

## Shutdown

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job, they don't win either. At least so far," Levitt said.

Also, another reason members of Congress continue to receive their pay despite the shutdown is that 75 percent of the government had already been funded prior to the shutdown, Levitt said.

"Some members have refused their salary or donated their salary, but not everybody. Ultimately, the pressure here is going to be political, rather than legal. Enough people get ticked off, and then this shutdown ends," Levitt said.

Finally, Michael J. Gerhart who's the Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill, said the shutdown is all governed by politics.

"That is, McConnell remains politically accountable for his decisions, just as Trump and the Democrats are politically accountable for theirs," Gerhart said.

"McConnell has the power under Senate rules to block votes on legislative matters he does not wish to bring to a vote, and there is no legal basis on which Democrats could challenge his decision."

## Fraternity donates to Bennett College

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

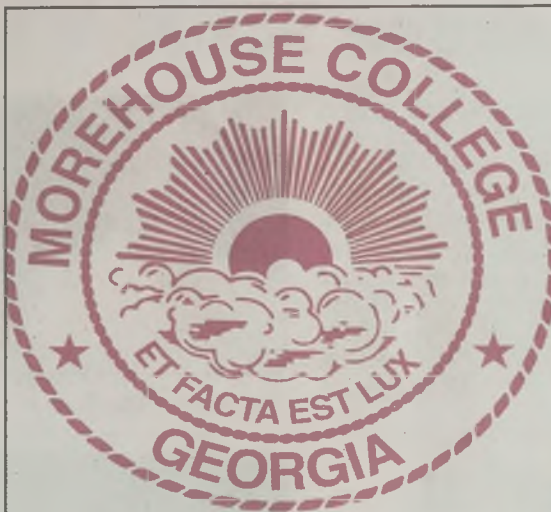
GREENSBORO — Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the nation's oldest African-American fraternity, donated \$31,000 to Bennett College on Jan. 19 to aid the institution in its quest to raise a minimum of \$5 million by Feb. 1.

"Alpha Phi Alpha is honored to present to you a check for \$30,000," General President Everett B. Ward, Ph.D., told Bennett President Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins inside the institution's Global Learning Center. "In addition, Alpha men

College "is a phenomenal asset to the community" that deserves to be supported. He presented Dawkins with a check for \$1,000 from members of the Greensboro chapter.

"On behalf of Bennett College's Board of Trustees, our faculty, staff and students, thank you to the men of Alpha Phi Alpha for recognizing and standing with Bennett College," Dawkins said.

After the check ceremony, which included about a dozen members of Alpha Phi Alpha, Ward, who is president of St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, said he hopes



On behalf of the  
Morehouse Alumni,  
Winston-Salem Chapter,  
we salute  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
the consummate  
drum major for justice.

Willie Clark '63  
William Cain '68  
John E. Allen, Jr. '73  
Duane Lopez Bogues Davis '81  
J. Fred Acree '82  
Leroy Anderson, Jr. '82  
L. Todd Burke '83  
Kenneth Edward Patridge '85  
Jonathan Edwards '86  
Rahn K. Bailey '86  
Don Roy Shegog, II '90  
Joseph Scott '90  
Randell A. Cain, Jr. '91  
Prince Raney Rivers '93  
Mark Oliver '94  
Michael Brooks '96  
Chris Gilmore '97  
Damien Anderson '98  
Charles "Reggie" Hunt, Jr. '02  
Jelani Biggs '08

"We need leaders not in love with justice. Not in love with publicity but in love with humanity."



1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Among the fraternity's

Bennett family is grateful for the Alpha's financial support.

"Bennett College is trying gallantly to raise a minimum of \$5 million by Feb. 1, and gifts like the ones we received today from Alpha Phi Alpha will go a long way toward helping us achieve our goal. On a personal note, I appreciate President Ward for taking time out of his busy schedule to travel to Greensboro to hand deliver the check. I know how busy he must be as President of St. Augustine's University and that his time is valuable."

On Dec. 11, 2018, Bennett College was removed from membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Bennett immediately appealed the decision and remains accredited during the appeal process. Bennett was removed strictly for financial reasons. The College was not issued sanctions against its academics, leadership, faculty or students.

Founded in 1873 as a

coeducational institution, Bennett became women only in 1926. Spelman College in Atlanta is the country's only other all-women's HBCU.

Bennett has a history of producing outstanding women leaders. For example, Dr. Dorothy Lavinia Brown, a 1941 Bennett graduate, was the first African-American woman licensed surgeon in the South. Dr. Carolyn R. Payton, a 1945 Bennett graduate, was the first woman or African-American to head the U.S. Peace Corps. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter.

Other Bennett Belles include Dr. Yvonne Johnson '64, the first African-American mayor of the city of Greensboro, Dr. Gladys Ashe Robinson '71, Deputy Minority Leader in the North Carolina General Assembly and chair of the Bennett College Board of Trustees, and Belinda J. Foster '79, the first African-American female district attorney in the state of North Carolina.

Current Bennett students or recent graduates

are equally impressive. Senior Tyler Binion from Nashville, Tennessee, was selected among 63 students from 54 HBCUs to serve as a Competitiveness Scholar through the White House Initiative on HBCUs. Senior Qaleelah Smith of Brooklyn, New York, participated in Drexel University's Global Health Maternal Child Health Program last summer in The Gambia in West Africa. While in Africa, Smith, an aspiring physician, helped to deliver a baby. And Shani McMichael, a 2018 Bennett graduate who enrolled in the Institution with a 2.3 GPA but graduated as Valedictorian with a near-perfect 3.9 GPA, is now earning a Master of Science in Clinical Psychology at Columbia University.

"Bennett's rich legacy must be preserved," Dawkins said in an interview. "The College simply must remain in existence so it can continue serving as a beacon of hope for young women of color for generations and generations to come."



Dr. Dawkins with General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Everett B. Ward, and other fraternity members

around the world are going to make contributions to Bennett College. God bless you and the women of Bennett College and know that the men of Alpha Phi Alpha support you."

Chuck Wallington, President of the Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, said Bennett

other fraternities and sororities will also support Bennett College. "All of our organizations are dedicated to preserving scholarship and ensuring the intelligence of the world is preserved through institutions like Bennett College."

Alpha Phi Alpha was founded in December

most notable members are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ironically, the slain civil rights leader spoke at Bennett in February 1958, when no other Greensboro-area colleges or universities would host him.

In a statement after the check presentation, Dawkins said the entire

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