

THE DBAN QUARTERLY

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Did you know:

Adorno and Yoss (Law Firm)

The international law firm, Adorno and Yoss, is one of the largest western firms with over 260 professionals in 20 locations throughout the United States and Latin America.

As the largest certified minority-owned law firm in the United States and the only law-firm member of the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council's Corporate Plus Program, Adorno and Yoss employs 40 percent lawyers of color (20 percent Hispanic, 17 percent African American, and 40 percent women).

Founded in 1986 by three attorneys, Adorno & Yoss and its affiliates provide a full range of interdisciplinary services.

They are also founding members of The National Minority Law Group and the Law Firm of the Americas. "We are recognized as leaders not only in the legal profession but in the communities we serve," says the most diverse law firm in the country, Adorno and Yoss.



Candidate for mayor Anthony Foxx says he has what it takes to guide Charlotte through these tough economic times. As a Charlottean and Davidson College graduate, Foxx has a strong commitment to, and love for, Charlotte. After serving as the first African-American student body president at, and graduating from, Davidson, Foxx earned his law degree from New York University School of Law where he received the competitive Root-Tilden-Snow Public Interest Law Scholarship.

Foxx also served in all three branches of federal government, serving as a judicial clerk for the U.S. Circuit Court for the Sixth Circuit, a trial attorney for the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and counsel for the House Judiciary Committee.

Once Foxx returned to Charlotte, he quickly began achieving his goals to improve Charlotte. He led efforts to organize volunteer lawyers to respond to election irregularities, has served as an at-large member of Charlotte City Council since 2005, and worked on countless boards. Foxx is an advocate for Charlotte's neighborhoods and families, public safety and transportation.

I had a chance to sit down with Anthony Foxx and discuss his plans for Charlotte residents and the community.

How has your Davidson experience affected your life and political career? Or has it? It has. I learned how to work hard. I thought I knew how to work hard going into Davidson. Davidson pushes you to the wall in a good way. Many people who have graduated from Davidson tell the same story. Davidson also fosters humane instincts. The admissions process draws that out somehow. Self-interested people aren't attracted to Davidson. When you spend four years around people genuinely concerned about the world around us, the belief in service seeps in even deeper.

What motivates you the most? Hope and faith drive me the most. Nothing – and I mean nothing – has come easy for me. Whatever successes I have had were the product of hard work, but there was another element at work, too. I fundamentally believe that all of us have a purpose. My goal is to strive toward it. When reporters asked the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall to state how he would like to be remembered upon his retirement, he said, "That he did the best he could with what he had." That sums it up for me.

Throughout your career, what was the most difficult decision you've ever had to make? That's easy. My hardest decision has been deciding to run for Mayor during the worst economy in 80 years. There's no rational reason to deepen my commitment to public service. The financial benefits are not equal to law-firm pay, and there is professional risk associated with taking a huge chunk of time away from my law practice. In addition, I have two young children who are depending on me. To most people, this equation would not point to continuing. On the other hand, we are in a situation, as a city and as a country, where we need our best minds in the public realm – that's where the focus is needed right now to prepare us for the economic transformation. I'm running because I have something to add and I feel a deep sense of obligation to Charlotte.

What would you like to see happen with diversity and Charlotte? Diversity must be more than a conversation; it must translate into action, intentional action and activity around making Charlotte the most diverse community in the country. In the future, if indicators like businesses started or expansion of wealth or strong academic achievement show stronger diversity in every respect, we will know that Charlotte is a 21st century city. If disparities continue to exist, well, we'll have a lot of work to do. Action is hard because so many people think that the pie is limited – especially in times like these. In reality, even now, the pie can be much bigger.

Do you think Charlotte is almost to that point or do we have a long way to go? Two years ago I think it would have been a stretch to imagine an African-American president, but things have a way of changing in ways that you can't predict. I certainly think that in some pockets of the community the conversation around diversity is still just conversation and in other parts of the community the conversation has to move beyond talk. I cannot measure the distance or time between where we are and where we should be, but I can tell you that there's still work ahead.

Continued on page 5...

DBAN Calendar of Events

Date	Events
Nov. 6 – 8 2009	The Alumni of Color Engagement (ACE) Summit



Alumni Profile: Noelle Thomas Environmental Policy Analyst

Appreciating Davidson

Class of 2006

Hometown: Boston, MA

What do you miss most about Davidson?

I miss constantly interacting with people who could make you smarter and were invested in helping you maximize your potential.

What was your favorite class and/or Professor? Why?

Dr. Martin — economics professor. Despite his grueling finance class, he was my thesis adviser. He really taught me to write and think critically and try to examine opinions and positions methodically and from many different angles. When faced with large tasks or new material, I often take a major step back, like Dr. Martin would urge me to do back in school.

Major and current occupation. How are they related and how are they different?

Center for Interdisciplinary Studies Major combining environmental science and economics. These disciplines are directly related to my work now as an environmental policy analyst. I am able to apply the quantitative methods learned in economics and the environmental systems knowledge from my sciences classes.

When was the last time you were back on campus?

What was your impression?

I was back on campus in October 2007. Davidson is blowing up! So many resources within your fingertips now and the area has developed so much. There is so much to learn

around you when the city and state you live in are developing right beneath your nose. I hope that students and the rest of the community are taking advantage of that.

If you could go back, is there anything you would do differently while at Davidson or after graduation?

I would have started my job search earlier — like sophomore year. I would have made sure to have an internship or structured activity every summer. I would have started really thinking about the kinds of organizations that I would like to work for, making lists of them, developing contacts. I think knowing what is going on in the work world would have helped me make better decisions on coursework as well as extracurricular activities, as I would have found those that developed skills that I wanted to leverage in the future.

What advice would you give to current students or younger alumni?

Get to know as many people as possible! Davidson is a few years behind me, but the people that I met and learned from are as vivid to me as when I was on campus. I suggest that you go outside your circle of familiarity and **reach out to those who you appear you have nothing in common with, you may be surprised.**



Student Profile: Julian Walker

Film as a Second Language

Class of 2010

Hometown: Little Rock, AR

Major: English

Favorite Class and/or Professor so far and

why? Dr. Kuzmanovich's Film as a Narrative Art. He and the class helped solidify my interest in film studies and film production. As my adviser, he has helped me make decisions helpful to pursuing my goals.

What are your aspirations after Davidson?

I plan on attending film school and obtaining an MFA in Cinematography. After that, I eventually plan to work on feature films.

What are you doing to prepare yourself for life after Davidson?

Networking and working on productions as a production assistant. Many people interested in getting into film start working on productions after graduating. I have been doing it for two summers, so I am working to gain experience and contacts for when I am truly ready to enter the industry. I also write on a regular basis and do short film and video projects to continuously hone my craft.

Has your impression of Davidson changed over the course of your time there? If so, how?

Yes. I wasn't sure what to expect when coming here. I decided to pursue film, and thought I should have attended a school with an actual film program. After much internal debate about if I would have been better off at a school with a strong film production program, I decided that Davidson's liberal arts education was a better fit. Most people studying film in undergrad aren't exposed to many other fields. Davidson courses make me think about a range of different subjects. I am now equipped to tell different stories. I can think critically about filmmaking as opposed to only being technically skilled with a camera.

How did study abroad help your Davidson experience? I got a break! It allowed me time to enjoy a semester of college without worrying about grades or coursework. I interacted with

different people and got involved with different cultures, and traveled to some pretty great places. I also made my favorite short film, *Don't Go to Brixton*, while studying in London.

If you could go back, is there anything you would do differently freshman or sophomore year at Davidson? I would work smarter, not harder.

What advice would you give to other current students?

Enjoy your time here. Take time to think about what you want to get out of your college experience and work towards that. Also, seriously consider whether what you are studying is what you really want to do. Even if people tell you that your goals are "pipe dreams," still aim high and work as hard as you can to achieve your goals and prove them wrong. Even if it doesn't work out, at least you won't have to look back thinking "what if..."

Are you doing anything exciting this summer?

I am working as a production assistant on different television and corporate productions in Charlotte. Also, I am following up on a film I co-produced, *The Truth Behind Juneteenth: A Paradox of Freedom*, with a Juneteenth celebration in Little Rock. In the second part of the summer, I will be shooting footage for my next documentary that deals with the eating habits of blacks living below the poverty line and how the habits negatively affect their health and contribute to conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity.



Darrell Scott: DBAN Scholar

Interview with a Senior Scholar: Growth, Knowledge and Advice

by the kindness of everyone in the Duke Family Performance Hall.

Why do you think you won this award?

I think I won this award because of my accomplishments on and off campus concerning not only the black community, but also the greater community.

What did you win with your award and what will you do with the money?

I won \$500 and a very nice plaque. I will save some of the money for books next semester and use some of it to travel to visit graduate schools in California this summer.

How has or how will this award change the rest of your Davidson career?

This award has pushed me to continue what I have been doing on campus and to set an example for others.

What were your feelings during the interview process?

The interview was both candid and challenging. Throughout the process, I knew that the interviewer really wanted me to do my best.

Why do you think the DBAN award is important?

The DBAN award gives more black students the opportunity to be recognized for their talents, accomplishments and academic prowess at convocation. It is important for us to be recognized by not only the college, but also each other.

What advice would you give to other current students?

Don't underestimate the power of talking to people, whether they are faculty, staff, students who don't look like you, etc. While engaging yourself with faculty may help complement your academic career, developing actual relationships may even aid you in finding opportunities. Above all, take full advantage of what Davidson has to offer

and have as much fun as possible.

Favorite class and/or professor so far and why?

Dr. Hilton Kelly's course, "Reading, 'Riting, and Race," forced students to critically analyze the academic achievement gap. Entering the classroom with a basic knowledge of American inequality, I left with a sociological toolkit to further examine inequitable policies, pushing me to want to pursue a career dealing with education.

What are your aspirations after Davidson?

Immediately after graduation, I will most likely work or travel for a couple years, but eventually, I plan to pursue either a master's or doctorate in Public Administration/Policy. Upon completing my graduate studies, working in Washington, D.C., would be ideal since it is the nucleus of public policy.

What are you doing to prepare yourself for life after Davidson?

This summer, I am attending a Junior Summer Institute at University of California's Goldman School of Public Policy. While at Berkeley, I will take three public policy courses, prepare for the GRE, network with seasoned policy administrators and connect with other students who share some of my same passions. Next week, I will be at the Truman Scholar Leadership Week in Liberty, MO. During the week, I plan to attend some graduate school fairs and fellowship fairs and work on a policy project with other Truman Scholars.

The junior and sophomore awards were given to Kiara Boone '11 and Shirley Akrasah '12, respectively.

Formed in 1988, the Davidson Black

Alumni Network (DBAN) was created to enrich the communication and involvement of black alumni with current students and the college. Much of DBAN's work is focused on enhancing the quality of life of African-American students at Davidson.

Yearly, DBAN honors African-American students in good academic standing who have demonstrated distinguished service to the community through the Davidson Black Alumni Network Scholarship Award. The senior award winner, Darrell Scott, details his goals, thoughts and advice.

Hometown: Little Rock, AR

Major: Sociology, Concentration: Ethnic Studies

What was your reaction after learning you were nominated for the DBAN award? And then after you won?

After learning I was nominated, I was very excited to know that my peers and community members thought that I would be a good candidate. Before walking across the stage to accept the award, I was humbled

Alumni Summer College: The Middle East and Islam



On a beautiful summer Davidson morning alumni reclaim their student past. Alumni from the class of '49 to as recent as '96 trickled into an unassuming room in Chambers, ready for a full day of learning. No one knew what to expect, however, everyone had a unique reason for attending. This is nothing new for some of the students and professors, since Davidson has offered Alumni Summer College for about 10 years.

Peter Wagner '92, director of alumni relations, explains the purpose of Alumni Summer College: "The mission of our Lifelong Learning Programs – Alumni Summer College and Alumni Travel particularly – is to give alumni the chance to continue their learning through Davidson well beyond their graduation day. Each of these programs provides a safe, comfortable Davidson environment for people to rediscover curiosities and to learn from each other and great faculty members." Thomas Peddicord '68 decided to

maintain his intellectual quest this year, "[My motivation for attending is] continuous lifetime learning. Like most liberal arts graduates, I am interested in a wide array of subjects and would have come for virtually any topic."

While Bruce Koch '91 has a more personal motivation for attending, "The topic of Islam was of interest to me. I also wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to be back on campus again as a student, learning in the classroom, staying in the dorm, eating in Commons and mingling with other alumni interested in learning."

In our current economy and world reality, this summer's topic is extremely appropriate. During six classes over three days the Middle East and Islam were explored and discussed. Professor Jonathon Berkey explains the program, "The Alumni College program was designed this year to address a topic of major concern, one for which there is considerable interest in the larger body politic—but on which there is also much misinformation."

Berkey continues, "In recent years, the United States has found itself increasingly in conflict with Muslims, if not with Islam itself. Consequently, we expected much interest in the subject from the alumni, and we were not disappointed. Over the course of three days, we tried, (1) to give the participants an introduction to some of the basics of the Muslim religious tradition, and also, (2) to contextualize several of the most important conflicts in the Muslim world, including that between Israelis and Palestinians and those in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. As we told the students, our goal was to 'problematize' and make more 'nuanced' their understanding of those conflicts, since they are often presented in the American media in such stark and simplistic terms."

Berkey was joined by the following faculty: Chris Alexander, Bill Mahony, Ken Menkhaus, Brad Thomas and Rebecca Jobin. Wagner observes the excitement of the faculty, "It should also be noted that these weeks are really good for the faculty, as well [as students]. They find themselves pushed and challenged in ways that they're not during the academic year – it's such a completely different audience than they're used to."

"All of these sessions were of interest to me, as our instructors (Davidson professors) brought varied perspectives and life experiences to their teaching," examines Koch.

Bill Mahony remembers why he taught throughout the Alumni Summer College during his much-needed break, "[I am motivated by] teaching enthusiastic, thoughtful and informed adults who enjoy the life of the mind and sustained discussion on interesting topics. Also, to help bring Davidson's exciting and fulfilling classroom experience to its alumni and its alumni to Davidson's exciting classroom experience."

Newcomer Jobin and Thomas gave the first presentation which took an in-depth look at where our current stereotypes are derived.

Berkey believes students took more than just an interesting topic away from these sessions, "I think that the alumni-students walked away with a much more sophisticated, and therefore, also cautious understanding of Islam, of conflicts in the Muslim world and of the forces that have shaped the American response to those problems."

Wagner says choosing a focus this year was easier than previous years "Doing a course on Islam was a no-brainer for me, considering current world affairs, the general ignorance of the American population about the faith and the culture and the top-notch faculty that we have on campus who can address the topic."

Peddicord understands why this program is needed "It helps the college retain connections to alumni and vice versa. It also provided an exceptionally stimulating and engaged educational environment in which some alumni were able to bring to the discussion their own life experiences since Davidson (e.g., at this event, we had recent alumni who practice Muslim securities law in Turkey for a New York City law firm, and one who is a pilot who flew supplies into Tel Aviv during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War)."

This program is important to Davidson College and alumni alike, realizes Koch, "[This is] very important for connecting with alumni and feeling a part of the campus again. Also, it is very important for helping to understand current events in our world. This Islam course was incredibly timely, with President Obama delivering his speech to the Muslim world from Egypt at the same time as our gathering."

Alumni have much to look forward to next year. Wagner has already begun the process of choosing a new topic. "Next year I'm considering "ethics" or maybe more specifically medical ethics. We'll have to see, but I can't wait!"

NOTE: Diversifying the Alumni Summer College needs your help. Bring your unique voice and experiences to this intellectual free-for-all.

Anthony Foxx: continued



What's one other issue you would like to change about Charlotte?

Still talking diversity, I think Charlotte needs to loosen its collar a little bit. I think we certainly are a more fun place to be now than we were 25 years ago, evidenced by places in the center city populated at night largely with young people who are out having a good time. That's a good development. But I really think that part of what's going to make our community great over the next 20 or 30 years will be embracing creativity in all aspects of our lives. I predict that we'll be working harder in the future not only to recruit industry but to attract younger workers who bring superior talent to our work force. Talented young people don't want to go to a place that's boring. They want to go to a place that's lively and has all kinds of stimulation to feel like a vibrant place. So being a fun and creative city is not just a culture issue, it's an

economic development issue.

Is that one of the first issues you would like to tackle as mayor? We've got to take a cold, calculated look at the future and decide now how we're going to align our resources to attract growing industries. We have a 12 percent unemployment rate as reported just a few days ago, and it is a reminder of how much our quality of life, our families and our ability to contribute to the community is tied to having a job. The leadership challenge right now is not what it has been, which has been executing a growth strategy. We're going to have to build a new one. Luckily, Charlotte and our region have strong assets to build upon. But it will take a lot of work.

What did you gain/learn/change from working with the Charlotte City Council? Another great question with an easy answer: don't complicate the simple. Davidson College gave me the ability to see deeply into things, to analyze and to interpret. But the obvious can sometimes escape you if you're not careful. When a citizen wants a pothole fixed, they don't care about Hobbes or John Stuart Mill. They want an answer – yes or no. Sometimes I think people can tolerate an answer they don't like by understanding the thinking behind it. That's less true than I would like. Most of time, people want you to get to the point – and fast.

What strengths will make you a great Charlotte mayor? The 80/20 rule, which I've observed from birth, means that you listen more than you talk. Most politicians do the opposite and, as a result, miss a lot of information. My role as a politician and mayor isn't to be the star of the show. My role is to make sure that every single person in Charlotte has their own chance to be a star. I've always found listening to be a very vital part of how I form judgments and how I build bridges with people who are not inclined to agree with one another.

The second point is that I know something about succeeding despite impossible odds. A necessary skill in that has been learning how to believe in things and shape a future I haven't yet seen. That's something that will be very critical to being mayor of Charlotte in these next few years because there is a lot of uncertainty out there. That is the major differentiator between me and anyone else: I'm not afraid of the uncertainty. In fact, I have found a way to thrive in it.

What should Charlotte residents expect from you as a mayor? I will treat every community, every person with dignity and respect and with a sincere interest in trying to solve problems. Since I've been on council I've tried as hard as anyone can to represent everyone very well. Whether it be filling a pot hole or hiring all of the police officers we need or expanding after-school programs, I've tried to strike the right balance in terms of providing the resources this community needs to survive.

The second big issue, which my record points to, has to do with strengthening and diversifying our economy. That's something I've been focused on since day one and before this financial crisis. I worked to rebuild some of the more distressed parts of Charlotte. We're doing that now. If we can create conditions in which the private sector has confidence going into these areas, then growing commercial development and infill development in these areas will happen. Then, we've instantly created a quality-of-life improvement, created jobs, a broader tax base for the city, and we've done it in a way that doesn't require new roads or new infrastructure.

What would you like to say specifically to your DBAN audience? I urge them to get involved in this campaign in some way. If they can spend time volunteering, if they live in the area, come do it! We need the help. If they live far away but can write a check, please do that. This is not going to be an easy campaign, but it has a lot of heart. My hope is that every person sees me and Charlotte as a success and wants to be involved in continuing our remarkable story.

For more volunteering information call 704-342-8005 or e-mail Rob Schnabel at rob@anthonyfoxx.com. Also visit www.anthonyfoxx.com/



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Words of Wisdom

From Michelle Obama

"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals. And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am."

Huffington Post via Beliefnet.com

Career Corner: Alumni helping Students

In this frustrating economic atmosphere, everyone's pushed to the emotional and financial limit. To decrease this added stress, the Career Services office has extended a hand to pull recent Davidson graduates out of the current economy sludge. If you know opportunities within your company, the Career Services office would like your help! John Adams, director of Davidson's Career Services, answers a few key questions about their new job finding program.

Why is this effort important? The support of Davidson's students by alumni is always essential to sustain good flow of employment and graduate education opportunities. When the economy takes a turn down, the alum support is even more important. While young college graduates fare better than others, the National Association of Colleges and Employers is estimating a 22 percent downturn in both new graduate hires **and** in internship hiring. This is a major reduction in opportunity for Davidson's students and graduates.

Have you received support from many alumni? Over the years our alumni have been the mainstay of the recruiting relationships we have with both employers and graduate schools. Without their involvement, students would have little opportunity to compete with specialized colleges or more geographically centered colleges. In addition to the many who we work with to keep their organizations posting jobs and conducting interviews, we have 1311 alums who have volunteered to mentor students through our interactive mentor database within the Davidson eCareers system.

What type of jobs are hiring now? Interestingly, we are still seeing entry-level hiring occur in almost every industry and job function. In a few industries, candidates are being counseled by some to accept internship or volunteer opportunities to gain industry specific experience they may not have. Areas that are hiring more than normal are: federal government, health care, public utility and non-profit / NGO agencies.

What would you tell graduating students that have not found jobs yet? Build a strong foundation for your job search. Back up and do the self assessment to clarify what it is you are offering to the world and where you would like to plug your, talents into the world. Learn to effectively communicate your skills / talents in writing (resumes and letters), verbally (telephone and presentation) and in the interview environment. Learn to seek out information and advice from classmates and alumni and those to whom you are referred. Measure your activity by the number of people you are meeting with each week. Whether you call it networking, referral or relationship building, putting yourself in front of people and having them get to know you is what is most important.

What advice would you give alumni who would like to help students, but don't know how? Alumni are encouraged to work two sides of the relationship with the college. As an employee or graduate student, encourage your organization to post jobs or programs in our password protected Web site (Davidson eCareers), volunteer to conduct recruiting activities on campus (information tables, information sessions, career fairs / grad school fairs), persuade them to interview Davidson students on campus, in consortia events such as Selective Liberal Arts Consortium recruiting days, CIAA Metrolina Career EXPO, or even at the organization site.

As an alum wanting to help students, volunteer to conduct mock interviews or resume critiques on campus through the Office Career Services programs. Serve on panels for industry / "careers in..." events of academic major programs. Participate in networking events to provide students general information about your industry, job role, organization and your transition from Davidson and beyond. Finally, volunteer to serve as a mentor in our interactive Mentor Database within the Davidson eCareers site. Students need to hear from young alum about both the content of what, where AND the process of transitioning. What is the recruiting process for your industry and your organization? What are the particularities of the process that are true for only your industry or discipline?

What type of response do you hope to receive from alumni?

Each time the Davidson College Alumni Office sends out its electronic newsletter, we receive postings to share with the students. If alums could remember to forward any postings they see to us, we will attempt to track the information needed to properly post the opportunity. Understanding that the Office of Career Services is responsible for ensuring that all potentially qualified candidates are aware the opportunity is helpful. Contact Brenda Harvey at brharvey@davidson.edu with any position postings or questions about recruiting.

We would love to have each alum sign up to be a mentor within the Davidson eCareers Mentor module. Alums may go to www3.davidson.edu/cms/x8651.xml and click on the **eCareers Alumni Mentors** button. This page will walk you the Mentor registration process.