Six enter Hall of Fame

by Nancy Crutchfield

A highlight of the Elon College homecoming last Saturday was the induction of five former Fighting Christian athletic stars and a coach into the school's Hall of Fame.

Five of the inductees were present to participate in the ceremonies, while a sixth was inducted posthumously.

Dr. Fred Young, president of Elon, opened the program with a brief tribute to the role of the athletic program in Elon's history.

"It is an important part of Elon," he said, "and Elon's athletic history has some great traditions."

Russell T. Bradford was the man inducted posthumously. He was an outstanding basketball player and a graduate of the class of 1916.

By J. King White

Major steps toward building the first chapter-owned fraternity house on the Elon College campus have been taken by the members of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

Thirty-nine of the chapter's alumni returned for Homecoming Weekend to discuss plans toward this goal. The turnout included 13 founding members of the chapter, which was chartered on the Elon College campus on Sept. 21, 1973.

The fraternity hopes to be able to build their chapter house within the next three years. The Lambda-Lambda House Corporation was incorporated in the spring of 1977 and is recognized by the state of North Carolina and the federal government. The treasury of this corporation will fund construction of the new fraternity house.

According to House Corporation treasurer Lester E. Waldrup, Jr., prospects for building in the near future look promising. "Our assets are growing at a substantial rate each year. We have hopes of beginning the first phase of construction in less than three years. The house plans have already been drawn up, and a chapter alumnus who is a contractor has offered to build the structure at just over his actual cost. In addition, two Virginia-based Kappa Sigmas in the construction field who were initiated at other colleges have indicated their desire to help us. They heard that we were organizing to build our own fraternity house and generously offered their assistance."

Waldrup notes that it will take much more than what the alumni can raise to finance a project of this size. "I have been in contact with our fraternity's national headquarters about securing loans," he says, "and have been assured that sufficient financial assistance will be available when the time to build arrives."

To date, the college has no definite plans to set aside land near the Elon College campus where fraternity and sorority houses may be located. "This is the main problem we are facing with," says Waldrup. "The alumni recognize the problems that exist when a fraternity is housed in town, and we soon will be prepared to do something about it. However, we are being held back because we haven't been able to ascertain what inclinations, if any, the college has toward establishing a fraternity/sorority row."

Alumni support for Elon's chapter of Kappa Sigma is growing. Besides active support of the House Corporation through monetary donations, the alumni are establishing an alumni association which will involve Kappa Sigmas throughout Piedmont North Carolina, regardless of where these men attended college.

According to House Corporation treasurer Lester E. Waldrup, Jr., prospects for building in the near future look promising. "Our assets are growing at a substantial rate each year. We have hopes of beginning the first phase of construction in less than three years. The house plans have already been drawn up, and a chapter alumnus who is a contractor has offered to build the structure at just over his actual cost. In addition, two Virginia-based Kappa Sigmas in the construction field who were initiated at other colleges have indicated their desire to help us. They heard that we were organizing to build our own fraternity house and generously offered their assistance."

Waldrup notes that it will take much more than what the alumni can raise to finance a project of this size. "I have been in contact with our fraternity's national headquarters about securing loans," he says, "and have been assured that sufficient financial assistance will be available when the time to build arrives."

To date, the college has no definite plans to set aside land near the Elon College campus where fraternity and sorority houses may be located. "This is the main problem we are facing with," says Waldrup. "The alumni recognize the problems that exist when a fraternity is housed in town, and we soon will be prepared to do something about it. However, we are being held back because we haven't been able to ascertain what inclinations, if any, the college has toward establishing a fraternity/sorority row."

Alumni support for Elon's chapter of Kappa Sigma is growing. Besides active support of the House Corporation through monetary donations, the alumni are establishing an alumni association which will involve Kappa Sigmas throughout Piedmont North Carolina, regardless of where these men attended college.

The induction was made by Moultrie Guerry, Bradford's son-in-law. Mrs. Russ Guerry, Bradford's daughter, accepted the plaque.

Bradford was Elon's first all-state basketball player as a member of the 1916 team. He was also on Walter Camp's All-American team. Bradford played every game while he was in school and led Elon to two championships. He was also an outstanding student at Elon and at later at the University of Virginia Law School. He was a trial lawyer in Norfolk, Va., an assistant U.S. District Attorney and later, a referee in bankruptcy. He served on the Elon Board of Trustees from 1956 until his death in 1968.

The induction of Paul "Lefty" Cheek was made by a teammate, Paul Roy. Cheek was a baseball and basketball player who graduated in 1936.

Roy pointed to Cheek's career as an outstanding athlete at Bessemer High School in Greensboro, at Elon, and later as a player and athletic director at McRae Mills in Asheboro.

Cheek presented a first baseman's mitt from the 1930 era as a memento to the Hall of Fame.

Dr. Roy C. Rollins presented and inducted Walter C. "Firpo" Latham, class of 1934. Latham participated in football, baseball and basketball and earned 10 letters at Elon.

Under football coach D.C. "Peahead" Walker, Latham played 60 minutes of every game during his freshman year. As a member of the baseball team he pitched a no-hitter against Wofford. He played on seven championship teams at Elon.

Latham went on to become a coach and a principal. In these roles, he spent 30 years at Bethel High School.

He presented the Hall of Fame a pair of football pants he wore while playing at Elon.

Graham L. "Doc" Mathis was inducted by Prof. Luther Byrd, a retired member of the Elon faculty. Mathis was head basketball and baseball coach at Elon from 1949 to 1959.

In accepting his plaque, Mathis paid tribute to his high school coach, Prof. J.C. Collie who later became a member of the Elon faculty.

He also thanked Dr. J. Earl Danley, who was president of the college during his tenure, and to Dr. A.L. Hook, a member of the athletic committee.

He presented a trophy won by one of his teams to the Hall of Fame.

cont. on p. 6