s tomb, one of the massive 16th century Mughal monuments nestled in the heart of New Delhi, India. The palace is reflected in one of the aqueducts leading to the monument’s center. While the photo looks like it was taken in the early morning fog, it was actually taken in the middle of a bright, sunny day—the surrounding city’s dense pollution blurred the edges of the tomb’s dome.

—CORINNE MCCULLOUGH ’14
THE UPPER LEVEL English seminar “Performing Shakespeare” has been a sought-after course for Davidson’s English majors and otherwise theatrically inclined students since Dana Professor of English Cynthia Lewis first joined the faculty in 1980. Though the course has typically culminated in student-led stage productions of Shakespeare’s plays, this year the performance will be delivered to a much larger, listening audience via a live broadcast from the college’s public radio station, 89.9 WDAV FM.

Tune in or visit wdav.org to hear Lewis’ students in “Radio Shakespeare” perform their rendition of The Merchant of Venice at 7:30 p.m., April 26.

An avid fan of NPR, Lewis conceived the idea for “Radio Shakespeare” partly through an attempt to circumvent the many obstacles posed by teaching the “Performing” version of the course, like casting and rehearsals. “With a strictly listening audience, it’s easier to double roles more covertly and for students to practice their lines on their own,” she explained.

Performing for a radio audience also poses unique challenges, however. “Undergraduate actors typically don’t think about their voices as much as they should in order to pull this off,” Lewis explained. “Unless they have voice training, most support their voices with their throats instead of their diaphragms.”

Lewis is less worried about adapting Shakespeare’s lines for a strictly verbal presentation. “It’s important to remember that in Shakespeare’s time, people went to hear a play,” she said. “It was a much more aural culture in his day.”

The Merchant of Venice also is particularly suited for the airwaves. “Although it’s classified as a comedy, this play is great for the radio because it’s not exactly funny,” Lewis said. “It’s more concerned with passionate love, hatred, and racial tension, which gives the actors a lot to do with their voices.”

Lewis expressed her excitement to collaborate with WDAV, which she described as “rather uncharted territory,” for faculty. “Frank Dominguez has been a great help, especially considering he’s acted Shakespeare and he’s an expert on Shakespearean music,” Lewis said.

Lewis added, “‘Radio Shakespeare’ is a great joint venture between the academic and cultural, community-outreach arms of the college. This is illustrative of what Davidson can be at its very best.”

Bracketing the live radio broadcast on April 26, Lewis’ radio Shakespeareans will also record performances before studio audiences at WDAV on April 25 and April 27, both at 7:30 p.m. Post-production, WDAV engineers will compile the strongest elements from the three performances in a single podcast available for download.

The “Radio Shakespeare” students also will hold a non-recorded recital of The Merchant of Venice at 2 p.m., April 28, at “Pian del Pino,” the Italian Renaissance-style villa of Margaret and Price Zimmermann, who served as Professor of History and Dean of Faculty at Davidson from 1977-1998.

Though “Radio Shakespeare” marks a venture into uncharted territory for Lewis, she has accepted the challenge with characteristic enthusiasm. “I’m taking the chance of failing, just like my students are,” she said. As if to ward off the threat of failure with a divine blessing, however, Lewis selected the first airdate of April 26 to coincide with the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare’s baptism.

Undercover Maestro

FOR THE SECOND time in as many years, the Charlotte Symphony called on Davidson’s Symphony Orchestra Director Tara Villa Keith to serve as cover conductor for one of their performances. Cover conductors are, according to Keith, a second set of ears for the maestro. Much like the understudy in a theatre performance, if called upon at a moment’s notice, the cover conductor is expected to interpret the music exactly as the maestro does. Villa Keith is pictured here with the Davidson College Symphony Orchestra rehearsal — Amanda Preston

Broadcasting the Bard, Live

By Robert Abare
Superior Position

DAVIDSON WRESTLER KEVIN Birmingham ’15 prepares to defeat nationally ranked Matt Friesch of The Citadel. Birmingham, who wrestles at 141 pounds, is among the nation’s best at wins by fall, ranking fourth in NCAA Division I with 13 pins this season. Birmingham made history this year with teammate Donald Scott Patrick ’14; the 2014 season marked the first time in 40 years that the Wildcats sent multiple competitors to the NCAA Wrestling Championship.

—JOEY BEKLE
Ten years ago, Phil Martelli coached the St. Joseph's University Hawks men's basketball team to a 27-0 regular-season record, the last undefeated regular-season NCAA Division I team before this year's Wichita State squad. Martelli is loud and unabashed—a typical Philadelphia basketball partisan who grew up there, played ball there (he's the career assists leader for Division III Widener University) and now has coached nearly 400 wins there at St. Joe's.

Having had his ups and downs in the Atlantic 10, he is also a big booster of the conference, and is among those ecstatic to have Davidson become a new member for 2014-15.

“I'm excited about Davidson joining the Atlantic 10,” said Martelli. “From a basketball perspective, they've always done things with a touch of class. Recruiting, coaching and schedule will all add to what is a remarkable basketball-centric league.”

Martelli's comments are echoed throughout Davidson's new conference. Administrators and coaches all seem to like the idea of a school with high academic standards and a clean reputation joining them.
“Davidson is such a great fit for our league, with its commitment to academics and athletics excellence. The A-10 is experiencing unprecedented success and the addition of Davidson courses our conference will continue to be strong,” said University of Richmond athletic director Keith Gill.

“Davidson epitomizes what the league is all about,” said Duquesne University men's basketball coach Jim Ferry. “It is a great academic institution with a great basketball tradition. I’ve known Bob McKillop for a long time, and to be able to bring in a coach like him—who excites class and is one of the great guys in this profession—is fantastic for the conference. Davidson will only continue to elevate the profile of the Atlantic 10.”

ON THE MOVE

Davidson Athletic Director Jim Murphy is careful to note that the move to the Atlantic 10 is not entirely about basketball, though the men's and women's basketball teams in the conference are the highest profile squads on most of the campuses. In fact, several of the schools in the A-10 don't even have football teams—LaSalle, St. Joseph’s and George Mason among them.

Murphy said joining the A-10 was not really on the radar screen a few years ago when he and others at Davidson were looking at the wave of moves by all levels of Division I schools.

“We thought our best resolution was to have a stronger Southern Conference, so that is where we looked initially. We had a long history in the conference and that seemed the best route,” said Murphy.

Ultimately, though, some teams moved out of the A-10—Temple, Butler, Xavier and, especially, UNC Charlotte—and the conference was looking for replacements. With addition of football to its roster, Charlotte wanted to move to a more football-oriented conference, so the vacuum in Charlotte made Davidson a natural choice to replace it.

“This is a good market for us in the southeastern part of the United States,” said Bernadette McGlade, the Atlantic 10 commissioner. “If you look at our footprint, we are in major cites across the country, and have good academic schools, so there was no question that Davidson was a good fit.”

Still, Murphy said, it was not a jump-immediately situation. Davidson has gotten used to relatively easy bus rides for its teams to away games in the Southern Conference. With the A-10, the Davidson has gotten used to relatively easy bus rides for its teams was no question that Davidson was a good fit.”

“I think this will help everyone recruit regular undergrad students,” said Jonathan Tsipis, Davidson’s outstanding academic reputation speaks for itself and

Davidson’s men's basketball coach Fritz Hamburg. Having a conference opponent in the South, where they can play early-spring games, is important to the recruiting efforts of the more northern baseball teams.

“The Wildcats are coming off back-to-back 20-win seasons, which is a testament to the work of the Atlantic 10 in landing another up-and-coming program in women's basketball. Davidson's commitment to building and sustaining a women's basketball program that aspires to reach the NCAA Tournament every year speaks to the caliber that our conference attracts,” said George Washington University women's basketball coach Jonathan Toto.

Former Davidson basketball player and assistant coach Landry Kosmalski '90 just finished his second year as coach at Swarthmore College, in the middle of the intense basketball vortex that is the Philadelphia area. He said that Davidson will enjoy coming to the Northeast to play, but only if it ends up lining up with the full-college ethos.

“The bigger question relates to maintaining the near-perfect academic-athletic balance Davidson offers,” said Kosmalski.

“Will our student-athletes be able to continue to perform as well in the classroom if they are traveling farther distances and for longer periods of time? Will our teams be on a level playing field with the other conference members and therefore have opportunities to experience sustained success? I am optimistic and think that the answers will prove to be a resounding ‘Yes.’”

Conference commissioner McGlade worked with Davidson's Murphy for a number of years when they were both at Georgia Tech and called him “progressive,” which she said is just what the conference needs as it looks for more TV and other media exposure. She said she knows that Davidson is also moving into the Southern Conference was going through its own transformation, so something had to give.

“We had to make a commitment to the faculty that the students will be in class. We will do what we need to do to make scheduling work for the spring,” said Murphy. “This is not just an athletic decision but an institutional one.”

At the same time, Murphy said, with schools like Elon and College of Charleston leaving, the Southern Conference was going through its own transformation, so something had to give.

“Looking into the future from where we stood, we also had to look at the cost of doing nothing as well as the cost of moving,” said Murphy.

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University of Dayton
Duquesne University
Fordham University
Davidson College
George Mason University
The George Washington University
La Salle University
University of Massachusetts
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
St. Bonaventure University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Virginia Commonwealth University

Davidson College

- Football remains with the Pioneer League, wrestling with SoCon.

*Football remains with the Pioneer League, wrestling with SoCon.
Just ask Tim Chartier. Between frequent incoming phone calls he sends a quick note to college colleagues, explaining “I’ve done several interviews today—2 radio and 2–3 print. I have an ESPN U interview this evening that will be live.”

In a two week span in late March, the associate professor of mathematics and computer science at Davidson found himself and his work highlighted in prominent media throughout the country—New York Times, CBS Evening News, USA Today, Bloomberg Business Week, The Atlantic, Associated Press, National Public Radio, etc.

Since 2009 Chartier and his students have conducted an amusing annual educational exercise—applying linear algebra to predict the outcome of games in the NCAA “March Madness” basketball championship tournament. Prior to this year, the study attracted a modicum of media attention. But this year’s venture attracted a tidal wave of interest!

The difference? Gazillionaire investor Warren Buffet and Quicken Loans offered a one-billion-dollar prize to anyone who correctly predicted the outcome of all 63 tournament games this year. Which prompted journalists everywhere to turn to Chartier in search of the magic mathematical winning formula.

A billion dollars buys you a lot of attention.
I n fact, there is a formula. Chartier has posted it online at http://marchmath-davidson.edu, and welcomes any-
one to employ it in the quest for the billion. His students have achieved some remarkable success by employing it, creating brackets that beat those of up to 99 percent of all other entrants. The program requires human input of ‘variables such as the relative value of games won at the end of the season rather than early in the year, the record against teams of simi-
lar ranking and margin of victory. Chartier and students in his ‘Finite Math’ class con-
sider new variables every year and tweak the formula accordingly.

It’s not a guarantee of riches, of course. Even using the formula, Chartier calculates that the odds of getting a perfect bracket are one in several billion.

‘After all,’ he reasoned, ‘you can never accurately predict upsets, and those can be what we love about sports. The random effect makes it fun. That’s why I often tell my students to be careful because math is not going to tell you everything. It is if I did, I’d be retired!’

Math Ambassador
But while “winning is everything” on the hardwood, Chartier is much more concerned with “how his students play the game” in all aspects of mathematics. Bracketology is just a particularly high-profile aspect of math applied to everyday life. Chartier wants his students to appreciate them all.

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‘I really enjoy teaching those last-
math-class-of-your-life classes where a large percentage of the students would rather not be there,’ he said. ‘I tell them, “You may have never had a positive experi-
ence in math in your life. Well, we have 16 weeks for you to have one.”’

Chartier has been a creative champion of math in everyday life even before he joined the Davidson faculty in 2003.

Prior to his recent fame, He was most widely hailed for his program “Mime-
maths,” in which he and his spouse, Tanya, present their skills as professionally-trained mimes to explore mathematical concepts such as patterns, division and infinity. They have performed the show literally world-
wide, from Davidson Elementary School to the World Science Festival in Manhattan to an international math and arts conference in Amsterdam. They’re scheduled to present it this summer in South Korea. He admits it’s a strange brew. ‘Mime and math… many people don’t have a positive view of either one. And I’m insane enough to put them together!’

He has used math to solve Sudoku puzzles, wrote an article to explain the math behind computer graphics and ani-
mation of the Star Wars character Yoda, and arranged internships for some of his students to work with a new performance tracking system installed this year by the NBA’s Charlotte Bobcats team. He arranged for another student to collabo-
rate with a NASCAR race team on their research.

There seem to be no limits to this afla-
ble, quick-witted faculty member’s efforts to engage people with math. Chartier chaired the advisory council in the found-
ing of the year-old National Museum of Mathematics in Manhattan, and pre-
sented his “March Mathness” program there with two students. The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and Huffington Post have recruited him as a regular blogger. He has taught a course on math and sports to public school teachers through the Charlotte Teachers Institute, is recording a 12-hour lecture series about big data for the “Great Courses” pro-
gram, and is creating one of Davidson’s initial four MOOCs.

He scholarship includes a textbook on numerical methods, and he has just pub-
lished a book titled Math Bytes that is advertised as explaining “Google Bombs, Chocolate-Covered Pi and Other Cool Bits in Computing” for a popular audi-
ence. It’s designed as a fun, hands-on approach to learning how mathematics and computing relate to the world, and answer age-old questions such as “How can you use mathematics to find your celebrity look-alike?” and “What sort of math makes it possible to resize a com-
puter font or launch an Angry Bird?”

Most recently, Google selected him to lead a “Connected Classroom” online ses-
sion for students around the world on Pi Day, March 14. And don’t forget, he also is engaged constantly in teaching courses and directing undergraduate research projects.

Chartier’s admirable litany of teaching and outreach are deeply appreciated in the field. He received the Alder Award from the Mathematical Association of America for distinguished teaching by a begin-
ning faculty member. He also received a Sloan Fellowship for his research with Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories on the development and analysis of computational methods to increase efficiency and robustness of numer-
sical simulation on the lab’s supercomputers, which are among the fastest in the world.

For several years he has served on the editorial board of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) magazine, Math Horizons. Most recently, the MAA appointed Chartier as its first-ever “Math Ambassador.” There could hardly be a more appropriate title. Nor one that is so easily worn. Rather than demanding new initiatives, the ambassador simply has to continue to do what comes naturally to him in serving his discipline.

Today, of course, that means picking up the phone to talk to yet another jour-
nalist about the national obsession with brackets and the infinitesimal—but not impossible!—chance that some lucky fan will, indeed, beat the odds and become a mathematical hero.

But while “winning is everything” on the hard-
wood, Chartier is much more concerned with “how his students play the game” in all aspects of mathematics.

Bracketology is just a particularly high-profile aspect of math applied to everyday life.
Shattering stereotypes
By Robert Abare

Seismic shifts in our understanding of the science and sociology of fatherhood have paved the way for big societal changes. Research by Professor Gayle Kaufman sheds new light on modern families.
"I became interested in researching work-family conflicts in particular because that had always been framed as a women's issue...I thought that if we brought men into the conversation, it would end up helping women in the long run."

**Faster than a sprinting toddler... more powerful than social norms...**

Welcome, ladies," The head of the Davidson Elementary School P.T.A. cheerfully greeted her colleagues, despite the fact that the group included recent inductee Kevin Bell, the father of a Davidson Elementary student.

Although Bell sat in plain view of the P.T.A. leader, she opted to use the feminine pronoun for the duration of the meeting. "I felt somewhat like an outsider," Bell admits as he recalls the meeting. "All of the other members were women, and most stay-at-home moms. I felt as if I had encroached on their domain."

At the suggestion that the P.T.A leader simply mistook him for a woman, Bell pointed to his balding head and smiled: "I don't think that's likely."

Bell has managed to put the challenges of work-at-home fatherhood in perspective by remembering that women faced criticism and exclusion when they first began entering the workforce in mass. Much like those trailblazers, he is pushing against longstanding societal norms.

Bell became a work-at-home father after he left a job with the Charlotte District Attorney's office, where he was a prosecutor until 2007. Faced with countless hours in a downtown conference room rather than unlimited quality time with his son and daughter, he chose to work from home as a legal fiction writer.

"The fear of not being there for my children played a big part in that decision," Bell says. "I didn't want to be the dad who was always working. I wanted my life to primarily involve my family."

Bell's days now are spent writing from morning to afternoon, when children Emily (13) and David (18) are at school, and then spending time with the kids once they return. His legal thriller inspired by his career working with the Charlotte DA, *The Third Letterbox*, is currently under review by a literary agent.

**Shifting Priorities**

Bell is a prime example of someone Davidson's Professor of Sociology Gayle Kaufman would call a "Superdad," or a modern father who prioritizes family life over work life. He's also the person she calls husband and editor (and perhaps even inspiration) for her recent book *Superdads: How Fathers Balance Work and Family in the 21st Century*. Kaufman began researching fathers and fatherhood in graduate school, before she and Bell had kids of their own (so she may have, in fact, inspired him). Kaufman says she became disillusioned with the widespread focus on studying women's issues and maternity. "I became interested in researching work-family conflicts in particular because that had always been framed as a women's issue," Kaufman explained. "I thought that if we brought men into the conversation, it would end up helping women in the long run."

Kaufman would call a "Superdad," or a modern father who prioritizes family life over work life. They also tend to have stay-at-home wives who take care of their children.

"This doesn't mean they don't want to be involved in their children's lives," Kaufman says. "They do, but they see the importance of earning money for their families as the highest priority."

New dads, the most common of the three groups, make minor changes to their work schedule for their children, like leaving early to attend a soccer practice or ballet recital. Kaufman explains, "This group struggle the most because they really want to be involved with their children's lives, but they have a difficult time finding the right balance between work and family."

Superdads completely subordinate their work decisions to their family's needs. "These dads make very large changes to their work life," Kaufman says. "The most extreme case is quitting their job, while others change jobs for another more fitted to their family's needs, change positions within their workplace, work from home or become self-employed."

Bell made the decision to prioritize family over fortune after he completed law school at Wake Forest, well before he left the Charlotte DA to become a writer. "Lawyers typically have very long and demanding work weeks, but I chose to work at the DA because government jobs offer lawyers a more manageable schedule that can accommodate their families," Bell explains. "So I became a prosecutor despite the fact I preferred studying constitutional law over criminal law."

In the interviews for her book, Kaufman encountered many Superdads who made difficult decisions similar to her husband's. One of these men, for example, was a factory worker who took on a third shift in order to spend more time looking after his daughter: resting during her school hours, awaking when she returned home and then returning to the factory once she fell asleep. Another was a lawyer who used his three weeks of annual vacation time for the birth of each of his children, so that after the birth of his third child he hadn't had a true "vacation" in over five years.
Super-Friendly Policies

It’s clearly challenging to attain Superdad status, but Kaufman believes that fathers’ abilities to adapt work life around family life should be made easier through policy changes. The United States, she points out, is the only developed nation in the world without a government-mandated paid family leave program. Furthermore those U.S. workers who do have access to paid family leave account for only 12 percent of the civilian worker population, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Although fathers and mothers may currently take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave thanks to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, Kaufman notes that many working-class families can’t afford unpaid leave, and a more universally family-friendly policy is needed. Some states, including California, New Jersey and Rhode Island, have heeded Kaufman’s advice and passed laws creating paid family leave. California’s groundbreaking legislation of 2002 employs a small payroll-tax contribution from eligible workers to allow parents six weeks of paid leave following the birth of a child.

Meanwhile, the national debate surrounding paid family leave, and particularly paid family leave, grows louder. In December 2013 U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York introduced the Family Medical Insurance Leave Act, which would establish a national paid family and medical leave program that allows every individual up to 12 weeks of partial income after the birth of a child or to care for themselves or a family member.

Liza Mundy of The Atlantic praised initiatives that include fathers, hailing paternal leave as a “brilliant and ambitious form of social engineering: a behavior-modification tool that has been shown to boost male participation in the household, enhance female participation in the labor force, and promote gender equity in both domains.”

Kaufman believes a federal, nationwide family or paternity leave law like the Family Medical Insurance Leave Act is necessary in part due to the disparities between white-collar and blue-collar Superdads. “In my research, professional fathers were more likely to be Superdads because they had more access to flexible workplace policies and had more autonomy over their work,” she explains. “They were trusted to do their work from home.”

“Working class dads didn’t have those options,” she continues. “To be a blue-collar Superdad, the most common strategy was to work another shift in order to be around their children as often as possible. That was a very difficult and important decision for them to make.”

“Superdads may be able to bolster their own ranks through the policies they advocate into law. ‘A lot of ‘new dads’ who struggled to balance work and family felt like they couldn’t challenge their employer,’” Kaufman notes. “If these men were given more freedom through paternity leave and family-friendly policies, they would become Superdads.”

Bell adds, “I think men and women are increasingly expected to contribute to childcare equally. But in order to reach that goal, you need Superdads, a group of men who are going to explicitly prioritize family over work.”

Kaufman and others have received some criticism for drawing attention to something that dads are simply “supposed to do.” Why make involved fathers seem so extraordinary, they ask? The term “Supermom” likewise precedes its paternal counterpart by approximately 40 years, as it originated in the 1970s and 80s when women headed to the workforce in droves while managing childcare and housekeeping at the same time.

Kaufman is nevertheless happy to shine a light on Superdads. “I hope these fathers are doing something that should be praised,” she says. “Perhaps one day Superdads will be simply regarded as ‘dads,’ but I don’t think we are there yet.”

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Change to Resistance

Once hailed as miracle drugs, antibiotics are in peril.

By John Syme

Antibiotics, once hailed as miracle drugs, have fallen victim to their own success.

Evidence of bacterial resistance to antibiotics continues to mount at alarming levels. Studies cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that nearly 50 percent of antimicrobial use in hospitals is unnecessary or inappropriate. The agency warns that “Failure to improve use will mean an empty medicine cabinet for sick patients in the relatively near future.”

Enter Arjun Srinivasan, M.D. ’92. “What has changed and is changing is the awareness that we must work hard to change how we use antibiotics,” he says. As medical director of the CDC’s “Get Smart for Healthcare” campaign, which focuses on appropriate antibiotic stewardship in in-patient facilities, Srinivasan is on the front line of the fight against antimicrobial resistance.
Srinivasan, who also serves as the associate director for healthcare-associated infection prevention programs in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion at CDC’s National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases in Atlanta, researches infection control, multidrug-resistant gram-negative pathogens and antimicrobial use, and conducts outbreak investigations.

Srinivasan knows antimicrobial stewardship protocols. The issue has been the focus of his work for more than a decade. Beginning in 2007, he led a CDC outbreak team that uncovered problems in hospitals, compounding pharmacies, nursing homes, dialysis facilities and doctors’ offices. Earlier, at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, he was a staff physician, associate hospital epidemiologist and founding director of the Johns Hopkins Antibiotic Management Program. While there, he garnered the staff teaching award, and later at CDC his career work resulted in the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America’s 2008 Investigator Award.

“The reasons we started the program at Hopkins are even more compelling today,” Srinivasan says.

**APPLIED LEARNING**

Note his use of the word “we.” A big part of Srinivasan’s professional success and happiness stems from his very personal approach to the work and the people doing it—the researchers, doctors, policy-makers and patients. Srinivasan also is a man who is keen to know something of a wide range of subjects and to think critically about them, the better to see patterns and connections. Both these attributes he traces to his education in the liberal arts and sciences at Davidson. He took the Humanities program, worked at the public radio station WDAV, participated in College Bowl and, his senior year, studied Shakespeare while working on his biology honors thesis as a pre-medical student. “I graduated having taken exactly the same number of science and non-science classes,” Srinivasan says of his well-rounded academic life. “At Davidson, you don’t end up narrow. That’s what I value.”

Social lessons of life on campus were at least as important. He and his best friend, Brent Leviner ’92, butted heads hard and often.

“The only thing we agreed on was that we were great, great friends who had knocked down drag-outs about every kind of social and political issue,” Srinivasan says. “It taught me that you can have common goals and common interests and, really, a common view of the world, and still be diametrically opposed on how to get there. It taught me that just because someone opposes what you do or how you do it doesn’t mean they’re a bad person. Oftentimes, when you frame the discussion in that way, you find out that you’re more similar than you are different.”

That’s not a bad viewpoint to hold in the high-stakes and often fractured and politicized world of American public health care.

“The United States ranks the efficacy of more centralized policy-making and record-keeping in Europe. That disparity was just one of the points that Srinivasan and others made last fall on PBS’s *Frontline* in “Hunting the Nightmare Bacteria.”

During the hour, they delved into the complexities of “gram-negative” bacteria, a class of fast-evolving bacteria whose defensive “armor” has rendered many antibiotics wholly ineffective. Ironically, in some cases, clinicians have had to turn to older and more toxic antibiotics to use against new strains of bacteria—bringing full circle the empirical observation of Alexander Fleming that drug resistance was already in play even as his 1928 discovery, penicillin, was being hailed as a miracle drug.

**PERFECT STORM**

From the start, bacteria have been evolving as fast as they can to resist antibiotics. It’s what they do. Now, they can do it a lot faster, thanks to everything from global air travel to the plastic-ball pit at your local hamburger emporium.

Two recent cases in point, according to *Frontline* Since the National Institutes of Health’s Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md., went into crisis mode a little over two years ago to contain a deadly outbreak of an organism called KPC, some 44 states have reported the infection. Likewise instances of infection by another antibiotic-resistant bacteria called NDM-1 doubled in 2013, and it has now been reported in 46 countries. *Frontline* examined the broadest implications of antibiotic use. Because resistant bacteria can spread from one patient to another, patients who are not even exposed to antibiotics can still suffer the consequences of infections with resistant bacteria. In this regard, antibiotics are a unique class of drugs, and the considerations for good antibiotic stewardship are likewise unique and different from drugs for cancer, cholesterol management, arthritis, dementia or diabetes.

There’s an “economic paradox” of antibiotics to consider, as well: limited, short-term use of a drug is not as appealing to shareholders as one that is to be taken daily for the rest of a patient’s life. That hard reality directly affects research and development funding. The precarious economics of the antibiotic development pipeline, which began to slow as far back as the 1980s, is no small factor in the current crisis of bacterial resistance.

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The last time Andrew Lovedale ’09 appeared in the Davidson Journal, he was pictured surrounded by mountains of athletic shoes, strewn across the Duke Family Performance Hall stage and collected under the auspices of Lovedale’s “Kicks from ‘Cats” charity initiative. Lovedale was about to embark on a journey to deliver the shoes to children in Nigeria, his country of origin. At the time, he didn’t realize that the trip would change his life. Learn more about what Lovedale has been up to on page 63.
57 years of presidential memories to share

Two of our classmates have died recently.

Thomas Frederick Stimson was one of the members of our Beta pledge class in the fall of 1943. One was Robert B. Cordle, Class of 1949 who passed away:

Robert B. Cordle
by our fellow students. He lettered in three sports during his school years,

He was a classmate of my Beta pledge class in the fall of 1943. One was Robert B. Cordle, Class of 1949 who passed away:

Robert B. Cordle

Mr. Johnson, the Barium Springs superintendent, was destined to attend Davidson, like it or not, because the school was transplanted together into Danvers, Mass., not too far from Cambridge, Mass., home of Harvard University, where he completed his doctorate in residence after teaching a philosophy course at Gordon College in Westham, Mass. He reports that he is "feeling healthy and grateful to God for being able to complete his academic residence and get some time to ponder and write."

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Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Robert B. Cordle, who passed away Oct. 15 in Henderson, N.C.

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if you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumnirelations@davidson.edu or 704-894-2189.

Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Sydney Raff, who passed away Dec. 6.

It’s always painful to report another death. Tom Pagi has died once since our last writing. More about his last, but his death brings the total number of "Alums" living to the single digit of nine. In addition to your year, they are: John Charles Mastin,

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A moment of sadness to report that Dick Lile, who passed away Nov. 28, Dec. 16, will be sorely missed: Ralph Palmer reports that Ralph Brooks, a daughter and two granddaughters in Greensboro, NC. He and Marianne now live in Greer, S.C., enjoying life at the Pinero Retirement Home in Davidson. They both are regulars in the local park added more than 10 acres of land in addition to many improvements. On May 28, 2013, he was posthumously honored with the naming of “The Jack McKee Walkway” in Pottawatomie Park. Stone markers at each end of the walkway bear his name. Jack was also active in many civic activities in the St. Charles area, and served as a GOP precinct committee member.

Joe Neel and Mary Ann Miller have moved from Flowery Branch, Ga., on Sept. 28. They told us that they are enjoying their retirement in Wilmington after spending their summer in New Hampshire.

We cannot conclude these notes without a special statement. All of us, I’m sure, appreciated the wonderful time we had at the National Masters meet in Kansas and the World Masters Games in Chicago and got to see first-hand the success stories of many of our classmates. We hope to try our hand at the National Masters meet in Kansas and the World Masters Games in Chicago in 2015.

Thad Monroe, Class Secretary

The way it was: We are told by the college that, in the fall of 1947, 227 of us were enrolled in this Class of 1951. Along the way some dropped out or transferred, while others transferred in to join us. On graduation day May 28, 1951, 203 of us were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica, respectively, were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica, respectively, were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica, respectively, were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica.

Accordingly, of the original 257 who entered in the fall of 1947, 140 graduated in May 1951. Of those 140, 173 of us walked in 1951. Thus, we are told by the college that, in the fall of 1947, 227 of us were enrolled in this Class of 1951. Along the way some dropped out or transferred, while others transferred in to join us. On graduation day May 28, 1951, 203 of us were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica, respectively, were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica, respectively, were seen on the streets of Charleston, escorted by wives Betty and Monica.

Make plans today to return to Davidson!
Costa Rica. Then it was off to Hawaii (with the
Martins). Then it was off to Greece (with the
Blankenships). They have also been to Nicaragua, Panama and
Costa Rica. Then it was off to Hawaii (with the
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They asked Bobby [McIntyre] to stay on as the “Wrestling Team Psychologist” to help enrollment officials.
1963

APOSTLE BY: Tom Hendrix, Class Secretary

I think we all are still basking in the glow of our fantastic 40th Reunion. But don’t let that be the hallmark of our lives, be it your parenting, your career, or staying in touch. Put a Halyburton and I and we’ve pledged to put together a class event every five years. So stay tuned! In the meanwhile, please keep me up to date on you and your family as we plan for the next event.

Ben McCoy emailed to let me know that he recently visited with Dr. Richard Burns. Ben’s mother lives in Greenville, S.C., and while Ben and his wife were spending time with her, a staff member noticed the Davidson alumnus that he was wearing and told him that Dr. Burns also resided in the community. Kind sort of thing, he called upon Dr. Burns and his wife and had a nice chat with them. Most will recall that Dr. Burns was as he assumed the Dean of Students position during our active college days! Warm greetings to the Class of ’63. He has clearly “Skull” (Dean Bailey). Dean Burts passes on his 20th class reunion June 6–8, 2014.

1964

APOSTLE BY: Carlton Cole, Class Secretary

I regret that I have no bad news to report for this issue: Bob Marquis writes that his wife, Gloria Caroll, a resident of Naples, Fla., died April 23, 2007. We extend our sincere condolences to the family. He is still practicing (dermatology) several nights a week and his mother lives in a retirement community in Stuart, Fla. But I do have some good news to share:

Donald Howard tried to reach Donald L. St. John by phone recently and was told he was “in treatment during most of 2013 for throat cancer. I always appreciate classmates feeding me with news of their own accomplishments; I did not appreciate just how much it made me feel that I was not just a onetime fan of his. Dr. Anderson Califf, who is a professor of chemistry at Tennessee University.

1965

APOSTLE BY: John Curry, Class Secretary

Very good news from Bill Daily who reports he is “feeling great” and cancer-free after completing treatment during most of 2013 for throat cancer. I was not aware that his treatment was as extensive as it was. The colorful Bill was honored by the Norfolk, Va., Rotary Club in July 2013 for his work as a “Northern Virginia Poet.” He also participates in the “Step Up” Ministry program, on the National Cancer Surveillance North Carolina Supreme Court Justice’s Commission on Professionalism and an occasional guest sermon are among the activities that are making this stage of life “wonderful” for Art. John Curry is also a very capable trip planner as the past few years have included ventures to Poland and Normandy and a trip on the historic SS United States.

Following a career in aerospace and defense research, Carl Colly, Class of 1966, has continued living in Stewart, Fla. I believe I understood some of the stuff he worked on but I think some of the rest may have been in the category of “I would tell you more, but...” But for the benefit of those of interest to Latinos in America. He’s associated with Blog Talk Radio. He hosts Red Pill on Campus to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to figure out how we—the first class of the college to...
Our first “date” was a drive in a 1969 Volkswagen square back, crammed to the gills with fellow classmates. We were 20, petite frames between us, and met her a few days earlier in the library (when her name was Mary Turner). She was so overwhelmed with meeting new men that she only had a vague recollection of me, something about “a big nose.” I think Roman is the term.

We also remember and commemorate Samuel R. Spencer, Jr., ’40, who died Oct. 16. He began his service in the USAF in 1960 as an officer in the Air Force. Following graduation, he worked for the State of North Carolina, and in the state of Tennessee, George, a lifelong Read more about George and his life and legacy at the Union: Alumni.

Ineptly opposed to co-education at Davidson, he was surprised at the Friday dinner party when Tom Clark ’49, and former Head Football Coach Skip Auld, also known as “Gray Hacker”, made an appearance. Tom Clark was one of the first players to practice with a group of emergency medicine professionals who provided emergency services at hospitals in Winston-Salem, Clemmons, and Kernersville. With children and grandchildren spread out from Montana to North Carolina to Great Britain, Tom reports that “It is quite a challenge, but nevertheless a great joy, to gather all of the Lorenzkinds at one location.”

Our neighbor classmate Jamie May ’70 sends his best to North Carolina to Great Britain. Tom reports that “It is quite a challenge, but nevertheless a great joy, to gather all of the Lorenzkinds at one location.”

“Gilded port in our world sea. My life is favored that the liberty of too brief remarks, wish openly relented not.” Answering my letter with grace and warmth, he wrote that he is in his 37th year in his own medical practice. He continues to pursue another passion of his: Rectal Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The story revolves around the youngest son, and one of the richest and most influential families in late November, 2013. The story is about “a big nose.” I think Roman is the term.

The 1972 class notes (or in some cases never mentioned). Our first “date” was a drive in a 1969 Volkswagen square back, crammed to the gills with fellow classmates. We were 20, petite frames between us, and met her a few days earlier in the library (when her name was Mary Turner). She was so overwhelmed with meeting new men that she only had a vague recollection of me, something about “a big nose.” I think Roman is the term.

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From Asheville, Maria Firth and Cindy Allen were married on January 26, 1973, in a beautiful setting and with Maria's beauty being shared with her sister. Maria and Cindy live together happily so in Asheville. We just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Steve and Nancy met and got married on the Davidson campus in 1972, after Maria transferred from Duke and joined Enman. Steve holds a PhD in agricultural economics and has been a faculty member at a number of universities, including the University of California, Davis and the University of Minnesota. Nancy lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her children and grandchildren. Combined, they have five grandchildren who are enjoying the college experience, including two who are students at Davidson College.

Ben Millam and Sherry are celebrating their 40th. "Our two children are finally on their own, although our daughter still finishes up her senior semester in graduate school at Wake Forest. I am looking forward to retirement after more than 25 years in N.C. District Court, and 2014 will be my final year on the bench. While I can’t play golf every day, I have tried to stay active. My senior basketball team actually managed to capture a championship in November."

Elizabeth Waller writes “2014 will be a milestone for me. I graduated as a student at Davidson in 1974 and this year marks my 40th wedding anniversary. I will not forget that snowy night at DCPC Dec. 14, 1974! I am based in Atlanta as the Loyalty Performance Manager for the Southeast region. Our oldest daughter, Liz, graduated from Davidson in 2015 and we have a third granddaughter in March: Emerson (5). Madam President, I will always remember being enrolled in a class where the professor had a long beard."

Mark Emery, who passed away in August 2013, has returned from his most recent space mission in May 2013, has been recognized of “trustworthiness, respectful and courteous treatment of others, and exceptional achievement….” His retirement celebration is coming up October 3-5, 2014. We hope you will join us for this milestone event! Those news sharing this exciting Stephen Stahl was formerly the vice president of the Allen Center for Entrepreneurs and was the top honor giv...
Tossell Biesseu still tends the boards at the Kelsey Theater in Trenton, N.J., where wife Amy works backstage. He just finished with a production of “Big River.” When not directing the greasepaint, Tom runs a video production company called Graham Crackers Production, and writes fascinating poetry, such as “My Butt Dialed to Say I Love You.”

(Typically, the “rest of the story” will be provided for this type of content.)
Let's start the news of the Class of 1981 with a line about one of our classmates, John Laughlin. John Laughlin has added a line about one of our classmates, John Laughlin. John Laughlin has added a series of mice that are running through a maze, each line representing a new development in mouse genetics. He has annotated the line that represents the discovery of a new gene involved in the regulation of mouse learning and memory. He has also highlighted the line that shows the involvement of a new team of researchers in the study of mouse behavior.

Our thanks to Anne Hurt Krieg, Class ’81, for organizing a medical mission trip for Davidson students to the Philippines. The trip was a huge success, with students working in hospitals and clinics, providing medical care to children in Ulan Bator. To read more about the trip, visit communityplayers.org.

Steve Soud has organized a medical mission trip to Peru for Davidson students. The trip was a huge success, with students working in hospitals and clinics, providing medical care to children in Ulan Bator. To read more about the trip, visit communityplayers.org.

David McGee has organized a medical mission trip to Peru for Davidson students. The trip was a huge success, with students working in hospitals and clinics, providing medical care to children in Ulan Bator. To read more about the trip, visit communityplayers.org.

McGee’s brother, David McGee, has organized a medical mission trip to Peru for Davidson students. The trip was a huge success, with students working in hospitals and clinics, providing medical care to children in Ulan Bator. To read more about the trip, visit communityplayers.org.

The accolades for Botstein's $3 million winnings. Botstein donated $100,000 to Campbell, as well as faculty at three universities, including Davidson, to help them design and publish an electronic genomics textbook. The book will be available for free download, and it will be used in courses at Davidson and other institutions.

Our sincerest condolences are extended to the family of John Laughlin, who passed away in June. John Laughlin was a beloved member of the Class of 1981, and his passing is a great loss to our community.

Finally, two of our classmates have been recognized for their achievements: The Medical Alumni Association of the Wake Forest School of Medicine has recognized Tom Marshall with one of its annual distinguished awards, and Janet Ward Black has been named 2013 Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year by the North Carolina Practicing Lawyers Association. The “Lawyer of the Year” for Greenboro, N.C., by Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers, is a testament to Janet’s dedication and skill.

A large number of us have children in this year’s graduating class! Shannon and husband John are expecting their first child, Walker. Kristen is a guard on the women’s basketball team at Columbus State. My son Holden is a paramedic at North Carolina State University, and he is a aspiring to be a doctor. Our son Rob is a firefighter in San Diego.

Steve has partnered with Jonathan’s oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering to study the effects of exercise on cancer patients. He has organized a group of cancer survivors who are running marathons and participating in other athletic events to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

Our family has benefited greatly from the opportunities and experiences that Davidson has provided us. We are grateful for the support of the Davidson community and look forward to continuing our involvement with Davidson in the years to come.

We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. May 2014 bring you joy and fulfillment in all that you do.

Sincerely,
John Laughlin and Katie '17
I think you two making stuff up would be a great idea.

...Bob will be starring next year alongside Angelina Jolie in Ang Lee's action remake of Out of Africa, and CERN has joined CERN as the chief engineer for the Large Hadron Collider. No, really.

There's no better way to get into college than to start a drum corps in the area. Because of their efforts, the first drum corps show was held at Davidson College in 1988. Now, 25 later, the group won their first Drum Corps International (DCI) World Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind. Nice legs, gentlemen! We would like to see your confidence in Mary Jane's fund for the loss of her mother, Jane Nuthe Gooze, who passed away in December. Contact: Linda Tatsapaugh, 44 Beach Glen Rd., Black Mountain, NC 28711; 828-779-7483 (home); 704-568-8681; jetatsapaugh@gmail.com

Suzanne Mauze Quinn went to Sweet Briar College in 1989, and has been a businesswoman in Atlanta ever since. She writes: "We live most of the time in Atlanta, but we love spending time on our farm in the mountains near Asheville. It's a place we have really needed it. At the beginning of December, we moved to Asheville and my chemotherapy treatments here in Asheville. It's been a wonderful experience, and I'm grateful for all the support from our friends and family."
The occasion was a Davidson affair. Smith talked with her father, Billy Smith, ‘66, at the podium, and the Eggleston family presented a plaques to Red Herron from K-C Education LLC, presented at an educational luncheon on campus. The Egglestone Family Partnership Center, St. Petersburg College, Springfield College, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were in attendance to support Florida State University in helping to revitalize the Florida ecosystem. Your classmates would love to hear a status update from you, so let’s stay in touch.

2013

1993

Congratulations to Bonna Papast, who is engaged to Brian Zumbach. The happy couple will be married in May 2014 in Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, Bonna has already run three half marathons – the Blue Ridge Half Marathon in Georgia, the Detroit Half Marathon and the Chicago Half Marathon. Bonna is currently engaged to Brian Zumbach. The happy couple will be married in May 2014 in Puerto Rico.

1994

A STORY BY Lisa J. Stirk-Shaver, Class Secretary

It’s the night before Thanksgiving as I write this and I am thankful to have known so many of you for so long. I hope that I’ll be able to see you at the class reunion on June 6-8, 2014. Hopefully the weather will allow our families to travel and plan outdoor activities. This is a great time to catch up with old classmates and caregivers of dying loved ones. I hope you’ll make time to share stories and memories. I hope you’ll make time to share stories and memories.

1995

A STORY BY Frida Pita Frampton, Class Secretary

So far, we’ve got one ticker for the “tell us what you did for your 40th birthday” spectator. Congratulations, Brian Zumbach and wife, Stephanie Smith. Brian wrote, “Karen surprised me with a trip to London, sans kids, with 24 hours to pack. It was a won-derful birthday surprise!” Congratulations to Brandon William and wife, Patricia, “for planning a perfect trip to London, sans kids, and getting me there with 24 hours to pack.”

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A STORY BY Tami Blackstock, Class Secretary

Tami Blackstock has changed employers after being with the same company for 15 years. He is now the director of professional services at Virginia Commonwealth University. The children are in a German language immersion program at a school in Virginia.

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A STORY BY Towner Blackstock, Class Secretary

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2013

Congratulations to Kiernan Slater, community relations specialist at the Davidson College office of the United Way of Mecklenburg County. Kiernan Slater is a graduate of Davidson College and was the recipient of the Mendelsohn Award for Excellence in Community Service.

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A STORY BY Donna Britton-Taylor, Class Secretary

Donna Britton-Taylor writes “I am currently living in Portland, Oregon, and teaching long-term performance at Portland State University. Her children are in central Edinburgh. Chris and his family took a trip to London, sans kids, with 24 hours to pack. It was a won-derful birthday surprise!”

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Enchanting Ireland
Borneo
June 8–20, 2014
July 12–25, 2014
Classic Safari: Kenya & Tanzania
July 30–August 15, 2014
We’ve since moved to a co-ed baby home for zero-to-five-year-olds. It’s a brand-new organization under the leadership of the Lifesong For Orphans umbrella, called Fundacion Esperanza. My wife is working as an intern with the organization and is helping with operations. The extremely quantifiable difference between the boys’ home and the baby home is the amount of bodily fluid I come in contact with every day. Haha.

SEE CLASS OF 2007

Contact: Mary Carpenter Costello, 1072 Ben Benassi Way, Winston-Salem, NC 27106, 336-484-6446, mary.festos@gmail.com

FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE:
Mark your calendars for your 85th Reunion—June 6-4, 2016. For more information or contact your reunion class chairs, Poydras Hall, suite 216, 704-687-2224, or classreunions@ Davidson.edu. See DaVinci for the update.

2005

ASTOLDE: Justin R. Hartman, Class Secretary

Congratulations to Justin Bais for the recent birth of his son, Alexander Manning Bais, who was born July 14, 2015.

Gina Kemple was recently in town in the Florida Army National Guard after coming off of active duty as a legal assistance attorney. Qun will now be working as a civilian accountant and client service representative. Welcome home, Qun. We are very excited for this new chapter in your life.

The swims team had a big year, adding three new “swimmers” to the family: Liam Lauter, Ben Paul Moraski, and big sister Sydney welcomed Eliza Priester Monroe May 31. Justin Gilchrist Blackwood II and Nick Blackwood II welcomed Penelope Jean Blackwood Sept. 20, and Vanessa Will and Mike Penrose welcomed Grace Penrose Will Sept. 25. We hope Lisa Rose, Penelope and Ginny will join Addyn for a record-breaking Dadley family of five one day!

Becca Thunman sent in news regarding Addyn’s birth! She happily welcomed Dover Latimer (a graduate of Providence College) Sept. 14. Addyn will be living the high life in Cape Cod in Woods Hole, Mass. It was a private ceremony for just their families followed by a reception dinner on Martha’s Vineyard. After the wedding, Brica and Dover celebrated with a mini-moon excursion to Nantucket Island. The happy couple met at Vandeven and now both work at the Marine Recruit Depot in San Diego. Brica received a commission in the Army and Dover joined the Marine Corps. They have also recently celebrated a second wedding to Katie Lewis. Bria will be a wedding March 3. Army Lt. Colonel Haywood, Bria Shampeheart, Donald Miles, Will and Bria and Tim Dillon were in the wedding party. Katie and Will will be living in Chapel Hill for the next few months until they graduate from full-time ROTC training through the class of 2017. Their plans include teaching and moving to an active duty post in the Army in a commercial for the Off-Shore Calculator that’s been a hit to the clouds. Their next stop will be Intermediate Level Education which translates to about a year in Ft. Lauderdale. Lauren, start next season, but not until after our 30th reunion, which I am very excited for! Thanks so much, lil’ man! Ani, don’t forget to hug me when you come home from your basketball games. We still love you and are so proud of you!)

350-4925; momcgowan@gmail.com

The number of you reading this probably remember it more vividly as CoHo). Chris is pioneering social media programs in anticipation of completing their master’s degree at the Montessori School of Baltimore. He is taking his thesis topic and putting it into practice, which should lead to some very interesting results. Jeff says he is, “extremely quantifiable difference between the boys’ home and the baby home is the amount of bodily fluid I come in contact with every day. Haha.”

In December 2013 Kristen DeCelle married Michael Haywood. They reside in Beverly, Mass., where Kristen researches home investing at John Hopkins School of Public Health and Ifelayo Akinola returned to Colombia to tour and promote his record, “De Tierra Caliente” (“From the Earth’s Closest” in English). The swimmers had a big year, adding three new “swimmers” to the family: Liam Lauter, Ben Paul Moraski, and big sister Sydney. Congratulations to all of our classmates who have exciting adventures abroad. Please encourage contacting him “if you want to learn about the fluid I come in contact with every day. Haha.” Jeff says he is, “extremely quantifiable difference between the boys’ home and the baby home is the amount of bodily fluid I come in contact with every day. Haha.”

Amanda Green and Aaron Schors
came to northern Sweden for a year. Amanda is conducting her dissertation research in environmental anthropology on Sami food, culture and politics, and Aaron is adding Nordic cuisine to his chef's skills. See more at the union: Alumni: theclassof2005.davidson.edu theDavidsonjournal.davidson.edu
As the community engagement manager at Advocates for Children and Youth, Ebony builds relationships with grassroots and grantees and organizations to better the lives of kids in Maryland. She wrote, “As a former new parent, you learn that Google is a friend and an advocate—keeps him learning, fundraising, innovating and creating possibilities for children an ocean away.”

To learn more about A2S, visit a2s.org. You can also follow A2S on Twitter and Facebook.

Lovedale loves to read. “I believe every child has a basic right to dream and play. Location and economic status shouldn’t influence that,” says Andrew Lovelade 99, former Davidson basketball stand-out and founder of the nonprofit organization Access to Sports (A2S). “A2S recently retired from playing professional basketball in Europe to dedicate himself full-time to A2S, a Christian-based educational organization located in Benin City, Nigeria. Under his direction, A2S has grown in a few short years to provide an after-school/summer programs, children aged three to 16—complete with music, drama, arts and crafts, mentorship and help with homework—but a library full of books, an annual basketball and empowerment camp, and more. A2S is a community that is next on the priority list for A2S.”

Lovedale’s work is personal; he embraces it as a calling. Noting that 92 percent of Nigerians live on less than $2 a day, he remembers the devastation his family faced in the wake of his father’s unexpected death. Reduced to one income, the family of eight moved from a home with multiple rooms to a two-room apartment.

“After losing my dad things got very difficult,” he says. “I saw my mum sell jewelry she’d acquired over a lifetime to put me through school and put food on the table, until she had nothing left to sell.” Almost 15 years later, Lovedale’s life looks drastically different. He now lives in the United States, with his wife, Molly McQuillen ’97, and dedicates his time to working with children and families—“a community of people paying it forward.”

That community includes the children who benefit from A2S programs and scholarships. Scholarship recipients, whether they travel outside of Nigeria or remain in the country for their schooling, are expected to volunteer with A2S.

“That’s important for me personally,” Lovedale says. “For the kids in our target school program we’ve created a service day where once a week they look for a problem to solve. Currently, the children put together and renovated their classrooms with funding from A2S. “A kid carrying a bucket of sand doesn’t seem like a lot, but a hundred buckets is a lot,” Lovedale says.

Lovedale’s journey to Davidson by way of basketball and Coach Bob McKillop is the stuff of dreams, and his goal is to build something sustainable—keeps him learning, fundraising, innovating and creating possibilities for children an ocean away. To learn more about A2S, visit http://a2s.org.
Currently she is in Atlanta working for the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. There she manages "the socialization and specimen collection of our resus macaque colonies." This means getting "to hang out and play with monkeys all day."

SEE CLASS OF 2011

Helen Cookson-Bryant, 45, Westfield Rd., Charleston, S.C. 29409, 706-826-0079, claus- burgh10@gmail.com

2011

AST TOLD BY: Khalid Jolibois and Brenna Stadler, Class Secretaries

I am happy to report that things are going well for the class of 2011. First of all I should mention the weddings. Congratulations to our classmates Emily Suggs and Jonathan Boykin who had a beautiful wedding in Nashville on July 29th. Then just last week I was informed about an official wedding party, but rest assured there were plenty of celebration in attendance. We were married by our very own Davidson deacon, Rev. Stephen Burrough. Justin and Kelly now reside in Chapel Hill where Justin is working on his chemistry in conjuction with his Master’s in the social work at the University of North Carolina.

On a somber note, we report that Ballet and her family. Her father Charles ‘Bo’ Ballet passed away earlier this summer. We will use this opportunity to remember the life and legacy of a man who was always a role model for our class.

Several of our members have been recently began internships. In September Lynea left from Atlanta to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to take a job with Mercers in strategic planning and investor relations. Across the board in the Middle East, James Wudel is working for a multinational organization called Nature NRG. He started off with an unpaid internship, and is still there "near two years later with a full-time job!"

Finally, we report that Sydni Logan will be going to work for the U.S. Department of Transportation and is planning to work toward her degree in urban planning! We wish her all the best and beyond.

In addition to the news we have been gathering on our classmates, it is clear from everyone’s news that the Wildcat abroad, like Jennifer and the others. Currently she is in Atlanta working for the Charlotte-Annese Armstrong isn’t far away in the District of Columbia and is planning to begin work for the Center for Strategic and International Studies this fall.

Khalid Jolibois
KhalilJolibois@gmail.com

2012

AST TOLD BY: Keneya Edwards and Meg Jarrell, Class Secretaries

Hey, ‘Cats! Just under two years ago and we are already starting to make some great changes! In medicine and the sciences, Latimer Taylor arranged a scholarship to continue his medical studies at Carolinas Medical Center. He will be cardiology fellow in the spring. Steven is currently working as a clinical pharmicist at the Carolinas Medical Center.

French former major Amanda Vendsvang graduated last spring and is a PA student at the University of Colorado. She recently interned in D.C. and is planning to teach her students how to use all of the skills she has picked up in her career as an [insert profession].

Contact: Amanda Vendsvang, 2010 W 57th St., Minneapolis, MN 55409, 612-587-2977, amanda.vendsvang@gmail.com

2013

AST TOLD BY: Billy Hutchinson and Mel Anese Armstrong, Class Secretaries

Billy Hutchinson is currently working in the United States, living in Washington, D.C. He works for the Library of Congress, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress. He has started his full-time position in the Library, where he will be working on the development and implementation of the Library’s digital strategy. His role involves managing the Library’s digital resources for research, education, and engagement.

Contact: Billy Hutchinson, 1215 23rd St. NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20037, 202-707-5883, billy.hutchinson@loc.gov

theUniversity: Alumni

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I Didn’t Cry for My Father: The Impact of a Father’s Death on a Son by David E. Mullin, Ph.D. ’60 (2013, Peppertree Press)


The Brutus Conspiracy by Garry Richard Lane ’78 (2013, CreateSpace). A mystery thriller by aviation, business, employment and personal injury litigator Lane.

Atlanta, Cradle of the New South: Race and Remembering in the Civil War’s Aftermath by William A. Link ’76 (2013, University of North Carolina Press). A scholarly “sifting through the ashes of Atlanta’s history.”

Motherhood: Lost and Found by Ann Campanella ’82 (2013, The Bridget). A memoir of the author’s loss of her mother to Alzheimer’s while struggling to become a mother herself.


Recognizing Heritage: The Politics of Multiculturalism in New Mexico by Thomas K. Guthrie ’87 (2013, University of Nebraska Press). A scholarly work by an associate professor of sociology and anthropology at Guilford College.


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Please send a signed copy of your book to Davidson Journal. Box 7773, Davidson College, Davidson, NC 28035-7171. This is to ensure that the book is acknowledged and stored accordingly. The deadline for submissions is the second Friday of each month.
Art

Professor Tyler Starr presented a paper titled "Nature of Cobbling" at the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts conference. He also presented a paper titled "Landscape as Pictograph" at the Southeastern College Art Association. He conducted two talks at the Heilbrunn Theater in Charlotte about "What Art is: Principles of Art," in which the artwork was exhibited at the Ink Miami Art Fair, and was included in the exhibition "Art in Old Places." He also contributed an essay to a Japanese magazine on contemporary minimalism.

Shawn Smith conducted a three-part lecture series for a Davidson alumni travel group near the University of Notre Dame, in Rome and Tucson hill towns of Italy. He also conducted a five-day art history course, where he presented the paper "Roman Reapers: Texting with Echoes of Paris and the Sound Box" in a session entitled "The Image and Word." The paper focused on the new art history as a text within visual culture, as exemplified in the collages of Roman Reapers and French theories of memory, jazz and blues.

Professor Malcolm Campbell, director of the Marine Genomics Program, received an award for innovation for his paper titled "Neustiku". Former Princeton University genomics professor David Botstein received the award named "Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences" given to Botstein and 10 other scientists earlier this year. "Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences" was awarded to "pioneers in the field of genetics and the development of the human genome". The prize is aimed at recognizing the importance of research into genetic, molecular and cellular biology.

The Economics

Professor Jennifer Vinyard has joined the Queens University Board of Visitors. Ross retired from his role as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty in 2013; he continues to serve on the Davidson faculty.

Professor Alex Stewart Smith and colleagues have been conducting research into the effects of noise on environmental conditions in the United States. The research examines the impact of noise on wildlife populations and the effects of specific noise sources on the health and behavior of wildlife.

The English

Professor David Stanback presented a paper titled "Landscape as Pictograph" at the annual meeting of the Interdisciplinary Studies Association. The paper focused on the new art history as a text within visual culture, as exemplified in the collages of Roman Reapers and French theories of memory, jazz and blues.

Dr. Darian Totten presented a paper titled "An Odd Kind of Cross to Bear: Being Mrs. Jennifer Vinyard in Russia, 1941-1942" at the American Historical Association. She also conducted a creative writing workshop for female students at the University's 50th Anniversary of Inclusion events.

Professor Brenda Flanagan published an article titled "Diversity and Change: Documenting the Changes" at six universities in the United States. She also presented her research on American Literature at the University of Hawaii in 2013.

Professor F.W. Johnson Professor of Economics, has been conducting research on the effects of deforestation in the United States. The project is funded by the U.S. Government's Forest Service.

Professor Paul Stanback presented a paper titled "Cultural Differences in the Development of the Phalanx" in the Journal of Military History.

The History

Professor Anna Silvia Stenström presented a paper titled "Asphalt and Change: Documenting the Changes" at six universities in the United States. She also presented her research on American Literature at the University of Hawaii in 2013.

The Music

Professor Juri Reingard presented a paper titled "Landscape as Pictograph" at the annual meeting of the Interdisciplinary Studies Association. The paper focused on the new art history as a text within visual culture, as exemplified in the collages of Roman Reapers and French theories of memory, jazz and blues.

Professor Martin Campbell also has signed on the number of researchers interested in the study of genetic control of intracellular dynamics of cellular processes. The study examines the role of genetic control in intracellular dynamics of cellular processes and the effects of genetic control on the development of the phalanx. It appeared in the Journal of Military History.

The Philosophy

Professor Brenda Flanagan published an article titled "Diversity and Change: Documenting the Changes" at six universities in the United States. She also presented her research on American Literature at the University of Hawaii in 2013.

The Physics

Professor Charles Davidson published an article titled "Landscape as Pictograph" at the annual meeting of the Interdisciplinary Studies Association. The paper focused on the new art history as a text within visual culture, as exemplified in the collages of Roman Reapers and French theories of memory, jazz and blues.

The Psychology

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The Sociology

Professor Alex Stewart Smith and colleagues have been conducting research into the effects of noise on environmental conditions in the United States. The research examines the impact of noise on wildlife populations and the effects of specific noise sources on the health and behavior of wildlife.

The Student Life

Professor Jennifer Vinyard has joined the Queens University Board of Visitors. Ross retired from his role as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty in 2013; he continues to serve on the Davidson faculty.

The Theater

Professor Jennifer Vinyard has joined the Queens University Board of Visitors. Ross retired from his role as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty in 2013; he continues to serve on the Davidson faculty.

The Women’s Studies

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The “In Memoriam” website allows you to search for deceased classmate by name or class year, share obituaries with others and leave remembrances. blog.davidson.edu/memoriam/
Robert MacRae ’58
Jacksonville, Fla.
Died Aug. 22, 2013. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Terri Lynn Kirby. He is survived by his wife, Virginia MacRae, P.O. Box 905, Jacksonville, FL 32206; his son, Cary Kirby; two grandsons; two grandchildren by marriage; and one great-grandchild by marriage.

Clyde Allen Hall Jr. ’59
Dalton, Ga.
Died Oct. 30, 2013. He is survived by his loving wife and friend of 54 years, Caroline Hall, 502 Mt. Sinai Rd., Dalton, GA 30720; and daughter Lauren Fowkett Hall.

Ben Gordon Shapley ’62
Greenville, N.C.
Died Jan. 8, 2014. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cassie Shapley. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Joan, 103 Queen Anne Rd., Greenville, N.C. 27834; three daughters, Cassie Shapley Mason, Nell Shapley Mason and Anna Shapley Ogles; and five grandchildren.

John Hill Fitzgerald III ’64
Zebulon, Ga.
Died Jan. 14, 2013. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carolynt Vander Ploeg. He is survived by five daughters, two sons and 15 grandchildren.

Gary Bert Lane ’64
Pensacola, Fla.
Died Apr. 23, 2007. He is survived by his children, Ramsey Walls O’Neill Lane, Jonathan Breckenridge O’Neill Lane, 2875 Bayou Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32503; Tyson Nathaniel O’Neill Lane, Susanah Fuller O’Neill Lane-Sullivan, Jennifer Sexton O’Neill Lane and Angus Littleton O’Neill Lane; and six grandchildren.

Arnold Holmes Snyder III ’66
Princeton, N.J.
Died Jan. 3, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, 15 Central Park W., Apt. 12D, New York, NY 10023; children, Sarah Snyder and Ned Snyder; and three grand- children. Contributions in Arnie’s memory may be made to the Arnold H. Snyder Scholarship at Davidson College.

George W. Blount ’67
Asheville, N.C.
Died Aug. 10, 2013. No additional information was available at the time of this printing.

Richard A. Graham Sr. ’07
Cherry Chase, Md.
Died June 27, 2013. He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Linda Graham, 3500 Raymond St., Cherry Chase, MD 20815; three children, Lisa McCormack, Richard A. Graham II and Scott Graham; and six grandchildren.

Kenneth Gerard “Gerry” Bello ’73
Raleigh, N.C.
Died Oct. 25, 2013. He is survived by his mother, Jackie Harper, 3322 Octano St., Raleigh, NC 27607.

James “Jace” Perrin Collins ’74
Deer Park, FL
Died May 12, 2013. No additional information was available at the time of this printing.

Peter Francis Clark ’76
Harwich, Mass.
Died Jan. 1, 2014. He is survived by his mother, La- rence M. Clark, 33 Lawlay Ln., Harwich, MA 06045. Contributions may be made in Peter Clark’s name to the Peter F. Clark Memorial Fund, Office of Donor Relations, Davidson College, Box 7174, Davidson, NC 28015.

Billy Frank McLean ’77
Clanton, N.C.
Died Sept. 22, 2013. He is survived by his mother, Hilda Williams, 210 Lane St., Clanton, NC 28328; and children, Sharrama McLean and Billy “Oscar” McLean.

Sharon Lee Bridwell ‘92
Las Vegas, Nev.
Died Jan. 2, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Gene Leed, 7634 Inwood Knoll Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89113; two stepdaughters and three step-grandchil- dren; her father, Gerald Bridwell, and stepmother, J.L.

David Hughes Mcgee ’85
Oakland, Calif.
Died Nov. 10, 2013. He is survived by his brothers, Eddie Mcgee, Jim Mcgee and Zel Mcgee ’75, 2525 E. 17th St., Salt Lake City, UT 84308.

In the spring of 2010, I published a book on the politics of modern Tunisia. That book’s final paragraph contained the following sentence: “It does seem clear, though, that political change in Tunisia will not come about through some dramatic event that suddenly replaces the existing order with a new one.” This was not a controversial view. I held it in ample good company. Less than a year later, Tunisia exploded in a popular revolt that supplied a government and opened the most dramatic season of political unrest in the Arab world in 50 years. It also opened exciting new research horizons. Political scientists and other analysts will study the Arab Spring for years to come.

Along with the discussions of causes and consequences, similarities and differences, we should ponder a more fundamental question: Why didn’t we see it coming? We tell students that good theories should predict the future as well as explain the past. We might be forgiven for missing small, insignifi- cant events that we chalk up as outliers or exceptions that prove our rules. But why did we miss the most significant wave of unrest in a critical region in half a century? The nature of the revolts is partly to blame. Serious protest movements don’t materialize from thin air. People build them. Consequently, analysts focus on the organized groups of people who assemble resources, look for opportunities, evaluate risks and devise strategies. This is why we paid so much attention to Islamist parties and movements. They seemed to be the players most likely to organize protest on a scale that could topple governments.

The Arab Spring wasn’t this kind of protest. It appeared to be spontaneous, without leaders or structures. In reality, the Arab Spring movements were not as leaderless as some roman- tic descriptions presented them. But they did lack the identifiable leaders and structures that we often study. This made the protests harder to repurpose, and harder to predict.

But we missed the Arab Spring for another important reason. After the Cold War, the Middle East and North Africa stood as the last regional bastion of authoritarian rule. While democratic transitions unfolded in other regions, authoritarianism remained the rule across the Arabic-speaking world. Accounting for this fact became the central task for analysts in government and the academy.

We got very good at it. We challenged the popular notion that authoritarian politics is simply the result of an authoritarian cul- ture. We described the resources and the strategies that allowed savvy rulers to manipulate co-opt, to co-opt opposition themes and to repress dissent. We made a compelling case that rather than get-

I
ng swept away by the forces of globalization, interdependence, or expanding democratic norms, authoritarian governments could have lots of life left in them. The fact that regimes in places like Algeria and Egypt continued to survive in the face of popular discontent and vigorous Islamist movements supported these arguments.

Did we do such a good job that we built authoritarian regimes in our own minds? Did we explain authoritarian persistence so well that we underval- ued evidence of its fragility? Let’s rephrase the questions. Did our deep knowledge prevent us from conceiving of alternative realities? Did it hobble our imaginations? These questions should resonate deeply at a place like Davidson. At their best, lib- eral arts educations forge rigorous imagina- tions. These imaginations spring from minds that gather information about the world methodologically and analytically. But these minds are liberated by what they know, not held captive by it. Students interested in global affairs often ask why they should study at a liberal arts college rather than an institution that offers a more specialized course of study. Rigorous imagination is the answer, and it doesn’t come simply from studying facts about political and economic systems. It comes from thinking deeply about how authors develop characters and their worlds. It comes from feeling transported to a place where you struggle to describe with words by a poem, a piece of music or a sculpture. It comes from understanding how physicists use quarks and hadrons and other things we can’t see to explain everything that we do see.

The minds—the imaginations—that emerge from this educa- tion do more than predict how the pieces on the chessboard will move. They see how the board might be arranged fundamentally different ways.

James Alexander
Director, Dean Rusk International Studies Program

Imagination, the liberal arts and why we missed the Arab Spring

By Chris Alexander, Director, Dean Rusk International Studies Program

students interested in global affairs often ask why they should study at a liberal arts college rather than an institution that offers a more specialized course of study. Rigorous imagination is the answer, and it doesn’t come simply from studying facts about political and economic systems. It comes from thinking deeply about how authors develop characters and their worlds. It comes from feeling transported to a place where you struggle to describe with words by a poem, a piece of music or a sculpture. It comes from understanding how physicists use quarks and hadrons and other things we can’t see to explain everything that we do see.

The minds—the imaginations—that emerge from this education do more than predict how the pieces on the chessboard will move. They see how the board might be arranged fundamentally different ways.
Work-at-Home Dads

Gender equity!

Balancing work and family

★?x!!!

BLAM!

A new normal?