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strength of the program evolved.

Other members of the class had to leave Davidson to fight in World War II. But wherever they went after college, whatever they became, their ties to Davidson draw them back, year after year.

Bill Wood and Bob Patton are two members of the class of '43 who fought in the war immediately after graduation, or in the case of Patton, even before finishing school.

"I joined the enlisted reserve corps, and the



Second runners-up Charles Washington '04 and Tiffany Hollis '04 at Saturday's Homecoming.

enlisted reserve corps kept me in school until March, when we were called to active duty," said Patton. "I was very pleased that I got to stay in school as long as I did, I had no complaint whatsoever."

Wood, on the other hand, entered the armed forces within a week of graduation.

"I was in the accelerated program, so I graduated in February of 1943, and in one week, I was in the armed forces, in New Guinea," said Wood.

While in New Guinea, across the world from Davidson, Wood hurt his knee.

"I had a bad football knee from Davidson, and it was hurt again while I was fighting, so they sent me to the hospital," Wood said. "And would you believe it, the doctor who looked at my knee was a graduate of Davidson!"

Patton said that despite his rather hasty entrance into the war, while he was at Davidson, he really didn't know too much about it.

"I remember life on the campus continuing on," said Patton. "I don't remember it being a pressurized or controversial time for anybody."

For all these men, Davidson was a very important time in their lives.

"Davidson meant a great deal to me when I

was in college," said McGee. "It expanded my knowledge, my understanding of what the world was all about, and I think it was a significant factor in my life, both from a standpoint of what I did in my business and from a standpoint of what I did in my church."

He continued, "I think the big thing that happened to me while I was at Davidson is that I determined that I would not become a minister and that I would go into my chosen profession, journalism, which I have been in all my life."

This decision that McGee made has had a tremendous impact on the Dean Rusk program in the last few years, in terms of his contributions to the program.

"I've always been interested in international studies," McGee said. "I traveled all over the world when I was younger, when I worked for the Associated Press, and I thought that this was something very important for the future of our country. They need to have a strong program for international studies, and I'm glad that it's going so well."

Many members of the class come back to Davidson at least once a year.

"It's very exciting [to come back]," Patton said. "I mean, you get to see all these folks, some of whom you can't recognize until you hear their voice, and you remember their voice, and it's so exciting to be able to talk to some of them who you haven't seen in years and years and years, some of them for 60 years.



First runners-up Jeff Wheeler '04 and Cady Blackey '06 (in for Ellie Blackey '04)

I couldn't overemphasize the excitement that's involved."

Wood agreed, "My wife and I come to Davidson almost every summer. Usually when I come, I walk through the college. I always enjoy coming through, especially if I see people that I know. Its going home in a way, it always is."

## Addition of Alpha Phi Alpha called historic and 'overdue'

### Historically African-American fraternity will take part in Self-Selection

BY SARAH-GRACE WESLEY  
Staff Writer

Davidson will soon welcome the 909th chapter of the national African-American fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha onto campus this semester, an event that many students are calling a historic moment for the college.

Dean Ernest Jeffries, Assistant Dean of Student and Alpha Phi Alpha member, said the fraternity already has a charter and will be ready for the regular self-selection process this school year. Though they do not have a house on campus, they will hold meetings and various functions on campus. There are no plans yet for getting a house for the fraternity.

According to Jeffries, the fraternity was formed in 1906 at Cornell University as a social society and then as a literary society. Since then it has had over 175,000 members including such prominent figures as Dr. Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DeBois, and Duke Ellington.

Alumnus Lenny McAllister '94 tried unsuccessfully in the early 1990s to start a chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha at Davidson, but was met with resistance from administration and students.

"It was a different culture back then. My opinion is that it's freer now and there are more attempts to diversify in the proper way," he said.

McAllister also noted that the fraternity was viewed as a potential threat to the "Davidson tradition" and said that the establishment of Alpha Phi Alpha represents the culmination of years of work along with the extensive help and support of administrators such as Dean Jeffries.

While many students are happy to see Alpha Phi Alpha brought into the Patterson Court

social scene, others are concerned that the fraternity might act as a divisive element and further support social barriers between races.

A student who chose not to be named disagrees with the idea behind ethnic fraternities. "It is just promoting segregation. I think that having a black frat is like saying, 'I'm different and I'm excluding myself.' From my point of view as a minority, I don't want to just hang out with minorities. I want to get to know other people and other cultures. That is the point of college."

Tiffany Hollis '04, the only female member on the selection committee for the African-American fraternity feels the fraternity will instead promote unity for many minorities. Hollis said, "There needs to be a stronger sense of brotherhood among African-American males."

She advocates the establishment of Alpha Phi Alpha on the basis that it is more service-oriented than other fraternities and has a stronger sense of identity for black students.

George Edwards '04 thinks that "if people want to do it, that's great that they are coming together." Winston Kohler '05 said the establishment of Alpha Phi Alpha is "overdue."

Jeffries said the fraternity will add a new experience to the rapidly changing Court. "In terms of the social aspect for minority students and all students, it will add another dimension to the campus," he said.

McAllister also asserted the importance of an ethnic fraternity: "A lot of African-American students are coming from a specific experience, and when they come to college, they want a parallel to that experience."

Regardless of the controversy, Alpha Phi Alpha is coming to Davidson; and many students simply hope that it will enrich the social life of Patterson Court and perhaps add a new element of culture to what has been labelled as a homogenous scene.

## DEADLINE: November 14 to apply for George L. Abernethy Endowment Funds

Abernethy Funds are available to students in the following three categories:

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At the request of the donor, applications are limited to projects that fall within the humanities and social sciences.

FYI: Last year the Abernethy Endowment supported projects with grants up to \$3,500; the average award was about \$2,000.

Application forms are available in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Chambers 116).

Completed application forms are due back in this office before 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2003. The announcement of awards will occur on or before January 15, 2004.

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