



Photo by Davené Swinson

Jackson Hall is named after Dr. Blyden Jackson and his wife Roberta Jackson who both taught at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Hocutt applied to the School of Pharmacy on March 13. The school denied him admission, and the courts upheld the school's decision because the courts felt the students did not meet the qualifications. Fifteen years later when five students applied to the medical and law schools, they were again denied admittance because of their race. However, in 1950 the 4th U.S. Circuit Court reversed the decision on an appeal.

The first four students to be officially accepted to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill professional schools were Harvey Beech (Durham), James Lassiter (Rocky Mount), J. Kenneth Lee (Greensboro), and Floyd B. McKissick (Asheville) on June 6, 1951. William Marsh (Durham) was accepted to the School of Law in September of 1951, followed by Edward Diggs (Winston-Salem) who was the first African American to enter the UNC School of Medicine in the fall. Gwendolyn Harrison became the first African-American woman to be admitted to the graduate school to study romance languages during the second summer session of 1951. Harrison already had obtained an A.B. in history from Spelman College, a master's in Spanish from the University of California, and a teaching position at Johnson C. Smith University.

In 1954 when four of these students graduated from the law school and passed the bar, three young men from Durham applied for undergraduate admission. The

students were denied admission because undergraduate racial separation was never overturned. After a three-judge federal panel ruled that applications must be processed without regard to race, John L. Brandon, Leroy Frazier and Ralph Frazier became the first undergraduate students that were African American. Although classes were integrated, housing was still separate; the first three students lived on the third floor of the Steele Building, then Steele Dorm.

The students gained social freedom with the establishment of several organizations. In 1962, UNC students established a campus chapter of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People. These students wanted to improve the political, educational, social and economic status of minority groups, to eliminate racial prejudice, and to keep the public aware of the effects of racial discrimination. This organization works through programs that promote political, educational, social and economical enlightenment.

Another organization that was formed in November of 1967 and made amazing breakthroughs for the African-American community at UNC-CH was the Black Student Movement. The BSM was formed to counteract the supposed complacency of the campus chapter of the NAACP. Demanding the rights and the opportunities of the African-American students and faculty, this organization has had a tumultuous history with several clashes with the University officials and police. Within the next five years, the BSM had established four of its existing subgroups to plan an avenue for African Americans to express their artistic talents.



Photo by Davené Swinson

The stone walls in this picture and others around campus were constructed by a group of African American masons.