



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

HULON WILLIS '56

## The First Black Alumnus:

### "WILLIAM AND MARY IS TOPS IN MY BOOK"

BY LISA L. HEUVEL

"WILLIAM AND MARY IS TOPS IN MY BOOK. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND IT ALWAYS WILL BE."

--Hulon L. Willis

When 63-year-old Hulon L. Willis, Sr. (M.Ed. '56), came to the College of William and Mary in 1951 as a graduate student in the School of Education, he recalls, no Williamsburg restaurant served blacks. At home football games, black spectators sat only in the end zone. Newspapers headlined Willis as "the first Negro to enter William and Mary."

He was then teaching in the Norfolk, Va., school system, and the Supreme Court had just ruled that qualified blacks must be accepted into the graduate programs of colleges and universities.

Willis says that it was his wife, Alyce, a fellow Virginia State University graduate, who inspired him to apply to William and Mary in 1951. However, as a Pittsburgh, Pa., native who came South on an athletic scholarship in 1941, he "fell in love" with the College upon his first visit there in 1945.

"I was going through the Wren Building and thought what a great thing it would be to matriculate there. I never dreamed it would happen."

But it did. A World War II veteran who had already done one summer semester of graduate work at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va., Willis also wanted to complete his graduate work closer to home.

Starting in 1951, he spent four summers (with one semester off) on graduate work, earning his M.Ed. in 1956. He was elected to Kappa Delta Pi education honor society and is a member of the Order of the White Jacket. But since graduation, Willis has added a long history of active participation as an alumnus. A member of the Parents Association Steering Committee for seven years while his daughter and son attended William and Mary (Alyce Willis served as secretary of the organization), Willis also participates in the Alumni Association Network for the Richmond-Petersburg-Hopewell area. He and his wife are active in the College's STEP program.

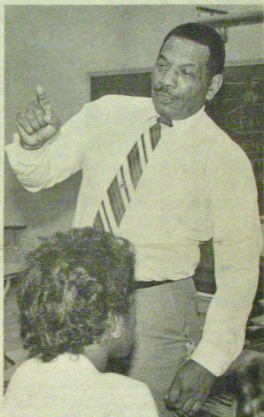
The Willis family is the first, and at this time, only black two-generation William and Mary family. Daughter Kimberly ('80) attended William and Mary for three years, leaving to complete her undergraduate education elsewhere and to earn a master's degree in social work. Son Hulon Willis, Jr., graduated from William and Mary in 1977, and will be awarded his master's degree in social work from Howard University this May.

An assistant professor of health and physical education at Virginia State University, Hulon Willis, Sr. is also that institution's Director of Campus Police. During his 33 years at Virginia State, he has also spent time as football and wrestling coach.

It is in the law enforcement field that Willis has earned a national reputation, teaching over 7,000 police officers in "Defensive Tactics" over the past 23 years. Working with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Willis has taught this course in weapons control, intermediate weapons and defense to law enforcement officers on the national, federal, state and local levels.

He also teaches in the area of personal safety for women, senior citizens and children as a hobby — something, he says, that he does for his community. He has been involved in karate for 25 years, and several years ago came back to William and Mary to teach self-defense to women students during the "mini-semester" in January.

If that completed Hulon Willis's list of activities, it would be considered substantial. Yet he is also in "Who's Who in Law Enforcement," is a trustee of the American Police Hall of Fame, and serves as a trustee for the Scholarship Committee of the Virginia State Police.



Rebecca Clark

Hulon Willis, who is a member of the faculty and director of campus police at Virginia State University, says he fell in love with the College when he made his first visit to campus in 1945.

Willis says that he has developed genuine friendships through the years with members of the College community like former William and Mary presidents Davis V. Paschall '32 and Thomas A. Graves (as well as Mrs. Graves), Howard M. Smith '43 and Joseph S. Agee '52, professors of physical education, and Richard B. Brooks, professor emeritus of education.

This loyal alumnus credits friends like these for giving him "a lot of inspiration," and he says, "I can't say anything negative about my experience there." But as he also says, there have been many social changes in Williamsburg and in the nation since he was a graduate student — the only black student at the College.

However, he adds, "I don't think that the professors have changed, all the way down the line. They could have set up roadblocks for me, but they didn't."

"The students didn't accept all things about it, but I wasn't there for that. . . . I was there to get an education, and my background as a Virginia State graduate was good. I was never under great pressure at William and Mary, although a lot of people were concerned for me."

As for sitting in the end zone at the football games, Hulon Willis wasn't about to. He took his place with the other William and Mary students.



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

## Blacks at William and Mary: Opting for a Special Experience



At William and Mary, "commitment" is the key word in the College's emphasis on attracting young black men and women and helping them realize the College's potential as well as their own.

BY LISA L. HEUVEL

**C**ommitment. As never before, that's the key word in the College of William and Mary's emphasis on attracting young black men and women and helping them to realize the College's potential as well as their own.

On campus, more and more administrators and faculty are meeting this challenge. At the same time, black students realize that they choose a special experience when they choose William and Mary, one substantially different than they would have at a predominantly black college or university.

Like all students who choose the College for undergraduate or graduate education, they are opting for an excellent academic program in a small, historic community not far from several urban centers.

Like all William and Mary students, they are given the opportunity to make what they will of the College's possibilities. It's undeniable that for black students, the challenge of living and learning in a setting where there are many more white students can be an exceptional one.

Yet judging from the diverse, impressive achievements and careers of black students and alumni, exceptional people choose exceptional challenges.

Of over 350 black alumni of the College, there are Phi Beta Kappa's, professors, film and television producers, bankers, ministers, college administrators, clinical social workers, and high school guidance counselors.

W. Samuel Sadler '64, dean of student affairs, knows many of these alumni, and remembers them with affection from his own days working in William and Mary's Office of Admissions years ago. He says, "We're developing a body of alumni in positions of influence. They can help to recruit students, and serve as a net-

work for graduates of the College interested in working in their areas."

Dean Sadler says, "I think we're doing the things we need to do to insure students' success. We need to go one better than that and show our students what the future can look like, to say, 'It means something that you went to William and Mary. We want to help you achieve your goals.'

"We've reached a point where we can feel good about our progress, but we need help to get the rest of the way. Black alumni can help, and we hope that we can communicate our excitement to them. More than money, we need them to give of themselves, which is what I think William and Mary is all about."

The welcoming atmosphere today is a far cry from 1945, when the *Flat Hat* was temporarily suspended from publication because of an editorial by Marilyn Kaemmerle, now Mrs. Henry Quinto '45. Then editor of the *Flat Hat*, this senior English major had suggested that the time should come when "Negroes" should attend the College.

Mrs. Quinto's prediction came to pass beginning in 1951, when Hulon L. Willis, Sr., was accepted to graduate study. Since then, the gains have been slow but sure. William and Mary seeks not only to meet state and federal desegregation goals, but more importantly, to convince its potential students that they are being admitted not because of the color of their skin, but because of their own qualifications and potential — like all William and Mary students.

Dale Robinson, director of personnel and affirmative action officer for the College, says, "It takes awhile. Word has to get back about things happening here."

As one example, he points to increased enrollment in the undergraduate program and graduate schools. In 1983-84, William and Mary's goal was to enroll 47 black Virginians, but only 26 were enrolled in fact. Yet in 1984-85, there were 68 black freshmen and transfers in the incoming class, the largest number

of black students to enroll so far. With an in-state goal of 73, the College enrolled 56 in-state students and 12 out-of-state students.

So in two years, William and Mary went from meeting 55 percent of its goal to 75 percent. It already meets or exceeds goals established for graduate students.

"It's very slow in terms of increasing enrollment, but the retention rate has become a more important factor," says Robinson. "Over a five-year period, the retention rate for black students is 80 percent for those currently enrolled or graduated, as compared to 90 percent for white students."

One of the College's recruiting tools is the STEP (Summer Transition and Enrichment Program), a four-week residential summer program. Established in 1979, the program gave 61 high school students an introduction to college life this past summer, letting them take non-credit courses in subjects such as math and computer science.

The Virginia Student Transition Program (VSTP) is for high school students who have been accepted for admission, but for whom it would be a condition that they attend the six-week summer program, taking one course for academic credit. Approximately 30 students attended the VSTP in 1984.

More expanded recruiting, aimed at improving and updating the College's image among black high school students, is another significant factor in the changing scene at William and Mary.

Alfreda James '81, assistant to the dean of admissions, is pleased with the high caliber of students entering William and Mary. "They are class valedictorians, football captains, artists, but above all, they're scholars. They're inquisitive students who have taken the best courses possible. They've held internships in Con-

gressional offices, and they've been exchange students. They're from urban areas and from the mountains. Some of them come from families where both parents are professionals, and others are first-generation college students.

"One thing they all have in common is the desire to attend a competitive university that will offer them' education in life and learning.'"

Carroll Hardy, dean of minority affairs, says that one of the most important and overlooked facts is that William and Mary has a fairly new history of black matriculation. "William and Mary is unfairly assailed for the brief time it's been working to recruit, retain and graduate black youngsters. Like all other youngsters, they choose to come to William and Mary because of its academic reputation. They have found it to be a place where they can be somebody, through the things they choose to do while they're here."

And they are: President's Aides, members of Phi Beta Kappa and other honoraries, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award recipients and participants in a wide variety of student organizations.

They distinguish themselves in the College community as students, and in the larger world as alumni of William and Mary.

"I grant you," says Dean Hardy, "many things still need to be done."

"Hope that the input from black alumni can make it even better. There are so many things they have to give, to help black youngsters to navigate a system that they've already passed through, to participate fully and to come often, to stand guard and to encourage others to continue."

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## MILESTONES

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- 1951 - In May, The College of William and Mary accepts its first black student: Hulon L. Willis, Sr., an instructor in the Norfolk Public School System, for graduate work. He becomes the first black to receive a degree (M.Ed.), on Aug. 17, 1956.
- 1963 - Oscar Blayton becomes the first black student to gain admission to William and Mary's undergraduate program.
- 1967 - The entering Class of '71 includes three black students, who, four years later, graduate with undergraduate degrees: a 100% graduation rate among black students, for the first time in the College's history.
- 1968 - A concerned body of faculty members and students initiate the Martine Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Fund. The prize is awarded to outstanding black students for their freshman year. As many as 16 awards have been offered in any given year.
- 1975 - Timothy Allmond '78, a music major, organizes a group of undergraduate students as a music class project. Called "The Hearts of Unity" at first, it's now renowned as the "Ebony Expressions." Performing in concert both on and off campus, the group performs works ranging from traditional gospels and spirituals, and contemporary works by Stevie Wonder and the Commodores.
- The William and Mary chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity is founded on May 5.
- 1976 - On Nov. 9, the Black Student Organization has a special meeting with William and Mary President Thomas A. Graves, Jr., to discuss the needs and problems of black students on campus, including the need for a new black student center, an increase in black faculty, and more student financial aid.
- Mu Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is chartered at at William and Mary.
- 1978 - Brian K. Blount graduates as the first black member of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest honor society. Henry T. Tucker, Jr., '72 is the first black appointed to the Board of Visitors. Governor John Dalton '53 makes the appointment.
- 1979 - On July 16, William and Mary initiates its new summer transition program for entering freshmen who are minority students. It's called Operation STEP (Summer Transition and Enrichment Program).
- 1980 - Nu Chi chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc., is chartered.
- 1982 - Joni Lee Jones, instructor of theatre and speech, establishes the Black Thespian Society through the Department of Theatre and Speech at the College. Xi Lambda chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., is chartered.
- 1983 - In May, Michelle Morrow graduates as the second black member of Phi Beta Kappa.
- 1984 - In the fall, William and Mary admits the largest black freshman class in College history (55 first-time students).
- Warren E. Winston '73 is elected to the Society of the Alumni Board of Directors. Winston, who was William and Mary's first black athlete, is the first black alumnus elected to the Board.



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

## The Ebony Expressions: A Legacy That Fills a Void

BY KIRSTEN FEDEWA

**E**bonny Expressions is "a continuance of legacy," said Carroll Hardy, faculty adviser of the black gospel group and dean of minority and commuting student affairs. Beyond providing a showcase of black talent not necessarily exhibited through the William and Mary choir, Ebony Expressions fills a void in the lives of black students at the College, she said.

Indeed, the sense of history and tradition, which is so alive at the College, sometimes excludes black students, who comprise about 4 percent of the total student population.

Ebony Expressions is the project-child of Timothy Allmond, '78, who organized the Hearts of Unity choir in 1975. Allmond reshaped the group as a part of an honors music project during the academic year 1977-78. He diversified the music selections to include gospel as well as contemporary music and christened the group with its present name.

Dean Hardy, who became associated with Ebony Expressions in 1980, feels that the gospel group is a part of the history of the black presence on campus which needs to be preserved. One way she tries to instill a sense of pride for the group's many achievements is by recording their past in a scrapbook, for which she has willingly collected old photos and concert programs. The group does not receive financial support from the College, but she tries to channel funds from her office to supplement their fundraising efforts.

"It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel," she explains. "Unless history is preserved, there is a tendency to start from square one."

"Few organizations on campus have withstood the test of time. Ebony Expressions gets better each year. It started with a group of youngsters who needed spiritual uplift. Prayer is still an important factor with the group. They have not strayed too far from that."

Daisy Wallace '81, a graduate student who was a freshman in 1977 and worked with Timothy Allmond, said the group has the same basic focus that it had eight years ago. The group has been influenced by the different talents of its leadership, but has not strayed far from Allmond's original goal.

"Timothy wanted to express black culture through singing, of which gospel was a part, but there are other parts, too. In 1979, our message was defined as: Look to God for strength and guidance in a mixed-up world. Tim emphasized different types of music. Now the black gospel is our focus," she observed.

Vanessa Hicks, an English major from the class of '86 and the current director of the group, is its driving force. She is in the process of rewriting the constitution. Ms. Hicks said the group's performance schedule is "booked up," but the main goal of the group is "togetherness."

"We don't just sing together," Ms. Hicks said. "We are trying to form a force, which is open to black and white students. Ebony Expressions is an outlet for me . . . a place where I can get away from studying and have a good time."

"The one thing that has kept me at William and Mary is my friends in Ebony," she continued. "When I tell people at home that I go to William and Mary in Williamsburg, they say, 'Alright!' It takes a lot . . . when you get your degree from William and Mary, you know you've done pretty good."



Carroll Hardy

*The Ebony Expressions is composed of students who are dedicated to music, culture, and to each other, according to Vanessa Hicks, the current director of the group.*

The group is composed of 13 members who are dedicated to their music, culture, and to each other. Vanessa successfully recruited the freshmen in the group from the Virginia Student Transition program, where she was a counselor last summer. She sees the future of the group in their hands and plans to train an assistant next year.

Vanessa organized one of the group's most outstanding programs this year. "The Black History Program," which was held on February 27 at the Campus Center Ballroom. The program spotlighted the contributions of black Americans to their country through literature, poetry, song and dance.

This year's agenda included performances at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church and concerts at The Creative Arts house. During Parents Weekend, the group sang at the Black Students Organization reception.

Spring events for Ebony Expressions include their spring concert on April 14, at the Williamsburg Regional Library, and the senior class reception which is sponsored by the Black Student Organization on April 21.

# Going Greek: A Different Proposition for Black Students

BY REBECCA L. CLARK

**F**or black students at the College of William and Mary, "going Greek" is an entirely different proposition than it is for their white counterparts. There are fewer blacks on campus, and while each Greek organization has similar goals and objectives, the reasons blacks join seem vastly different from those of the member of the predominantly white sororities and fraternities.

White sororities have been at William and Mary for many years, beginning in 1921 with Chi Omega. The three black sororities and one black fraternity on campus are much younger, having started with the Delta Sigma Theta sorority chapter in 1976. The men and women who join the black Greek organizations say they do so to feel a part of their own group. One sorority member said she would feel "lost in the crowd" as perhaps one of only a few black women in a white sorority.

Black history plays a large part in their decisions to join, too. Pledges to Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, for example, carry bricks around with their school books to signify the organization's commitment to brotherhood after the burdens of racism carried by blacks for so many years.

Because William and Mary is a predominantly white campus, it isn't surprising that membership in the black Greek groups is small. Angela Cody with Delta Sigma Theta says membership may be small because blacks "just aren't interested in going Greek." She adds, "Some say they'd join if the groups were larger, but it's a Catch-22. How can it be larger if they don't join?"

At present, Zeta Phi Beta is down to one member: Gletsa Fegans, a freshman from Virginia, who says five new pledges are expected this spring. Alpha Kappa Alpha has two members, with two pledged this spring. Delta Sigma Theta is the largest black Greek organization with eight members. The Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has two members, with three new pledges coming in.

Most of the members of black Greek organizations are also active in other minority affairs groups on campus, like the Black Student Organization (BSO) and the Ebony Expressions musical troupe, or the Affirmative Action Committee. Ms. Cody says she joined Delta Sigma Theta because she was impressed by the campus involvement of its other members.

Kim Gregg, a senior from Maryland who is president of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, says she was impressed and overwhelmed by the support she received from AKAs as a freshman. Ms. Gregg and sorority sister Rayna Turner, a senior from Richmond, say they looked to the black sorority for support and a sense of belonging when they arrived at William and Mary, which has a total black student enrollment of approximately 170.

The three black sororities on campus have roots dating back to the turn of the century at Howard University. The Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity began at Cornell University in 1906. Ms. Gregg and Ms. Turner of AKA say their group was formed because blacks were barred from joining traditionally white groups.

Because their numbers are small and they don't have chapter houses, misconceptions arise about the validity of black Greek-letter organizations. Angela Cody related that one student asked her if the group "was a real sorority." Black sororities have chapter pins, bylaws, dues, meetings, dances and parties, and perform service functions just as do the larger white Greek organizations at William and Mary.

Black Greek brothers and sisters at William and Mary, although still in the minority among other black students, speak largely of the ties that bind them even after graduation. For blacks, membership in the organizations is a lifelong commitment. Said Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity president Claude Beckles, a sophomore from New York, "No matter where you go in the country, you have a friend in Alpha."

Kim Gregg has been working with elderly people in an exercise class at the Wesley Foundation on Jamestown Road and found a 77-year-old woman who had pledged AKA in 1928. Ms. Gregg says she and the elderly sorority sister share a special bond of friendship.

Carm Walker '64, associate professor of history, comments that black sorority members remained active after their college days back in the early part of the century out of necessity. "The whole educational system for blacks was so weak. The black sororities had to remain active after college to create a network to help black women get jobs, mostly in teaching, government, nursing or social work."

Perhaps one reason more blacks haven't "gone Greek" at William and Mary is that they didn't come to the College for what its social life could offer. Ms. Walker surmised that the Black Student Organization may provide the needed friendship among black students, and some may want to concentrate more on academics.

All the members of the black Greek organizations on campus say that whites are welcome to join their groups, just as blacks aren't barred from joining the traditionally white sororities and fraternities. In fact, there are more blacks in white fraternities than belong to the all-black group, Alpha Phi Alpha. But, whites probably wouldn't be apt to join the black groups for the same reasons blacks haven't been active to a greater extent in the white Greek organizations — a sense of not "fitting in," because of differences in race, culture or social needs.

Still, Ms. Gregg says that white sorority women are very supportive of the minority group activities. The lack of chapter houses, large budgets or large memberships doesn't seem to deter the handful of black students at William and Mary who have decided to go Greek. They are proud of their individuality.

"We have fundamental beliefs," says Ms. Gregg. "While we aren't discriminatory in our membership, we do think about the circumstances under which we were founded."

She adds, "There are those of us (black students) who are getting ahead in life, and we have to help the less fortunate."



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

## The BSO: Promoting a Positive Image on Campus



Rebecca Clark

An appearance by actor Ossie Davis and his wife, Ruby Dee, during the past academic year was one of the many campus events sponsored by the Black Student Organization.

BY ELAINE JUSTICE

**W**hen black students enroll at William and Mary, they have a group of students ready to guide them, to support them. Each fall the Black Student Organization assigns its members to serve as "big brothers" or "big sisters" to incoming freshmen, helping them with the social, academic and personal adjustments to college life.

As a group, the BSO's first concern is to serve as a support system for black students in the adjustment process to a predominantly white campus, says outgoing BSO president LaVerne Randall, a junior government major from Suffolk.

But don't get the idea that the BSO is one-dimensional. "A lot of people think that the BSO is some kind of militant group. We want to change that, to promote a more positive image," says Ms. Randall.

Contrary to what most students believe, the BSO is not only for black students anymore, adds Ms. Randall. "Anyone is welcome to join. This year we have a number of white students who've joined, mainly because they happen to have friends in the BSO."

This year's BSO has approximately 35 dues-paying members who vote, and a number of other students who support the group's various activities. One of the major ones is the Black Cultural Series, which brings prominent black figures to campus. The series stemmed from the Student Association speakers program, which the BSO felt didn't offer enough blacks on its schedule. Over the last several years, the BSO has brought to campus Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Julian Bond, Esther Rolle, Maya Angelou, and most recently, the controversial black activist Angela Davis.

This year the BSO has had more difficulty getting the speakers it wants because for the first time the group must compete with other campus organizations for speaker funds. Ms. Randall says

she hopes the situation can be changed to give the BSO more autonomy. "A lot of black speakers are wanted all over the country," she says. "It puts us into a bind to find out so late whether we can get the funding to invite them."

As another facet of its support function, the group sponsors a program for area black high school students called "Weekend With Us," which brings prospective students to the campus to stay with minority students in their dorms, eat in the college dining hall, attend a football game, and get a taste of what life away from home is like.

"We need to do more of these types of programs to help with black student recruiting," Ms. Randall observes. One program she would like to see return is "Operation Bus," in which black students at the College made visits to area high schools to talk about what it was like to be black at William and Mary.

Helping to solve such problems is probably the second most important BSO function on campus, according to Ms. Randall. "We serve as a sounding board when the administration or the students want to know where black students stand. When it comes to implementing policies, the BSO is one major organization that can express what many black students are thinking."

As outgoing president of the organization, Ms. Randall has seen the broadening of the BSO's mission and the strengthening of its programs. She does, however, have ideas and hopes for its future. "I'd like to see the BSO serve as a motivator to get black students more involved in campus-wide activities," she says. Much of that "added push" effect has already borne itself out, she adds. One member was in charge of this year's Bookfair on campus, one is sophomore class president, another is senior class president. "I'd like to think that the BSO gives students the confidence they need to branch out."

## TONY MCNEAL:

### Leadership Fits Him Well



Rebecca Clark

*Tony McNeal, president of the senior class, says William and Mary is blessed with a supportive administration which indicates "it wants the students to be happy here and to excel."*

BY TINA JEFFREY

**T**ony McNeal, a gregarious fourth-year student at the College of William and Mary, is president of the senior class for life. In the future, whenever the class holds reunions, fundraising drives, or attempts any philanthropy for the class of 1985, it will be under his leadership.

A pretty hefty responsibility for the slender young man who came from Hampton, Va. — 30 miles from the College — to attend William and Mary, passing up opportunities to matriculate at the University of Virginia or Dartmouth instead! He was a senior at Phoebus High School when he decided that William and Mary was the college of his choice. He was recruited by several other prestigious eastern schools and visited some campuses before he made up his mind. At William and Mary, he says, he found what he was looking for: a small but diverse college, friendly students and faculty members, a "togetherness" that seemed like a family atmosphere, a faculty that cared about the students.

The part about caring for students was verified for him his first few weeks at the College, he recalls. When he failed his first test in a freshman economics class, his teacher, Dr. Clyde A. Haulman, offered to tutor the young man an hour each day. Tony finished the course with a B, and with both a high respect for economics and for Dr. Haulman. Now he is a business major.

William and Mary is blessed with a supportive administration which indicates "it wants the students to be happy here and to excel," he notes. "It has great diversity; I've never seen so many choices. The school encourages new ideas and will try them out in new courses, new programs, anything that encourages the students to grow inside and outside the classrooms.

"I found at William and Mary that I can think on my own, that I can relate to all kinds of different people cross-sectioned here, and that I can respond to a challenge," says Tony. "I have been happy at the College.

"We all work hard here. More is expected of a student at William and Mary, and it is taken for granted that you can do more, perform better. It's an advantage that students at other colleges don't always have, and it's one reason that so many recruiters come to the College to interview seniors for jobs. They know that students here can live up to their expectations."

Tony has been interviewed by several recruiters but hasn't presently made up his mind what he'll do after graduation. He wants to go into the marketing field with a big corporation, so he can absorb a lot of learning, then come back to William and Mary for a master's in business administration. After that, who knows — perhaps a small business where he'll rise rapidly to the top, maybe his own firm. He hopes to prepare himself for a top spot.

Right now, he is a big man on campus. As president of the senior class he holds weekly meetings with six action committees that work on senior activities. He is a President's Aide; he is active socially, likes to play racquetball, likes to watch old movies and read, and knows just about everybody on campus.

After graduation, Tony plans to be an active alumnus. "I don't want to lose touch, I want them to remember me here," he says. And after talking with President-elect Paul R. Verkuil, who just 24 years ago was a graduating senior at William and Mary, Tony says he's looking ahead about a quarter of a century, and hopes that he, too, in 25 years can come back as president of William and Mary, the college he loves.



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

MICHAEL POWELL:

## The Commander of the Corps



Michael Powell, shown with Col. R. Robert Goodhart '65, professor of military science, and Marsha Ashburn, is the first black commander of the College's ROTC cadets.

BY ELAINE JUSTICE

**M**ike Powell would have probably been a leader no matter where he went to college. But at William and Mary, he is something special. Mike's leadership qualities won him the distinction of being the first black commander of the College's ROTC cadets, a position he juggles capably with his other campus leadership roles as president of Theta Delta Chi fraternity and President's Aide.

Looking back on his almost four years at the College, the senior from Ft. Myer, Va., says he has no regrets. "There's not one thing that I didn't do that I wanted to," he says. "I spent those first three years laying the groundwork for this year. I've learned a lot, and I think I've had a positive effect on campus. Once I felt I had the credentials, I made a decision to get involved."

Powell's decision to "get involved" was a natural one, given his interests. A government major, he is intrigued by organizational behavior, public administration and governmental structure.

Powell is the son of a high-ranking army officer, Maj. Gen. Colin Powell, senior adviser to Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger. Powell says he aspires to a career in the military and perhaps a job like his father's.

As commander of the corps of cadets during the fall of 1984, Powell made his first step toward that goal. His responsibilities extended to all 144 students enrolled in the College's ROTC program.

According to Lt. Col. Robert Goodhart, professor and chairman of the military science department, Powell and a staff of 12 other cadets planned and coordinated all the non-academic activities of the corps, including their weekly training sessions on Monday afternoons in the Sunken Garden, all field military training exercises, a weekly newspaper, fundraising activities and even the military ball. "It's like being president of any large student organization on campus," says Goodhart.

As president of Theta Delta Chi fraternity this year, Powell has seen the culmination of a two-and-a-half-year project that involved the disbanding of the Interfraternity Council and replacing it with a more streamlined, efficient organization called the Council for Fraternity Affairs.

Powell's enthusiasm for making things work, getting things done, is evident in his ROTC and fraternity activities, but the role he really cherishes most is being a President's Aide. "I was really

impressed that we had a president who was so willing to listen to students," says Powell of his meetings with former President Thomas A. Graves, Jr.

"Sometimes we'd praise things, sometimes we were very critical," he says. "President Graves was very good about seeing to it that the things he thought were valid were getting done. You would discuss a problem, and a week later get a letter from him saying that steps had been taken, that things had been changed."

One of the problems at William and Mary that Powell and other President's Aides have discussed is recruitment of minority students. Because he was raised in a largely white environment, Powell sees himself as different from some blacks, but still able to view both sides of the problem.

"William and Mary may not be as attractive to the black student because it is removed from the black cultural setting," Powell says. "Williamsburg is a kind of Disney-type place. Even the realities of racism are left behind here. It's hard coming from a black environment; some students feel uncomfortable here. But I don't think it's the institution's fault. If you're raised in an 80 percent black environment, you're going to have culture shock coming here."

Powell says he sees himself as an activist for black concerns, but admits he has a different philosophy from most. "I work with the majority to foster the kind of understanding of problems we need in order to solve them" he says. "There's a linking (of black and white) that really needs to take place."

In many ways, that linking has already taken place, says Powell. He points to the recent replacement of the College's Panhellenic organization for predominantly white sororities with the newly formed Intersorority Council as being one step toward cooperation of black and white organizations. In addition, Powell says more black men currently join the predominantly white fraternities than the traditionally black ones. The Theta Delta Chi is but one example, having five black members including Powell, its president.

"This campus is not an 'us against them' situation," he says. "That won't work here. Everybody at William and Mary has to learn what others are all about."

"I'd like to think I proved that being black didn't hinder me at William and Mary."



## CONNIE SWINNER III '81: Making a Mom Proud



Howard University

*Mrs. Esther Swinner, with her son, Connie '81, who is an honors medical student at Howard University, says her son's background at William and Mary was so strong that medical school has not been the struggle it could have been.*

BY LISA L. HEUVEL

**E**sther Swinner, whose son Connie Swinner III '81 is about to graduate from Howard University's medical school this May 11, still remembers her first impression of William and Mary: very favorable.

"We chose it because we liked the academic program, number one. Second, financially it was good. And distance-wise, it was fine. We liked the setting, and Connie liked it."

For Mrs. Swinner (a nurse in the Department of Urology at Howard University Hospital for 23 years) and her husband (employed by the District of Columbia), their son's achievements are a source of pride.

Since graduating from William and Mary, he has been an honors medical student and ranks 14th out of 115 graduating seniors. After May 11, Dr. Swinner will go on the University of Illinois to do his residency in surgery, specializing in urology.

Although medical school is rigorous, Mrs. Swinner says, "Connie's William and Mary background was so strong (he majored in biology), that even though he had to study, it wasn't the struggle it could have been."

At the College, Dr. Swinner was President of Alpha Phi Alpha, a member of the BSO, the Ebony Expressions and the Affirmative Action Committee. He was also chosen for *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.

According to his mother, Dr. Swinner is still involved in alumni activities, although his work schedule and class schedule keep him from attending a lot of them.

"Connie made a lot of friends at William and Mary — they communicate often, and think of William and Mary as their school. If he ever found that blacks were letting up there, it would be disappointing to him, because he and his friends made their mark at William and Mary."

As a black parent, Mrs. Swinner also feels that being in the minority at William and Mary was actually an advantage to black students there. "They stood out and were well known. Because there were so many white students, the black students had an opportunity to make a name for themselves."

Of the Swinners' three other children, two chose Howard University. Yet Mrs. Swinner says of the College "I was very pleased. My youngest is coming up, and I would not be opposed to his going to William and Mary, if he wanted to."



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

## Was William and Mary Worth It? A Resounding Yes from This Alumnus



Rebecca Clark

The Rev. Brian K. Blount '78, pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, says William and Mary "gave me a very good focus academically."

BY LISA L. HEUVEL

**W**as William and Mary worth it? For Rev. Brian K. Blount '78, the College's first black Phi Beta Kappa member, pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Va., the answer is "yes." "As a matter of fact," says Blount, "I talked with Tom Finn (Thomas M. Finn, professor of religion and also Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the College) when I graduated from seminary about the experience I had at William and Mary. It gave me a very good focus academically, and actually put me on the same level or above other students."

Blount, who received a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Seminary in 1981, is positive about his undergraduate education at William and Mary, although, he adds, "Blacks are obviously in the minority. That's good, because the experience prepares you for the struggle a minority group faces."

Blount faced a similar situation at Princeton Seminary, where there were fewer black students than at William and Mary. And as he explains, there is a black minority in the Presbyterian Church, which is a predominantly white denomination encountering growth in its black and Mexican-American membership.

This Presbyterian minister sees problems, possibilities and potential in the situation. "I think the experiences I had at William and Mary and Princeton Seminary helped me to make that kind of witness."

The black heritage is significantly different from the white European heritage and traditions that the Presbyterian Church is used to dealing with, and Blount says, "One of the concerns about the church is that it deals so much with itself and its needs, but forgets the social concerns of other than the majority."

Blount's congregation numbers about 300, and they, too, know of William and Mary. Dean Carroll F. Hardy and the Ebony Expressions have been guests there as part of Carver Memorial's annual Black History Revival in 1984 and 1985.

Blount has also been back to William and Mary quite a few times to talk with Dean Finn and other religion professors, and to use Earl Gregg Swem Library. Having majored in religion at the College, he says that some of the faculty members in the Department of Religion were instrumental in his decision to attend Princeton Seminary's three-year program.

A Smithfield, Va., native, Blount already knew he wanted to be a minister when he entered the College in 1974. Its nearness to his home, and the informative materials he received from the Admissions Office as a high school student were deciding factors in his choice of William and Mary.

"I enjoyed William and Mary for the most part, he says, looking back. "It was a very good experience. I didn't have racial problems at school, although there were a few in town. I had very good relationships with professors and friends."

But, adds Blount, "One thing I didn't utilize: there were more blacks at William and Mary than at Princeton, but I wasn't active in the Black Student Organization at William and Mary, as I was at Princeton Seminary with the Association of Black Seminationaries. That was one of the things I didn't take advantage of, and wish I had."

Married to Sharon Parham Blount, a Hampton University graduate, Blount says that he has goals for the future, and plans for where he'd like to go in life.

But as a minister might well put it, Blount says honestly, "It's between me and God as to how to work that out."

## SHARON COLES '75 JD:

### Serving the College is an Exciting Role

BY TINA JEFFREY

**S**erving on the William and Mary Board of Visitors has been a wonderful learning experience for Sharon A. Coles '75 JD, she says. "So much goes on, and it's interesting to work with people of different backgrounds who care about the College. There are those who have served the College for many years and have a lot of knowledge about everything, and there are those who are new. I feel I have something to contribute, and serving on the Board is exciting."

She brings to the Board of Visitors a special interest in minorities, and perceives her input at Board meetings as unique. She also views her task as Board member as "wondrous to see from the inside." When she was an undergraduate student at Eastern Michigan University in the late 1960s, she was an activist on campus and made demands of the governing body, she notes, but now she has a different viewpoint.

She grew up in Newport News and went to college one year at Virginia State. Although she was satisfied that she was obtaining an excellent education there, she transferred to Ypsilanti, Mich., so she could get "a different experience."

"I wanted to see how people lived in a different part of the country," she declares. "I wanted to be exposed to different cultures and backgrounds, in the setting of a large university attended by people from all over the world. I saw it as a way of achieving personal growth."

When she decided to study law, however, she came back to Virginia. "I knew the reputation of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law," she says of her decision to matriculate at William and Mary, "and I was ready for a small school."

Attorney Coles had a good experience at the College, but feels that "something was missing."

"It was pleasant," she says, "but there are not enough minorities on campus. We need to work together to get more minorities there, so the atmosphere will more clearly reflect the real world. I have seen the College grow, but it needs to grow some more, and I think William and Mary is ready for it. I think President-elect Paul R. Verkuil will exert leadership in that direction, so the College will see more minority faculty members and students."

She is a 1975 graduate of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree. While a student, she helped organize the Black American Law Students Association and was student director of minority recruitment in 1973-74. She was student representative on the law school admissions committee 1973-75 and was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa leadership fraternity in 1975. She won the Outstanding Student Award for the 1975 graduating class. She attended law school on an Earl Warren Legal Defense Fund Scholarship.

Now she is a partner in the law firm of Scott, Coles, Brown, Taylor and Melvin in Newport News. Her practice consists mostly of domestic relations, real estate, and family law, which includes divorces, adoptions, etc. With a minor in sociology at Eastern Michigan University, she knew she wanted to go into a "people" type career of helping others solve problems, so she is pleased to be doing that in her legal practice.

Law means a lot to her, but her life is taking on a new dimension this year, for at the age of 35, she is being married in May to a mechanical engineer. It will provide another perspective to the busy life of this alumna who serves the College and the public with her expertise.



Rebecca Clark

*To Sharon Coles '75 JD, an attorney in Newport News, serving on the Board of Visitors has been a wonderful learning experience. "I feel I have something to contribute," says Ms. Coles. "and serving on the Board is exciting."*



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

## HENRY T. TUCKER, JR. '72 — First Black Board of Visitors Member Makes the Most of His Opportunities



Henry T. Tucker, Jr., '72, shown with Lawrence W. Broomall, Jr., vice president for business affairs, is secretary of the Board of Visitors and chairman of the financial affairs committee.

BY TINA JEFFREY

**H**enry T. Tucker, Jr., '72, a native of Norfolk, Va., is secretary of the Board of Visitors which governs the College of William and Mary. As such, he is a pioneer, holding the distinction of being the first black ever appointed to the Board of Visitors.

An economics major at William and Mary, he graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1975 and joined Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, a giant financial institution. For the past four years he has been a vice president of trust and fiduciary services.

His experience at William and Mary was a positive one, Tucker says. "Much of what I am today was acquired at the College. I walked out of there much more rounded, more diverse, than when I came. I was not the same person as when I entered. My career has been aided by the lessons learned during my stay at William and Mary. It was there I learned to make the most of my opportunities."

He feels good about the transition he made from a youngster to a young adult at William and Mary, and says the College helped him realize his potential and aided him in acquiring principles he has used throughout his life.

The choice of a college can be very influential in the direction of lives of its alumni, he notes. He chose William and Mary because he knew it was "a good school, and the price was right — and still is." Its comparatively low tuition makes it an attractive place for

students of average or less than average means, particularly with scholarship or work-study assistance available.

Tucker advises qualified students to seek out William and Mary as an educational institution. "It has very, very good academics, and it's the kind of place where students can grow and develop in an environment that is supportive and doesn't provide distractions. William and Mary is a small, diverse school where the residence living system offers a healthy environment for living and growing together."

The site of the College in a world-famous historic area plays a part, too, in what students can get out of attending William and Mary, he points out.

"Williamsburg itself gives a historical perspective, and Colonial Williamsburg's offerings are very good. Williamsburg is a rich resource, and can be part of one's expansion if one takes advantage of that exposure."

Tucker comes to Williamsburg at least six times a year for Board of Visitors' meetings, traveling a long distance to give his time and expertise to his alma mater. He never begrudges the hours he serves because, he says, "I owe William and Mary a great deal, and this is one of the ways I can repay the school. It's a labor of love. I see great needs for the College, and I feel I can help with the resolution of problems. It's nice, too, to have a responsibility to the College. When you're talking about commitment, your time is often more precious than your money. I'm glad a lot of William and Mary alumni feel that way too."

# College Attracts Minority Faculty Through "The Virginia Plan"

BY MARY ANN F. WILLIAMSON

**C**olleges attempting to implement a comprehensive affirmative action plan that relates to faculty, students, and staff often have difficulty recruiting senior level scholars to their faculties. The so-called "Virginia Plan" provided funding during the 1984-85 school year for ten Commonwealth Visiting Professors throughout the state to "permit active recruitment of 'other race' faculty." William and Mary has been able to take advantage of this program to appoint two black visiting professors: Gladys Styles Johnston in the School of Education and Robert Francis Engs in the history department of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Dale B. Robinson, director of equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, notes that Commonwealth Professors are not visitors in the normal sense. For up to two years the state will pay their salaries and benefits (to a maximum of \$50,000 with the institution making up any difference), but at the end of that time, the College is committed to engage in discussing a permanent

appointment. This program provides the College with greater flexibility since it can attract senior scholars — people at the associate or full professor level — rather than competing with other universities for less experienced scholars at the rank of assistant professor due in a large part to budgetary constraints.

Quality people were selected through a multi-stage process in which the College first identified potential appointees. The names of the nominees were submitted to a committee of scholars at the State Council of Higher Education who screened the candidates and checked credentials. Actual Commonwealth Visiting Professors were selected from the approved list of nominees.

Robinson notes that the program is working. The state has responded to the first year's success by allocating additional money for several new CVP's for the 1985-86 school year.

Although the program expires June 30, 1986, Robinson hopes for a continuing program. He also hopes that future affirmative action programs will include some variation on the CVP program.

## DR. GLADYS JOHNSTON: A Pioneer in Her Field

BY REBECCA L. CLARK

**D**r. Gladys Johnston is on leave from her position as chairman of the Rutgers University Department of Educational Administration and Supervision, a post she has held for five of her 10 years with that school. As a black woman, and in fact the only woman at all in the 11-member department at Rutgers, Dr. Johnston may seem like a pioneer in her field. She adds that there are only two other black women in similar university positions in the entire country.

Since graduating from Cheyney State College in 1963 with a degree in social science, Dr. Johnston has taught in public schools and served in various administrative positions. After obtaining her master's degree in education from Temple University in 1969, she became a principal in the West Chester (Pa.) School District. She served in that capacity until 1971, when she enrolled at Cornell University to begin work toward her Ph.D. She received her doctorate in educational administration and organizational behavior in 1974.

At Cornell Dr. Johnston took extensive coursework in business and industrial relations, which thrust her into the world of management consulting. She researched data on the kinds of people who are in positions of power, the attitudes of men about women in the workplace, and the managerial, administrative or leadership qualities that encouraged employees to do or be their best.

Although she has spent her life learning, teaching and managing people, she says a good home and family life are important to her as well. Her husband is a clinical psychologist at Rutgers Medical School, and he joins her in Williamsburg on weekends. Leaving Rutgers to teach at William and Mary for a whole academic year was, to her, "a good opportunity to be in another environment, with an excellent faculty." She adds, "Ten years (at Rutgers) is more than I've ever stayed in one place. This represented a chance for me to regroup and think about what the next five years will bring."



Rebecca Clark

*Dr. Gladys Johnston, on leave from Rutgers while serving as a visiting professor in the School of Education under the Virginia Plan, finds her stay at William and Mary "a good opportunity to be in another environment, with an excellent faculty."*



# The Black Presence at William and Mary

DR. ROBERT ENGS:

He Likes What He Sees at William and Mary

BY MARY ANN F. WILLIAMSON

**D**r. Robert Engs, associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, has ties with William and Mary that go back more than 20 years to when his brother Michael '69 became one of the College's first black graduates. He notes that the College has undergone a major turnaround in those years. As he sees it, the student body is much more cosmopolitan than it once was, and most departments have scholars with national reputations. He also feels that his William and Mary students "are at least comparable to, and many are better than, students at Penn."

He holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and received his doctorate from Yale University in 1972. His most recent book is *Freedom's First Generation: Black Hampton, Virginia, 1861-1890* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1979). Currently he is working on a book about Samuel Chapman Armstrong and the evolution of black higher education.

Engs seems comfortable with his role as a visiting professor. He readily acknowledges "being a black professor is not the same as being a professor. You're expected to solve all sorts of other problems, which take an inordinate amount of time. And this is never taken into account in evaluations." His freedom from committee responsibilities has allowed him to pick what activities he wants to become involved in and has permitted him the time to revise all his lectures — a task he says has needed doing for the past 10 years.

In recent years some of his time has been devoted to improving ways black history is taught in the public schools. Although he has served as consultant to the New Jersey State Department of Education since 1972, he notes that school administrators are often reluctant to face reality — or to accept his advice.

Engs, who served one year as Penn's director for minority faculty recruitment is very familiar with the problems that colleges and universities face when trying to improve the racial balance of their faculties. He's not sure that temporary, visiting professorships are the answer, especially since universities may be reluctant to grant leaves to tenured faculty members. Indeed, Engs has had to decline William and Mary's offer to stay next year because Penn wants him back.

What is the long-range solution? According to Engs, institutions of higher education have to make a special effort at the undergraduate level to encourage bright, young blacks to go into college teaching, partly by showing that there is remuneration. In addition, more funding has to be made available to graduate students so that they can expend their energies on their studies, instead of on earning the money to pay their way.

In the meantime, though, he is pleased that Virginia has been successful in attracting qualified professors through the Commonwealth Visiting Professorships.



Rebecca Clark

Dr. Robert Engs, whose brother Michael is a 1969 graduate of the College, is serving as a visiting professor at William and Mary in the Department of History.

# G\*POP Helps College Increase Minority Representation

BY MARY ANN F. WILLIAMSON

Since 1981 William and Mary has participated in what is commonly known as the Graduate and Professional Opportunities Program (G\*POP). This federal grant, administered at the College by Dale B. Robinson, director of the office of equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, is actually a series of fellowships for minorities and/or women in fields where the institution acknowledges a statistical underrepresentation.

The federal program provides full tuition plus a stipend of \$375 per month. William and Mary generally supplements the stipend. Currently the College administers fellowships in five graduate programs: physics (Ph.D.), psychology (Psy.D.), Law (J.D.), business administration (M.B.A.), and marine science (Ph.D.). Robinson notes that the federal regulations impose restrictions on areas where fellowships may be used. An institution may offer fellowships in only six areas. These may not include the programs in education, which traditionally have been more open to minorities and women students.

According to Robinson, the federal funds are obtained through a national competition in which almost 200 institutions compete for approximately 1,300 fellowships. For the 1985-86 school year, William and Mary will receive \$77,700 to fund seven continuing and three new students.

Robinson attributes the College's annual success in receiving G\*POP money to the College's increased commitment to recruiting minority graduate students — a commitment that must be described in each proposal for funds. He notes that the willingness of

individual departments to commit their resources has probably made the difference. For 1984-85 William and Mary is one of only four institutions in the state to receive G\*POP funds. Robinson also credits David E. Kranbuehl, director of grants and research administration, for taking a leadership role early in the process of applying for G\*POP grants.

G\*POP has additional benefits for the College. Departments and schools interested in identifying eligible minority students can take advantage of search lists prepared by national testing services such as the Graduate Record Exam. According to Robinson, "This provides a pool of people interested in specific fields. It helps overcome the myth that universities cannot find students." He also sees long-term benefits from the program. Many of the students involved are going into academic situations where they will form a pool of qualified professors.

Robinson is pleased to be involved with the G\*POP program. "As principal investigator, I feel a personal involvement in helping students develop their concerns," he says.

In 1985-86 the state will initiate the *Virginia Plan* Graduate Fellowship Program, a program very similar to G\*POP.

For the present, Robinson feels that G\*POP is fairly secure. Even though the Department of Education has repeatedly deleted it from the federal budget proposal, Congress has repeatedly voted to continue it. Furthermore, there is a built-in contingency to fund continuing students. The best thing about it is that it benefits talented people.

## Rodney Williams '80

# Fulfilling A Dream

BY ELAINE JUSTICE

Five years after graduating from William and Mary, dancer/teacher/choreographer Rodney Williams '80 is fulfilling a dream. As a 1985 recipient of the John F. Kennedy Center Summer Fellowship for Teachers of the Arts, Williams will spend June 30 through July 20 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., creating new dance productions and working on a performance to be given July 18.

Williams was one of only eight summer fellows chosen nationwide from over 150 applicants. He will receive a \$2,000 stipend plus housing in Washington during the program.

The Kennedy Center Fellowships are meant to provide personal fulfillment to artists who are also teachers. "The idea is to give an opportunity for expressing personal creativity so that the artist will return with a new perspective on teaching the arts," said Gretchen Chellon with the Alliance for Arts Education Program at the Kennedy Center.

A 1980 graduate of the College with a degree in music and special study in dance composition, Williams is currently a dance and music teacher with the Elementary Program of Arts and Humanities with Richmond Public Schools. Last year he founded the Upward Bound Dancers at Virginia Union University, and he continues to be active with the William and Mary modern dance troupe, Orchestis.

Williams has returned to Williamsburg several times to give special performances at the College. His most recent production at William and Mary, April 12, was entitled, "The Continued Search: An Experience Through Song and Dance," and featured original dance compositions by Williams and performances by the Richmond dance group "Trisohm Dance," comprised of three teachers, including Williams, from Richmond Public Schools.





# The Black Presence at William and Mary

## Wilford Taylor, Jr., '78 Hampton, Virginia's First Black Judge

BY JANE HASKINS

**S**itting in his office in City Hall, Wilford Taylor, Jr., '78 JD can't help but grin a bit at the prospect of being a judge. For him, the thought is still a little overwhelming.

Taylor, a 35-year-old assistant city attorney, has been named as the city's first black judge. Starting July 1, he'll preside over a new General District Court that the General Assembly created this year.

"I think that this is probably the ultimate job for service to the public," Taylor says.

For him, service is important — it's a tradition handed down to him from his father, Wilford Taylor, Sr., a mail carrier who for years has held two jobs in order to put his four children through college.

"I'm particularly influenced by my father's leadership," he says, "because he spent his life serving — his family, mainly."

The younger Taylor's service has reached a broader audience, encompassing numerous civic organizations.

Two weekends a month, he's the assistant inspector general for the 80th Division of the U.S. Army Reserve in Richmond, where his job is to inspect other units' combat readiness.

In 1981, he helped organize the Hampton Crusade for Voters to help blacks become involved in the political process. He was the group's first president — a role he gained not because he campaigned for the job but because others thought he would be fair and impartial.

"The leadership was kind of divided in the community, and I was in a situation where I was not interested in running or becoming a candidate, therefore, I could be objective," he says.

He says that experience, coupled with his two years in the city attorney's office, will help him as a judge.

"My background, everything that I've done in life, has been preparation for this... my attitudes, my desire to be fair and impartial," he says.

He says that although he's black and is younger than Hampton's other judges, he doesn't feel pressure to prove himself as a jurist, any more than anyone entering a new job would.

"I have no negative feelings at all about that," he says. "The way I have lived my life and gotten along with people, I just don't see it as a problem. I just consider myself a lawyer who is black and sitting on the bench."

Taylor attended Hampton schools, then received a degree in business management from Hampton Institute. From there, he went to the University of Richmond for a master's degree in finance and, after a three-year stint in the Army, to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law for a law degree. Taylor's sister is also a graduate of William and Mary.

It was while in the Army, he says, that he decided to become a lawyer. "It seemed like a challenge," he says. The decision to go to Marshall-Wythe was a simpler one: he wanted to be near his future wife, who was teaching school in West Point.



Daily Press

Wilford Taylor, Jr., '78 JD has been named the first black judge in the city of Hampton, Va. He is the second youngest judge in the city's history.

After four years as a partner in a firm with state Sen. Robert Scott, D-Newport News, he became Hampton's first black city attorney in 1982.

Then, after the General Assembly failed to name anyone to preside over the new district court, the city's Circuit Court judges tapped him for the job. His appointment will last until the assembly meets again and names a judge to a full six-year term.

When he becomes a judge, Taylor will have to give up some of his community service work. He can no longer work with the crusade or be a member of the Peninsula Legal Aid Board or the Peninsula Institute for Community Health.

But, he says, he hopes to remain in the Army Reserve.

"Again, it's serving the public interest," he says.

As a judge, "I plan to work hard — I've always worked hard — and do my best to live up to the expectations of the judges," he says. "I just hope that the public will evaluate me by my work and service."

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### The First Black Alumnus

From the standpoint of history and prestige, he says, "William and Mary is the school. I would recommend for anyone to go there, and I've motivated some whites to go there."

One thing this law enforcement professional says never dawned on him is that some blacks might consider historic Williamsburg's proximity to the College offensive, because their people were once enslaved there.

"Some things you have to go above and beyond," says Willis

who as a student couldn't eat in Williamsburg restaurants, only on campus. "That was of those times, and it still doesn't take anything away from the history and prestige of William and Mary."

"Look at the Order of the White Jacket. Do you know the origin of that?"

"Prior to the end of the Civil War, black waiters served the meals at William and Mary. But after the Civil War, some of the affluent whites had to work their way through college."

"As a result of waiting on tables, they found it was an honorable thing, and founded this prestigious organization. They found that it doesn't hurt to do hard work."

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