

James Wicks has found his niche at Davis & Elkins...

combining a passion for music with a gregarious nature that fits well on a campus he describes as friendly and full of opportunities for personal attention. His student life is full of people and activities. In fact, he has discovered what generations of students have treasured about their D&E education—there's no limit here to what you can do.

“My friends at other schools just talk about how much work they have to do. That's basically all that they do... or they go out and party. Here, I go out with my friends, or I have dinner with a professor, or I go to play rehearsal. There are so many cool things to do. Even on my first tour on campus, [the tour guides] wanted to know what I like to do. I felt like they cared about my needs.”

As a music major who studies privately with professor Robert Psurny each week, he is continually working toward his career goals, but he credits his friendships and activities at D&E as adding a unique and vital dimension to his education.

“My friendships here are absolutely awesome,” he says. “There is hardly ever a time when there isn't someone around that I can talk to. I have a lot of deep friendships here ... many more than I had in high school.

“I also really know my professors,” he continues. “They're cool, and because



Name: James Wicks

Major: Music

Hometown: Ellicott City, Maryland

Activities: Student Ambassador, Theatre, Music Society, Chanteur, International Student Organization, Habitat for Humanity, Assessment Committee, WCDE. Sings national anthem at home basketball games.

I know them, I don't have to guess what they expect. We hang out. We talk all the time. If I have a question, I can ask them on the spot and get an answer. They share information whenever I see them and they let me know how I can get involved.”

One of James's many activities is serving as sophomore class representative to the Assessment Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Carol Cochran, associate dean for assessment. In this role, James is working with College faculty and administrators on how to best introduce assessment to the student body. He is providing insights on how to enhance student participation and he has helped

develop a Web page that links to the college Web site.

“Getting involved broadens my education,” he says. “It teaches me a lot about how things work. One day, I hope to be running meetings, and my activities are teaching me a lot of “do's” and “don'ts.” They are teaching me leadership skills, how to deal with stress and how to have a ‘business’ mind.

“It's hard to be isolated at D&E,” James says. “You have to really try, because people are knocking at your door at 3 or 4 in the morning to get ice cream. But if you want to really enjoy yourself, you should definitely get involved.”