If you count loyalty to Davidson College by the number of times you encounter the same last name in the alumni roster, you’d do well to place your bets on the Griffith clan! Today the Alumni Association honors Harry A. Griffith with the Alumni Service Award, and he is one among many Griffiths who cherish and serve Davidson as alma mater.

From 1976 through 1980, Harry built an illustrious undergraduate record of activities, including hall counselor, varsity tennis player, and leader in ROTC and Kappa Alpha fraternity. He was also one of the lucky and few who found their soul mate on this campus. Harry and Barb Ashley ’81 dated on campus, and married within six months of her graduation. They have raised five children since then, two of whom have already earned a Davidson diploma, with a fifth grader still in the wings. Coincidentally, daughter Ashley is here this weekend with her mother and father as she and her own 2005 classmates celebrate their tenth.

Harry has enjoyed a distinguished professional career. He served 17 years in the Army, retiring as a major in the infantry. His service included four years at West Point, where he was born and where his father served as a cadet tactical officer. Harry has the distinction of being one of only a handful of officers who earned a master’s degree at West Point in a short-lived leadership program. He retired while leading the ROTC program at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and the family has settled there.

His post-Army career has been spent in executive human relations positions for a dot com business, Fisher Scientific and currently with Industrial Scientific Corporation, a manufacturer of gas monitors.

Between raising a family, business travel and trying to beat Barb on the tennis court, Harry has still always found time to support his alma mater. As a leader of the senior class scholarship fundraising campaign, he began working for Davidson even before receiving his diploma. He continues to work the phones every year to urge his classmates to make their contributions, and he has served on the Class of 1980 reunion organizing committee faithfully every five years.

He says helping Davidson allows him to show his gratitude for the education and experiences he enjoyed here, and keeps him in touch with some of the finest people he knows. As a Pittsburgh resident, he’s also excited about Davidson’s switch to the Atlantic 10 conference, since the move will bring Wildcat teams regularly to his neck of the woods to play conference-mate Duquesne.

For your loyalty and contagious enthusiasm for Davidson, and for the leadership and service you have demonstrated to the college, the Davidson College Alumni Association is proud to honor you, Harry A. Griffith, with the Alumni Service Award — as long as you share it with Barb!