

Frank & Gladys White

Endowing Hampton's Future

When Frank and Gladys White attended Hampton Institute more than 60 years ago, campus life was much different.

"We had to dress for dinner [in Virginia-Cleveland Hall] on Saturday night," remembers Gladys, who received HU's Outstanding Alumna-at-Large Award in 1989. "Then we had social activities in the dorms with the young gentlemen until curfew."

Though the structured Saturday night socials are a thing of the past, the retired educators are still endeared to their memories as Hampton undergraduates.

Hampton Institute provided the impetus for the lifelong career in education that propelled the Whites to distinction. For Gladys, who graduated in 1939 with a B.S. in elementary education and supervision, Hampton provided her an unparalleled opportunity.

"Hampton had a cohesive, well-planned program. We were doing methods that were unique and rare at the time." Frank, two years ahead of his wife with a degree in American history, agrees. "Hampton's pro-

grams have always been top-knotch. Gladys and I had always heard positive comments about the school's reputation."

Married in 1941, the Whites have built an impressive life together. Retiring in 1982 as the director of the Reading Lab and a professor of education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Gladys received her master's degree in curriculum and teaching from New York's Columbia University and her doctor of education in college administration and reading from Florida's University of Sarasota. Frank's bachelors came in American history, earning his master's degree and doctor of philosophy from New York University, retiring as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at N.C. A&T during the same year as Gladys.

As active alumni, the Whites wholeheartedly give back to their "Home by the Sea." Though the Elizabeth City, N.C.,

neighbors now call Greensboro home, their presence can be felt through four endowed scholarships at Hampton. "We wanted to give something back to our alma mater, and at the same time provide students with an opportunity they might not otherwise have," emphasizes Omega Psi Phi frat member

Frank, whose namesake scholarship aids students in the renowned HU Marching Pirates band. The Gladys White Endowment Scholarship targets elementary education students, and "I also led my class, at the 50-year mark, to establish the Class of 1939 Endowment Scholarship," proudly mentions Delta Sigma Theta member and Emeritus Class President Gladys. They also contribute through the Greensboro Chapter Emeritus Class Endowment.

Since retirement, the Whites have not curtailed their active lifestyle. Both have a laundry list of professional and social organizations that keep them busy. But through it all, they both agree that it was Hampton that truly gave them an "education for life." ■

Perdita Savage Belk, '91

