

The Davis-Wilson Families



From left, Christian Wilson, Lillie Rae Wilson, Elyze Davis and Addie Davis.

The excellent education that sisters, Addie Davis and Lillie Rae Wilson, received at TWU more than 35 years ago is a legacy they now share with their daughters, Elyze Davis and Christian Wilson.

This TWU GENERATIONS family story begins with Addie.

FIRST GENERATION

Addie (Goode) Davis is from Dallas, Texas. She graduated with a B.S in 1970 in Library Science and an M.A. in 1982 in Education with a specialty in all level reading.

The story of how Addie came to TWU is an interesting one. The Goode family lived on a fairly remote Texas farm. She read about TWU in an encyclopedia and wrote for information. When it was delivered the postal delivery man saw it and told her father that several women in his family had gone there and that it was an excellent school. – So her father agreed that she could attend!

While at TWU from 1966-1970 she remembers living in four different residence halls. The campus traditions, many of which no longer exist, were another fond memory, as is the beauty of the campus.

Although she is very pleased that her daughter, Elyze, chose TWU, she stresses that she did not try to overly influence her. "As her mother, I feel that Elyze has also had an excellent experience here."

Lillie Rae (Goode) Wilson now lives in Missouri City, Texas. She attended TWU in Denton from 1972-1975 and eventually returned to TWU's Houston campus to receive her bachelor's degree in nursing in 2003. She has been a nurse at Texas Children's Hospital for more than 20 years.

Why did she choose TWU in the first place? "Largely because her sister, Addie, came here", she said. When she expressed an interest in Nursing, her sister told her "Then you have to come to TWU. They have the best Nursing program!"

Once settled and working in Houston, she was delighted that TWU had a campus nearby Children's and she seized the opportunity to complete her degree. "Having TWU close by in the Texas Medical Center gave me the opportunity to continue to work and complete my degree in the evenings."

Reflecting on her daughter Christian's choice of TWU, Addie said, "I never thought I would have a child who attended TWU in Denton but I was very excited when she chose to attend there. I did not try to influence her decision. It is a good university and it has given her exposure to many opportunities. "

Although things have changed a lot since she was in Denton, she feels it is still a beautiful campus, maybe even more so than when she was here. Something that hasn't changed is the fine reputation of TWU. When talking about Christian's choice of college Lillie said "I feel that she made a good choice. Everywhere I go I find that TWU is well respected."

SECOND GENERATION

Elyze Davis is a Government major with an emphasis in Legal Studies. In her current role as Student Government Association (SGA) president, Elyze gets valuable experience toward her plans to attend law school. She is also active in the Honors Scholars program, the TWU Leadership Institute, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the NAACP. She is a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary and Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honorary.

Elyze feels that sharing the TWU experience with her mother, aunt and cousin is a very special thing. "Texas Woman's University is a great institution. Having so many people in my family graduate from here truly enriches its meaning for me. "

Thinking about the future for herself and Christian, she smiled and said, "My mother and aunt have countless stories to tell from their time here at TWU. I know that my cousin and I will also have great times to tell our children about and wonderful memories that will reflect who we were and who we have grown to be."

Christian Wilson is a Psychology major with a minor in Family Studies. She plans to attend graduate school in Occupational Therapy. Her campus activities are numerous, including serving as President of the Progressive Black Student Organization and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated serving as the Chair of the Arts and letters Committee. Christian has been a peer advisor for Wellness community for three years and is involved in the College Ministry of St. Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church.

“It is an honor to carry on the legacy of my mother and my aunt here at TWU. They both attended TWU during a time of open racism and ignorance, overcoming many obstacles and paving the way for future minority women such as myself. My mother, Lillie Wilson and aunt, Addie Davis are truly Pioneer Women! “

When asked what it meant to be at TWU with her cousin, Elyze, Christian replied, “And going to college with Elyze has been such a blessing! She is always encouraging me to develop more as a leader while making history herself here at TWU.”