PHILANTHROPY AND IMPACT REPORT
A MESSAGE FROM

Carol Quillen

There is a human equation, and an algebra of the imaginable, that turn the aspirations of a young person into a real, transformative experience: assisting in research on carbohydrates that could aid treatment of cancer and infections, training entrepreneurs in Kenya or simply attending a top-ten college whose opportunities once seemed out of reach.

The essential factor in that formula is you. Your confidence and investment in this special place transforms hopes into impact, an eager student into a leader with the humane instincts, creativity and intellectual discipline to address challenges and solve problems in the world.

We are midway through the Game Changers: Inspiring Leaders to Transform the World campaign. Every contribution, whether time or resources, fuels the scholarships, programs, arts, research and athletics that build on Davidson’s foundation to reimagine the liberal arts experience. Join us in celebrating the milestones we have reached and the path ahead that charts our commitment to educational excellence and access and a disproportionate impact for good.

Thank you for being part of our important work.

Carol E. Quillen, President
ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Investments in the learning environment enable Davidson to remain flexible and relevant as student and faculty needs evolve.

The Game Changers Campaign has raised more than $37 million for faculty support and research.

Nine professorships have been created to date. The Duke Endowment has provided matching funding to help fund four additional professorships through the remainder of the campaign.

Phase I of the E. Craig Wall Jr. Academic Center, a $74 million project, opened its doors in August 2016.
Professor Nicole Snyder is figuring out the biochemical equivalent of those emails that can trick you into letting someone hack your computer.

The result could be better treatments for the flu or cancer.

The cells in our bodies are each coated with carbohydrates, or sugars. Microbial infections, like the flu virus, have proteins that recognize those sugars, bind to them and use them to trick the cell into letting the virus in.

That invasion can work in a helpful way, too. Some cancer cells present an overabundance of a specific protein that binds to a particular sugar. If you attach a cancer-fighting drug to that sugar, the protein may bind with that sugar and pull the drug into the cell.

As many as a dozen Davidson students each semester work side by side with Snyder, an associate professor of chemistry, in her lab on developing molecules to study how different sugars play a role in microbial infections and diseases such as cancer. Snyder’s work exemplifies how undergraduates at Davidson dive deep into research typically reserved for grad students.

“The research is designed so that there are opportunities for students with a range of experience,” Snyder said, “whether they have taken only one chemistry course or are about to earn their degree in it.”

That collaboration is maximized by the E. Craig Wall Jr. Academic Center, a transdisciplinary hub that helps faculty and students alike find new perspectives on longstanding questions and problems. Snyder said the cutting-edge center makes it easier to bring high-impact research to undergraduates in labs that rival the facilities at large, research universities.

Recently, Snyder has established a unique research partnership with a research group at Heinrich-Heine-Universität in Dusseldorf, allowing some of her students to study and conduct research in Germany.

“The students realize,” she said, “through the scientific and cultural exchange, the global implications of the work we do at Davidson.”
EXCELLENCE & ACCESS

Davidson sustains a singular commitment to making an exceptional liberal arts education accessible to the finest students, whatever their talents and ambitions.

SCHOLARSHIPS

More than $150 million has been raised for scholarships during the campaign, including more than $16 million for athletic scholarships and the creation of more than 50 new scholarship funds.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

More than 200 student and student/faculty research projects have been supported in the last year.

In the last three years, more than 775 prospective students were recommended by alumni, parents, faculty, staff, current students and friends through Recommend a Wildcat. More than 485 of those students applied to Davidson.
Growing up in Nigeria, Tifé (tee-fay) Odumosu ’17 was discouraged from studying art. His elders said it was for those who were “not clever” and placed him in the sciences, though he continued drawing his cartoons.

The Alvarez Scholarship brought Odumosu to Davidson, where an art career suddenly seemed possible and math studies unlocked his interest in animation and design.

Odumosu was raised a Christian and told that his tribe’s historic religion was “the devil.” At Davidson, he traveled to Cuba for a summer on a Dean Rusk grant. He discovered Cuba’s Santeria faith, a fusion of African religions, such as his tribes’ Yoruba Orisas, and Catholicism.

“At the Museo de Santeria, I saw life-sized sculptures of these deities…they looked like me and had the color of my skin. They were amazing,” Odumosu said. “They were grand, powerfully adorned. They reminded me of the Greek gods. It was almost a spiritual moment. I had discovered something that belonged to me but my people prevented me from experiencing.”

A semester in Brighton, England, showed him the potential of his creativity, empowered by the idea of living beyond the place he knew.

“Around the corner was France and Italy and Spain,” Odumosu said. “The world felt so small. I felt like there were no bounds to where I could live and work.”

Davidson’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative offered a summer internship with a startup in New York City, a long leap from a childhood culture that discouraged exploring.

“Coming to Davidson has so opened my mind. Every opportunity changes something about who I am,” he said. “In New York City, I felt like my ambition was triggered. My work ethic skyrocketed. I knew that I could be bigger. I could be better. That everything was within my grasp.”
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For the class of 2016, 75 percent of students participated in a college-organized international experience during their time at Davidson, with 60 percent enjoying a study abroad program.

Davidson College aims to give every student the opportunity for an international experience as they prepare to lead in an evolving world.
International Entrepreneurship

Ian Kelly ’17 knows that Davidson prepares students to lead in the quest to solve big problems, to have an impact in the world after they graduate.

He opted not to wait that long.

Kelly, supported by the William Holt Terry Scholarship, interned last summer with the Amani Institute, in Nairobi, Kenya, founded by Davidson alumnus Roshan Paul ’02. The institute’s efforts include supporting and training social entrepreneurs for what Kelly described as “combining the benefits of capitalism with the betterment of society, the well-being of people besides yourself.” The institute soon will launch a program to help small and growing businesses retain their managers, who sometimes get poached by large, multi-national companies that leave the country after a short time. The phenomenon rattles the labor market.

In his few weeks at Amani, Kelly worked with, among others, two women aiming to start a school in a slum near Nairobi and another woman trying to expand information and education about the arts with efforts as simple as finding ways to share art supplies.

Kelly, who traveled to Kenya on a Dean Rusk grant, especially remembers a young man, Confrey Mung’au Alianji, who hopes to help destigmatize mental health disorders in Kenya, partly by creating an app to connect people with psychologists in east Africa.

“It’ll help psychologists get more clients,” Kelly said. “It will connect people with psychological help, and it will raise awareness.”

Like others who enrolled at the institute, Alianji displayed high octane brain power and determination “to do something big,” Kelly said, but lacked business experience. Kelly knows that, as with all startups, there is much trying and failing, but in this case he helped deliver the guidance and training to see the impact a full ocean and continent away from home.
In 2016, 284 students participated in one-day job shadowing experiences. Entrepreneurial opportunities included approximately 44 internships, 25 students involved in a startup weekend, 200 conference and workshop attendees and 50 mentorship opportunities in 2016.

Last year, approximately 315 jobs, internships and fellowships were posted by alumni and parents through the Center for Career Development, resulting in 132 hires.
Davidson alumni remember how a chemistry lab sparked a curiosity that abruptly steered them into science or how a sociology professor inspired a deeper understanding of community that led to a public service career they had never considered. Some experiences were expected, while others opened a student’s eyes to new ways of thinking. Davidson’s drive to reimagine the liberal arts experience pushes students outside what is comfortable, often, to their surprise, with welcome and memorable outcomes.

Alejandra Rodriguez ’17, a Charles Scholar from Chicago, thought she was bound for law school after Davidson, but her classes, professors’ guidance and a summer internship in a political epicenter shifted her focus to education. She seized the opportunity to intern with the Atlantic Council Adrienne Arsht Latin American Center, a DC-based think tank that seeks to influence policy making and forge economic relationships with Latin American countries.

Bob Abernethy, a successful businessman, philanthropist and former Board of Trustees member, created partnerships that made Rodriguez’s internship and other opportunities possible for students. He followed that with a gift to the college to fund such experiences.

“Most of the internships in the Washington, DC, area are unpaid,” she said. “So I would not have been able to afford it otherwise.”

Rodriguez managed social media campaigns, researched Latin American countries’ relationships with the U.S. and met with ambassadors and senators. Her passions parallel some of the organization’s focus, but perhaps her greatest gain was discovering that the structure and work environment of a think tank was right up her alley. She also is president of Davidson’s Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), and returned from Washington a stronger leader.

“The opportunity and the means,” she said, “to intern at the Atlantic Council Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center placed me in a work environment I seek to find during my post-Davidson career.”

She recently accepted a position with Teach for America, which, in many ways, will allow her to remain a student, learning more about the nation’s education system and its place in the world.
ATHLETICS

The college’s 21 robust Division I athletic programs foster student growth and enrich campus life.

Notable accomplishments by Davidson athletes in the first 2 years of the campaign:

- 60 All-Conference Performers
- 19 Individual Champions
- 8 Conference Players of the Year
- 4 Allstate Goodworks Team Members
- 3 Watson Award Winners
- 2 Olympic Trial Qualifiers
- 1 former Davidson athlete has won two MVP titles in the NBA

The $13.5 million Harry L. Vance Athletic Center was opened in November 2015.
Students and alumni often can recount precisely when their college search ended—the “I knew it!” moment. For Sabrina Shepherd ’18, it was a phone call with Head Volleyball Coach Chris Willis.

Several Division I programs were pursuing Shepherd, but Willis presented the scope of opportunities available at Davidson and the college’s commitment to developing graduates with a breadth of skills and experiences that prepare them to lead and serve: Student. Athlete.

This was the place Shepherd wanted to call home...as long as she could work out the finances.

Davidson’s athletic scholarships, thanks to generous supporters, kept the door open for the young woman who would become the 2015 A-10 Rookie of the Year.

Now she explores creative ideas in the Makerspace, beefs up her tech knowledge working for the IT department and aids others as a media tutor. She was one of the first students to sign up for the new computer science major created this winter.

“I know at other schools, I would not have had the opportunity to do so much,” Shepherd said. “Last year, our team came up with the motto ‘one family, committed to excellence,’ and that’s what this place is all about.”

Spikes and blocks got her in the door, and Shepherd said Davidson continues to offer experiences that strengthen her as a student, as a member of the community, as a potential employee and as a person.

Her “firsts” at Davidson include, not only her new major, but being one of the first players to take the court in the Harry L. Vance Athletic Center, which gives athletes more flexibility around academics and practice.

As Shepherd grows with each new experience, she will continue to take advantage of new opportunities as a scholar in the classroom and as an athlete on the court.
More than $360 million has been raised toward the campaign goal of exceeding $425 million by June 2019.

Davidson’s alumni participation rate is in the top five among colleges and universities in the United States.

Our endowment investment is stellar—high returns and low risk—resulting in your gifts continuing to grow.
FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

It is a privilege to serve as the co-chairs of the Game Changers: Inspiring Leaders to Transform the World campaign. We have had the opportunity to travel with President Quillen and with faculty and student game changers to cities across the country, and we are inspired by the generosity and energy Davidson alumni, parents and friends bring to every event. There’s nothing like the Davidson community when we come together with a shared vision.

Raising money for scholarships, undergraduate research, internships and entrepreneurship initiatives is critical, so every student can enjoy opportunities like those awarded to Alejandra, Ian, Sabrina and Tifé. These stories offer a snapshot of what’s possible because of your gifts. Davidson students are counting on you, and every gift matters.

John McCartney ’74 and Alison Hall Mauzé ’84
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