

## Suzanne Clifton — motivation is her style

As corporate executives go, Suzanne Clifton, class of 1964, is unique, in more ways than one. Her company is listed in the Inc. 500 list of America's fastest-growing private companies. She is one of the North Carolina Research Triangle's most successful women corporate executives, but she started out as a teacher and didn't get into her own business until 1984 at her husband's urging.

"While I worked for another company, I found myself wanting to give clients more," says Suzanne Clifton, who as president of Executive Temporaries of Cary, has two office locations in the Research Triangle. "I felt an urgent need to start my own business and get things right. I already knew a lot about business. Yes, my husband has always been a motivating factor, but it was my inner motivation that did it, and the fact that I'm the kind of individual who never does just enough. I always do more than what is expected."

Suzanne has accomplished more than "what is expected" in business, supervising a staff of eleven permanent employees and over 250 temporaries placed in corporations and industries in North Carolina.

"Human resources is one of the fastest-growing industries in the coun-



Suzanne Clifton

try today. With the current economy, this industry is recession-proof. Companies are not hiring new employees, but have a need for temporaries to fill their needs," remarks Suzanne.

The executive who says she 'concentrates on giving a service that is top-notch', has personally trained each of her employees so well that when she had to be out this past year (fighting and overcoming breast cancer), her office continued to operate smoothly.

From Roanoke Rapids, Suzanne attended Chowan in 1962 because of

the extension program the college had in Roanoke Rapids. She was married at the time, and had her first child the year after she graduated in 1964. She recalls professors like Mr. Sexton for history and remembers well hearing about the assassination of John F. Kennedy as she walked across the Chowan campus.

"We were so committed back then," she recalls. "We were very directed and organized. I enjoyed my days at Chowan very much."

Today, she has two sons, William Matthew Savage, and Roderick Brooks

Savage, who work for her husband at his janitorial contracting company.

She is currently serving as chairperson of the Chowan Board of Visitors and says she is delighted at the four-year decision.

"I think it's wonderful. Eastern North Carolina needs a good four-year school because just as it was when I went to school, so many students like to stay close to home to go to college and earn a degree. Chowan will be a great stepping stone for them."

"Dr. Jackson is certainly an asset to the college and has some of the best ideas. I believe he cares about the school and the people who work there," Suzanne continued.

On giving advice to rising students in business, Suzanne pauses.

"I would tell them to strive for the top because it is out there for them. We live in America. I have traveled and seen other countries enough to know we have everything in America at our fingertips. With hard work and dedication, and if you give it your all, it can be yours."

A living example of her own advice, Suzanne Clifton is certainly a role model for all students of business and the epitome of self-motivational success.

## Step into the art world right here at Chowan College!

You can almost hear the swish of paintbrushes and the sounds of a pottery wheel coming from Green Hall, home of the art department at Chowan, but if you listen closely, you'll hear something else too.

Green Hall is the place on campus where students can find true artistic expression. It is here that art students create the drawings and pieces of pottery that they will probably remember the rest of their lives. Pieces that they will save and later say, "Oh, yeah, I remember that from art class at Chowan."

"We are like one big happy family over here in Green Hall," explains Doug Eubank, art professor and potter. He teaches ceramics, drawing, 3-D design and figure drawing and is proud of his students and the department as a whole.

"The faculty in the art department work very hard to counsel students with the goal of retention. We really get to know our students and become their 'home away from home.'

Professor Eubank describes the relationships that develop between art professors and art students as one of comraderie and breaking down of barriers. That is one of the reasons the art department has one of the highest retention rates on campus.

"Over half of these art majors will have dinner over at my house before the year is over," Eubank remarks laughingly. "We go out of our way to help students, even if it means going to the grocery store with them or helping them out financially when it's needed. We have about 60 art majors and we get to know every one of them before they leave us."

One of the most favorite activities of art students is the annual trip to New York City which groups of artists have been doing every fall since

1974. Led by the 'fearless' Doug Eubank, the trip usually involves the faculty from the art department, students and former students, and community members interested in art. They have the opportunity to tour the Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and either the Whitney or Guggenheim museums.

"It is always a memorable trip because the students will usually see someone famous, and we always enjoy going out to eat. It's a chance for our Japanese students to go to a Sushi bar," says the professor.

The Chowan art department is not just known for great trips or for 'helping students'. The department, chaired by well-known artist, David Parker, is recognized as one of the outstanding college art departments in the state. Because of superior facilities and a dedicated staff, Chowan's art department is as strong as many four-year art departments. In ceramics, Chowan excels in that the college offers students both gas-fired reduction and salt kilns. Many schools, according to Eubank, just have electric kilns, which limit the kinds of pottery they can do.

Chowan is also strong in commercial art, which many students enter the department for because of its lucrative career opportunities. Stanley Mitchell, professor of commercial art, teaches a three-year curriculum which is highly respected in the field. Many students who graduate from Chowan's commercial art programs go on to successful art careers.

Art Professor Susan Fecho also prepares students to enter the competitive field of commercial art, teaching illustration, color and design, and print-making. She also teaches art appreciation in the department.

"We recruit students to enter



Professor Doug Eubank instructs a group of budding artists on figure drawing.

Chowan by holding a high school art competition in the spring," states Eubank. "We provide scholarships based on portfolio review and two departmental scholarships for students who enter the art competition. Many times we encourage students who are taking an art class and show talent to consider art as a major."

And there is talent at work in Green Hall. Just a walk by the easels in the beginning painting course taught by David Parker is like visiting a mini-museum. Parker, who is widely known throughout eastern North Carolina for his pastoral landscapes, has been teaching art at Chowan for almost twenty years. He has discovered many budding artists and is a local authority on the late artist Francis Speight who was artist in residence at East Carolina for many years.

Works by Francis Speight are on display in the permanent collection of

the art department in Green Hall, as well as several other important works the department has acquired over the years. Changing exhibits appear in the art gallery in Green featuring local artists in the state. Chowan faculty members present their work annually as do the art students in the spring.

About the transition to four-year, the resident artist professors are pleased. They all express that they are looking forward to working with upper level students and to more comprehensive course offerings. So often students are just beginning to realize their potential at the end of a two-year course.

So, if you are on campus for any reason in the near future, stop into Green Hall. You are sure to see some works of art, and you just might hear the true sounds of, not only artistic expression, but the happiness of friendship and comraderie that exist there.