



Members of the Black Student Coalition met with Rev. Moss after Convocation.

## Moss, from page 1

He currently serves as pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. He has preached throughout the world and has received numerous honors for his work in civil rights.

*"I applaud Dr. Moss for attacking the complacency and indifference that plagues so many of us. It is evident that not all of us will make a worldwide impact that will etch our names in textbooks. However, Dr. King could not have spearheaded the progress that was made if people were not willing to bring change."*

—Chris Burton '08

Moss spoke about common reactions to King's life and impact and encouraged the audience to carry on King's legacy personally, interpersonally and politically.

Moss first expressed deep admiration for King's loyalty to his cause and to his people.

King once said that he would rather "spend ten years in prison than turn his back on the people of Montgomery."

Moss then spoke at length about his belief that King was, and still is, profoundly misunderstood and unjustly shunned.

Moss cited an incident in which a director of the FBI once referred to King as "the most notorious liar in the nation." Even some in King's own race did not support his actions, mocking King's nonviolence and wishing to get on with the "real revolution."

"The prophet must always take the risk of being profoundly misunderstood, as well as profoundly admired," said Moss.

Moss spoke about several responses to the life of King.

He called the three responses "blind, bitter rejection," "empty adoration," and "comfortable indifference."

Jeffries said he can certainly see these responses lived out by Americans. As for rejection, he feels that many believe King has been hyped up, and that he did not do

anything special.

According to Jeffries, South Carolina had rejected King's holiday in the past, and only started observing the day within the past few years.

However, according to Moss, "empty adoration" and "comfortable indifference" are just as bad, if not worse, than the rejection of King's life and message.

While most cities have streets named after King, and most offices have his picture or quote, most people do not carry on King's legacy.

"It's easy to put up a picture of him, but not to adopt his principles into practice in our lives," said Moss. "It's easier to put up monuments than to build a better world."

Jeffries agrees, saying, "A lot of people admire the name, but the younger generation doesn't know the depths of what he did and stood for."

Moss continued by encouraging a different reaction to King's message, a reaction of "creative struggle."

Creative struggle requires asking oneself, each day, what one is doing to build a better world.

Moss challenged the audience to think about the "real weapons of mass destruction" in our world, addressing controversial political issues such as the federal budget, the abandonment of public education, and aspects of foreign policy.

"I applaud Dr. Moss for attacking the complacency and indifference that plagues so many of us," said Chris Burton '08. "It is evident that not all of us will make a worldwide impact that will etch our names in the textbooks. However, Dr. King could not have spearheaded the progress that was made if people were not willing to bring change."

Moss concluded his talk by urging the audience to "remember that the dream is in our hands" and to "ask ourselves what we shall do to examine the meaning of nonviolence for our lives."

He said that nonviolence deals with the way people treat each other, what people put in their bodies, how people behave and what people believe about another's humanity.

Moss asked his listeners to "live in, challenge, and change the world."

"The battle is in your hands," he said. "[King's] question is, 'what did you do with my dream, and what did you do to my dream?' How will you respond?"

## Survey, from page 1

BSC and APA member Chris Burton '08 said he was upset but not surprised by the results.

"As a proud member of both organizations I can very well say that neither Alpha Phi Alpha or the Black Student Coalition are discriminatory or prejudice-based organizations," Burton said.

The BSC, which was established in 1976, is open to all members of the student body. Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was chartered as the first historically-black fraternity at Davidson in 2003. Like the BSC, Alpha Phi Alpha membership is open to all students.

Brendan Watkins '07, president of the BSC and APA, said the results reflect a common misperception of both organizations.

According to Watkins, 15 of the BSC's 48 dues-paying members are non-black.

"In years past, there have been three Caucasian members of the executive council. It's not that we exclude, it just that people really don't know [about the organization]," he said.

Burton added that the APA's history often feeds student misperceptions.

"Whenever we have an awareness seminar, we strongly emphasize that while APA is the first historically-black fraternity, that doesn't mean we exclude non-black members," Burton said.

Students offered reasons for the perception that the BSC and APA exclude on the basis of race.

Gabriel Mayer '09 said that while neither the BSC nor APA intentionally exclude non-blacks, social pressures often perform the same function.

"I probably would have listed the BSC and Alpha Phi Alpha [in the survey] because they are historically-black organizations," said Mayer. "I would feel uncomfortable joining the BSC and Alpha Phi Alpha."

Social pressure, according to Burton, is at the root of student misperceptions.

"People haven't educated themselves enough about these organizations and fear allows them to cast judgment where it may not necessarily deserve to be," Burton said.

## KA's southern roots lead to student misperceptions

The third organization perceived to exclude members on the basis of race was Kappa Alpha Order, a historically-southern fraternity whose Davidson chapter was established in 1880.

Rachel Heidmann '08 was not sure if she would consider KA exclusionary, but she found the survey results informative.

"Why would people say KA over the other fraternities?" she asked.

Sellers voiced a similar concern.

"If it was just a general problem with Patterson Court, you would see all of the fraternities potentially mentioned. But Kappa Alpha got 15 mentions," he said.

KA President Mill Graves '07 acknowledged that KA's history as a southern fraternity has often been equated with negative stereotypes such as racism.

"Before joining KA, I thought this as well. It's historically been a southern fraternity," Graves said.

After joining and getting to know the fraternity's history, however, Graves found the association to be nothing more than a common misperception.

"I definitely don't believe its true," he said.

Former KA president Joe Cheaney '06 agreed that the history of the fraternity had something to do with the results of the survey.

"Robert E. Lee is the spiritual founder of KA. So a lot of people automatically think Robert E. Lee, confederacy, slavery, racism. This doesn't make sense in my mind," he said.

According to Graves and Cheaney, the perception that KA is exclusionary is one of the fraternity's national organization is trying to correct. However, Graves said that the Davidson's chapter has always been "forward-thinking". The College's chapter admitted the first two African-American members in the nation.

Despite the fraternity's attempts to correct its image, students still believe its membership is limited on the basis of race.

Doyle said she considered KA to be an exclusionary organization.

"I'm sure they're not racist," she said. "But I do think they have a very 'southern pride' image, and that is probably why a lot of people think that they are exclusive."

Doyle said that the lack of diversity in KA is another reason for the perception. "It's probably just the type of people they appeal to maybe aren't as racially diverse," she said.

According to KA brother Carlos Ortiz '07, the fraternity's makeup is not intentional. Ortiz, who is South American, said, "Frats are selective organizations. But what drives the selection process is not race."

Graves added, "If you look at the other frats on the court, they are just as diverse and not as diverse as ours."

## Trying to correct misperceptions

Leaders of all three organizations said they were working to change the perception, but there was only so much they can do.

"Perceptions are what they are. You can't really change them. It's a matter of understanding," Graves said.

According to Watkins, all that the BSC and Alpha Phi Alpha can do is continue to sponsor campus-wide forums and encourage dialogue on the organizations' purposes. In addition, he said the BSC would put a "question box" in the Union for any questions students may have on minorities on campus.

Burton said the survey would help energize the BSC and Alpha Phi Alpha's awareness programs. In order to correct the misperceptions, however, students would need to do their homework on the organizations.

"Go to a BSC meeting or attend one of the events sponsored by KA or Alpha Phi Alpha," he said. "If the perception that they are prejudiced is true, that's one thing. But if you find that it's not true, you need to reevaluate the way you think."

## COURT SELECTION



First-year members of Warner Hall celebrate Court Selection at their house.

## CAMPUS POLICE BLOTTER

1/14

Patterson Court

Simple Assault

At approximately 10:15 a.m., a male student reported being assaulted as he attempted to enter the basement of one of the houses on Patterson Court. Campus Police are conducting an investigation at this time.

Students with information about campus crimes can contact Campus Police anonymously by logging onto [www.davidson.edu/publicsafety](http://www.davidson.edu/publicsafety)