

THE DBAN QUARTERLY

Volume I, Issue 3

March 2009

Inside this issue

The Three Parts to Your Retirement

Marcus Williams '98

Student Profiles

Jessica Givens '10

Alumni Profiles

Kevin Saunders '05

Annual Fund

Why Do You Give?

Campus Update

Career Corner

The Three Parts to Your Retirement: By Marcus Williams (Class of '98)

A comfortable retirement rests on sources of Income. If you find that you are short in one, you will have to make it up elsewhere.

Social Security

Social Security provides a foundation for nearly everyone's retirement. Every year you should receive a copy of your Social Security Statement from the Social Security Administration. While Social Security should be viewed as a building block in your retirement plan, you must remember that the higher your pre-retirement income, the smaller the amount of income Social Security will replace.

Retirement Plans

If you have a defined benefit (pension) or defined contribution (401k, 403b, Simple IRA, SEP IRA) plan through your company, check with your company's benefits administration to determine what to expect from this source.

Once you know what Social Security and pensions are likely to contribute, you can compare this total to your current annual income. A rule of thumb suggest that retirement income should equal approximately 65% to 80% of your current income in order to maintain your current standard of living.

Continued on page 3

Black Alumni Associations Across the Country

The Harvard Black Alumni Society (HBAS) was founded in 2002 by nine alumni. Since then, it has grown into a national organization with operations in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Washington D.C.

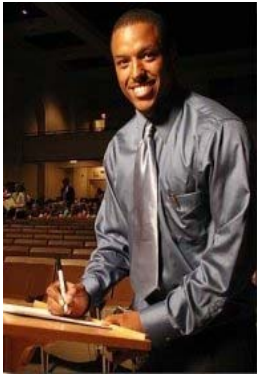
YBAN: Yale Black Alumni Network (YBAN) was founded in 1996. It is an independent, autonomous online community for alumni of African descent.

The Black Ivy Alumni League, founded in 1998, is a national non-profit organization representing alumni of African descent from the colleges and professional/graduate schools of the nation's eight Ivy League institutions.

Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) was founded in 1976 to provide a communication network for Black alumni. Over the years, CBAA's mission and scope of activities has expanded to encompass four major programs— Recruitment, Mentorship, Update, and Scholarship.

DBAN Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Events</u>
Mar-09	11th at 6:30pm - Career Panel at the BSC
Apr-09	26th at 12:00pm - Senior Induction Luncheon in the 900 Room



Alumni Profile: Kevin Saunders

Ph.D. Candidate in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University

Class of 2005.

Hometown: Roanoke, VA.

Currently resides in Raleigh, NC.

Who was in your “crew” at Davidson and where are they now? Christopher Leftwich, teacher, Kennedy Charter School in Charlotte, NC, Frankie Jones, attorney, Smith, Moore, Leatherwood, Greensboro, NC, and Brandon Zeigler, sales, Wachovia Corporation, Charlotte NC.

Favorite Class and/or Professor and why? Microbiology and David Wessner. It was the career field I planned to enter.

What was your major at Davidson and your current occupation? I was a Biology major. Now, I am a Ph.D. Candidate in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology. Genetics and microbiology are fields within Biology.

When was the last time you were back on campus? The Tau Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated 5th Year Anniversary Celebration. What was your impression? The campus looks more modern than when I attended Davidson. It is comparable to larger state institutions.

If you could go back, is there anything you would do differently while at Davidson or after graduation? I would have taken more difficult classes that I could have used later in life-economics specifically.

What advice would you give to current students or younger alumni? Grades are preached as the ultimate indicator of a Davidson student’s current and future success. For this reason many students are deterred away from the majors that would lead to the careers that they intended to pursue. However, I have found that many of my colleagues, in graduate school and medical school, were not straight A students nor did they come from an institution as challenging as Davidson College. If students at Davidson understood that not every physician, lawyer or architect was a 4.0 student, many of them would pursue the majors/careers that they are passionate about-not just the ones that are easiest for them.



Student Profile: Jessica Givens (Class of 2010)

Hometown: New York, NY

Major: Sociology

Favorite Class and/or Professor so far and why? Social Stratification. Social stratification was my favorite class because I could apply things learned to the business world, and my own personal life. I am now aware of inequalities beyond race and gender, in addition to how America’s society is really constructed: this country is not a true meritocracy so now I know how to succeed/reach my goals.

What are your aspirations after Davidson? Marketing. What are you doing to prepare yourself for life after Davidson? Networking, performing community service, staying active on campus, participating in internships, and keeping my grades up.

Has your impression of Davidson changed over the course of your time there? If so, how? My impression of Davidson has changed for the better because of the school’s diversity initiative. I feel like Davidson is a school that I am an essential part of, not a school that I am nearly visiting for four years.

If you could go back, is there anything you would do differently while at Davidson? No, the ups and downs have allowed me to grow as a citizen, student, and young woman. What advice would you give to other current students? Stay focused and don’t give up. Follow your dreams no matter what. Have fun!

Dinner with President Ross



On January 15, 2009, Charlotte area alumni gathered with the 20th President of Davidson College, Tom Ross. There were approximately 15 area alums in attendance and it was a wonderful opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with the President of the College. We had candid conversations regarding diversity on campus in terms of students, faculty and staff. We also discussed the economy, the effect it is having on the college and the need for alumni to continue to support the annual fund.

This was a wonderful event that we plan to continue on an annual basis. For those of you that were able to join us this year, we hope that you enjoyed the evening and President Ross' insights. For area alumni that were not able to attend, we hope that you will make the effort to join us next year. These events are a great way to reconnect and network.

The Emerging Professionals Group

The Emerging Professional Group has been a constructive force on campus, developing the future leaders of society. This organization has two functional and effective goals: 1) To establish a support system for EPG members that will foster their professional growth and development outside of Davidson. 2) To arm minority students at Davidson with the tools necessary to succeed in the professional world. Founders Donnie Johnson '00 and Vincent Benjamin '04 accomplish these goals by helping members create thorough and professional resumes, develop business awareness, and corporate environment acclimation through the development of effective networking skills, goal setting, and the procurement of summer work experience (Internships) and full time employment.

However, one of the most important aspects of the Emerging Professionals Group is community service. This organization strives to foster an atmosphere of community service. Every year EPG selects a community service project that each member of the group is responsible for contributing to. This year's project was a Christmas fundraiser for a three year old girl in Germany who's family fell on hard times after the recent death of her father.

The success stories for members have been plentiful: Matthew Scott - Summer 2006, Wachovia Securities. Ranked # 1 summer intern. Kevin Wright - 2007, Wachovia Securities. Awarded first full time job offer out of his intern class. Whitney White - 2008 Bain & Company. Only African American female full time job offer in 2008 class of recruits. Lorenzo Mack - 2008 Sungard Omni. After being suspended one semester Lorenzo joined EPG upon returning to Davidson and went on to excel in the class room and land a consulting job at Sungard.

The Three Parts to Your Retirement: continued

And this amount will need to increase periodically in order to keep pace with inflation. Just look at the current trends in energy, healthcare, and food costs as example.

Your Savings

If there is a shortfall in your retirement income, where will the missing money be found? Personal savings is the third element in successful retirement planning. And it is the most crucial of the three, because it is the variable that often determines how comfortable your retirement will be. Personal savings, invested as early as possible in your working career, combined with tax-deferred strategies, can be the key to an independent and financially secure retirement.

Marcus Williams offers securities through AXA Advisors, LLC (member FINRA, SIPC) 10840 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28277 and offers annuity and insurance products through an insurance brokerage affiliate, AXA Network, LLC and its subsidiaries.



Tiara Henderson '97
President
tiara_henderson2005@yahoo.com

Brandon Zeigler '05
Vice President
brzeigler@gmail.com

Shantia Washington '08
Secretary
shantia.washington@wachovia.com

Sakira Curbeam '98
Treasurer
sakira.v.curbeam@bankofamerica.com

Website:

<http://www3.davidson.edu/cms/x9418.xml>

Davidson College
Office of Alumni Relations
Post Office Box 7169
Davidson, NC 28035-7169

The Annual Fund: Why Do You Give? The current Annual Fund fiscal year ends June 30, 2009.

Giving to Davidson is essentially giving forward. I would not have the opportunities that I currently have without some generous alum making Davidson a priority. His or her generosity helped finance my education and I now have the ability to achieve all of my career goals.

Knowing that there are still many bright students needing financial assistance to attend Davidson, I too have made it a priority to give to Davidson. I've committed to giving forward so that the brightest students can achieve.

-Kevin Wright '07

Career Corner: Self-Confidence and Success by Marshall Goldsmith http://www.businessweek.com/managing/content/sep2008/ca2008099_290057.htm?chan=careers_managing+your+career+page_career+advice

One common characteristic of the great leaders I meet is self-confidence, which of course makes sense. Leaders have to inspire confidence in others. It would be difficult for others to believe in us if we don't even believe in ourselves.

Great leaders have to take risks. While getting to "acceptable" may not involve risk, getting to "one of a kind" does. Self-confidence gives great leaders the courage they need to take their companies—and themselves—to a new level of success.

A huge part of self-confidence comes from our previous success. Successful people tell themselves, "I have succeeded in the past. Therefore, I know I can succeed in the future." That's the good news about successful people's belief in their previous success. The bad news is that it makes it hard for them to hear negative feedback.

You may not think that this applies to you, because surely someone who can't hear negative feedback is suffering from an ego run amok. But look closely at yourself. How do you have the confidence to wake up in the morning and charge into work, filled with optimism and eagerness to compete? It's not because you are reminding yourself of the screw-ups you have created and the failures you have endured. On the contrary, it's because you edit out failures and choose to run the highlight reel of your successes.

If you're like the successful people I know, you're focused on the positives, calling up mental images when you were the star, when you dazzled everyone and came out on top. It might be those five minutes in the executive meeting when you had the floor and nailed the argument you wanted to make. (Who wouldn't run that highlight reel in their head as if it were the Sports Center Play of the Day?) It might be your skillfully crafted memo that the CEO praised and routed to everyone in the company. (Who wouldn't want to reread that memo in a spare moment?) When our actions lead to a happy ending and make us look good, we love to replay it for ourselves.

When achievement is the result of a team effort—not just individual performance—we tend to overestimate our contribution to the final victory. I once asked three business partners to estimate their individual contribution to the partnership's profits. Not surprisingly, the sum of their answers amounted to more than 150% of the actual profit. Each of the three partners thought she was contributing more than half.

This overestimation of our past success is true in almost any workplace. If you ask your colleagues (in a confidential survey) to estimate their percentage contribution to your enterprise, the total will always exceed 100%. There is nothing wrong with this. (If the total adds up to less than 100%, you probably need new colleagues.)

Successful people consistently overrate themselves relative to their peers. I have asked more than 80,000 participants in my training programs to rate themselves in terms of their performance relative to their professional peers. We found that 80% to 85% rank themselves in the top 20% of their peer group, and about 70% rank themselves in the top 10%. The numbers get even more ridiculous among professionals with higher perceived social status, such as physicians, pilots, and investment bankers.

Please remember this as you progress in the corporate world. The higher up we go—the more successful we become—the harder it may be for us to hear negative feedback. I ask my CEO clients to complete a simple exercise. Complete this sentence, "I am success because of...," Then complete this sentence, "I am a success in spite of..." I have never met anyone who was so wonderful that he or she had nothing on the "in spite of" list. (If I did meet such a person, I would suggest that he or she work on "humility.") My readers are generally successful people. Make your own two lists: figure out your "in spite of"—and get to work.