

# CHOWAN TODAY

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A Newsmagazine for Alumni, Parents and Friends

## Chowan entering a new decade

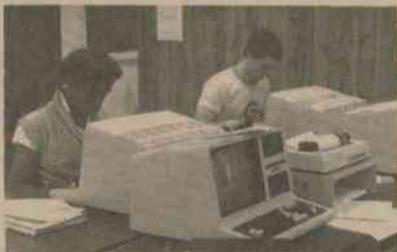
What do the 1990's hold for Chowan College? That's a popular question on campus this semester with a Four-year Study Committee in the process of examining whether Chowan should remain a two-year college or broaden to become a four-year institution. That study is in the minds of faculty, staff and students who are hovering in balance waiting for the future of Chowan College to be decided.

The Four-Year Study Committee, chaired by Dr. Joyce Elliott, professor of speech is requesting input from alumni in this issue of *Chowan Today*, (on page eight), regarding two-year versus four-year expansion. Whether Chowan remains a two-year institution or becomes a four-year one, the next decade will mean changes for all colleges and universities in many ways.

### Education in the 1990's

Educators can pretty well establish the 'future history' of higher education through the year 2000. A decade of decline in total number of college-eligible youth (1986-1996) will precede slight increases in the youth pool that will last into the next century. Experts agree many of these increases will be among minority groups.

What does this mean for Chowan? During the next decade, as young people become more scarce, colleges, including Chowan, will intensify efforts to attract bright, college-eligible youth.



### Students in the 1990's

Research through surveys of incoming freshmen students indicate that while students' attitudes seem to be moving in a conservative direction on the issues of drugs and crime, their views on most other issues are changing in a decidedly liberal direction, according to Alex Astin, professor of higher education at UCLA. Students today also have increased environmental concerns and believe the government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution. The leading careers of choice among students continue to be business, engineering, social studies, education, and the arts and humanities, in that order. Educators are very concerned about teaching developmental classes, such as reading, writing, and mathematics, on the college level to compensate for lack of skill development in high school. Chowan also will be investigating a developmental studies curriculum in the 1990's.



Marks Hall will undergo a facelift for the decade ahead.

### Curricula in the 1990's

*Chowan Today* asked department chairmen at Chowan to predict the future for their departments in the 1990's. Here are some of the predictions:

**Dorothy Wallace**, chairman, Department of Business — Prognosticators tell us that the 1990's will continue the current shift toward a service economy. In order for business graduates to be successful in this environment, they will need more of what is referred to as "soft skills," in addition to the "hard skills". Soft skills are those difficult to quantify, such as skills in communicating, organizing, forecasting, and problem-solving. Hard skills are those skills that are task-oriented. The faculty in the Department of Business are constantly seeking ways to integrate into their teaching the soft skills that students must learn to succeed in the business world in the 1990's.

Because of all the changes taking place in business — the information explosion that is already upon us, technological advancements, globalization, and more — during the 1990's, the Department of Business at Chowan will continually review its goals, curricula, teaching practices, and achievements and seek to improve. Throughout the decade ahead, the emphasis must be on quality rather than mediocrity.

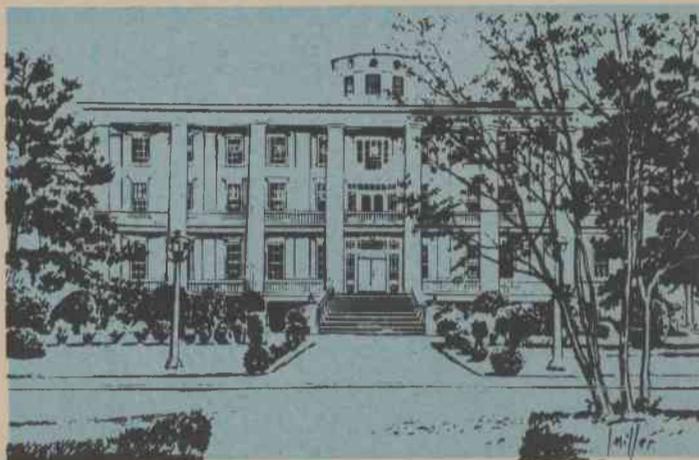
**Warren Sexton**, chairman, Department

of Social Sciences — Because of the increasing complexity of technology and society in general, we expect there will be an increased emphasis on helping students develop skills that will enable them to interpret, analyze, and solve problems. The growing influence of the non-Western world will make it necessary for us to become more informed about the history and culture of these countries.

It is imperative that greater emphasis be placed on physical geography. Students must develop their knowledge of locations of the nations throughout the world where important things are happening. It is essential that our students become more conscious of the problems facing the world environment, and become willing to work to find solutions to these problems.

The Department of Social Science approaches the 1990's with optimism concerning the opportunities the decade will offer us. Members of the department are committed to offering quality education and believe we can help our students to be able to build a better world for both the present and the future.

**Herman Gatewood**, chairman, Department of Graphic Communications — The Department of Graphic Communications will continue to strive in the 1990's to keep abreast with the rapidly changing technologies in the graphic communications fields. Emphasis will continue



In the 1890's the landmark Columns Building provided offices, classrooms, library and dormitory rooms for the campus.

## 1990's

to be placed on computer applications in printing and publishing, as well as in photographic areas, and efforts will be made to install additional computer equipment in the instructional laboratories.

In an effort to prepare graduates for immediate employment after graduation and/or transfer to a senior institution, the graphic communications curricula will be amended to include required internships for printing and photography majors. This minimum 10-week internship may be completed during the summer vacation period, or during a regular college semester, and will provide the student much "hands on" experience as well as an opportunity to earn funds for college expenses.

### Chowan Alumni in the 1990's

Janelle Greene, of Rocky Mount, president of the Chowan College Alumni Board, is leading Chowan alumni into the new decade, and has many hopes for alumni in the future.

"Our Alumni Board, in the last five to ten years, has played a significant role in fund-raising, as well as providing programs for the growth of Chowan College awareness. I feel positive that the Alumni Board will play an even greater integral part at Chowan in the 1990's, with members serving as role models for students graduating and wishing to return as alumni. I would like to see more alumni returning to the campus, and our Alumni Loyalty Fund increase to even greater goals. I believe we will see larger numbers of alumni supporting the programs and activities of Chowan, and our new goal for the coming decade will be, 'the sky's the limit!'"