ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD
Honoring
Corky King ’55
June 5, 2015

It would seem Hardin “Corky” Watkins King did not have a lot of free time as a Davidson student. Upon his commencement day, the college’s news bureau listed all of the activities in which he was involved: Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Chapel Choir, football team and the “D” Club. Additionally, he served as secretary-treasurer of the junior class and a freshman adviser, was a part of the student council and served the YMCA on their Board of Directors.

Following Davidson, Corky earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary, two Master of Arts degrees in Counseling and Clinical Psychology from Marshall University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Alliant International University, San Diego.

As a Presbyterian Minister, Corky was hired by the Synod of Georgia for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the University of Georgia, during the time of desegregation, to run the on-campus student ministry in the newly built Westminster House. In 2011, there was a reunion on campus to celebrate 50 years since the original house was built—a place that now serves as the university’s Presbyterian Student Center. An article written on the occasion of this reunion, which described Corky as a “bright, quiet and handsome guy,” shared the following:

“Corky was here during the integration of the University of Georgia, and he made Westminster House the center for those who welcomed [the institution’s first African American students] Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes to UGA and worked to keep the university open and its integration peaceful. Corky didn’t just run a hangout; he challenged students with rigorous theological exploration and led them to examine what it meant to be a Christian in a world of conflict and action.”

Corky retired from Oregon State Hospital as a clinical psychologist—a field that undoubtedly benefitted from the same skillset used to lead at UGA—and has found time to volunteer on behalf of Davidson. In addition to regular support of the college’s now-named Fund for Davidson, through which he contributes to The Davidson Trust, the Davidson Athletic Fund and WDAV, Corky is this year’s Reunion Class Chair, working to raise funds from his classmates in the interest of moving Davidson forward and making it an even more exceptional place for future students.

Because you have served alma mater willingly and with great enthusiasm; because you have served communities with understanding, kindness and compassion; and because you are willing to encourage others to follow your fine example, the Davidson College Alumni Association proudly honors you, Hardin Watkins King, Class of 1955, with the Alumni Service Award on the occasion of your 60th Reunion, June 5, 2015.