

What is Black Cat?

One of the oldest Agnes Scott traditions, Black Cat began in 1915 as a prank night between first-year students and sophomores. It now marks the end of orientation and the official recognition of the new class in the campus community. Mary Sweet, college physician from 1908-1937, suggested it as a way to eliminate hazing of the first-year students.

Black Cat week begins with the ringing of the bell at midnight Sunday. Each class is assigned a day in which it throws a party in Evans Hall and dresses like its mascot. Black Cat week progresses with a bonfire Thursday night, a junior class production Friday night and the formal dance Saturday night.

- **Class colors and mascots:** Every year, the incoming class is assigned a color to represent it during its time at Agnes Scott. The colors alternate among red, green, blue and yellow. With this color in mind, each class also picks a mascot. Traditionally, first-year students try to keep their mascot's identity a secret until the bonfire, while sophomores try to uncover the mascot and present it beforehand to the school.
- **Decorations:** As the bell rings on Black Cat week at midnight Sunday, each class decorates the campus, both inside and outside of buildings, with its color and mascot.
- **Sister classes and songs:** Each first-year class becomes the sister class of the junior class at Agnes Scott. Red/blue are sisters and green/yellow are sisters. Each class creates a song representing it and a song showing its love for its sister class. Both are performed at bonfire and Junior Production.
- **Bonfire:** Bonfire is a chance for all classes to dress like their mascots, sing their songs and show off their class spirit. Bonfire takes place on the Woodruff Quadrangle on Thursday night during Black Cat week. It is at this event that first-year students reveal their mascot.
- **Field Day:** Field Day gives the classes a final opportunity to compete before Junior Production. Field hockey is the main event—class teams learn the rules of the game and practice together the Sunday before Black Cat week. Other activities include mud wrestling and a water balloon toss. Students who do not wish to participate directly can help their class by showing their spirit on the sidelines!
- **Junior Production and the Black Kitty:** The junior class writes, directs and performs Junior Production on the Friday of Black Cat week. The entire campus is invited and is seated by class. After Junior Production, the Black Kitty is awarded to the class that performed the best during Black Cat week.

Capping

Capping week is evident to everyone on campus. Each year, juniors who wish to participate are paired with a senior. The senior leaves a bag outside the junior's door every morning filled with crazy clothes and instructions for the day. The week always takes place near the end of the spring semester and is the way seniors "induct" juniors into their senior year.