

CHOWAN TODAY

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Chowan concludes 143rd year, graduates 144

The day dawned sunny and bright and it was truly a glorious sight when the 1991 graduation candidates began their march down the front steps of the McDowell Columns Building to the campus green where they were presented associate degrees and diplomas.

Chowan College concluded its 143rd academic year with commencement exercises on Saturday, May 18. President Jerry F. Jackson conferred associate degrees on 137 graduates. Four students were awarded three-year diplomas in commercial art. Three students received one-year diplomas and eight students graduated with the highest academic honors.

The Honorable G. William Whitehurst, U. S. Congressman from Virginia, 1969 to 1987, delivered the commencement address. Commenting that the dynamic driving us into the 21st century is high technology, Dr. Whitehurst also lamented the fact that there is a significant decline in newspaper readership and students of today seem to be learning very little geography. He cited other evidence of the decline in education.

"Who and what are to blame for this condition? Let me observe that the new technology is not to blame—that's a crutch—; not the federal government for granting less money. I was educated in a generation, the 50's and 60's, when there were NO federal funds available."

"The answer is almost too simple, but it is at the root of our other social problems as well. If a child is not motivated at home and instilled with the values of scholarship and self-discipline, the task of education becomes too severe."

Dr. Whitehurst urged the graduates to "make excellence in all things your goal and you will serve others as you serve yourself."

Charlotte Sophia Pitt, from Nas-

sau, Bahamas, the graduating class president, presented a Chowan flag, designed by the sophomore class, to the college in memory of Dr. Earl H. Parker, the late professor of religion and philosophy who was awarded the Excellence in Teaching award last year.

Mrs. Earl (Liba) Parker was presented a replica of the flag.

"My family and I are deeply grateful. He loved Chowan College, the students, and he loved to teach. I want to thank you, the graduating students, and may life be good to you," said Mrs. Parker.

Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, vice president for academic affairs, presented this year's Excellence in Teaching Award to Dr. Carl L. Garrott, professor of foreign language in the department of language and literature. This prestigious award goes to the outstanding teacher during the year as voted upon by the other members of the college faculty.

Phyllis Dewar, faculty marshal and professor of science, delivered the invocation and devotional and challenged the graduation candidates to think for a moment about the principles of science as they reflected on their own lives.

All graduates and their families were honored at a breakfast at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Jackson graduation morning. A luncheon was served under tents on the lawn immediately following graduation.

Graduation exercises brought to a conclusion a busy and successful academic year for Chowan College. It was the first year the college offered the innovative academic support program which assists students who need special services such as tutoring, computer labs and students who have learning disabilities. Over 90 percent of this year's graduates transferred to senior colleges and universities.

Chowan's request for four-year granted by Baptist Convention

The request by Chowan College to return to four-year status was approved by the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina earlier this year and the transition to four-year institutional status is progressing on schedule, according to President Jerry Jackson.

The Committee on Institutional Transition, composed of faculty/staff and representatives of the Board of Trustees, began to function almost immediately after the trustees made the decision that Chowan would return to four-year. One of the early duties of the committee was to prepare a report for the Council on Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina supporting the request of the college that it be permitted to move to four-year status. This request was then approved by a special committee of the Council, by the full Council, and by the General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. (See page 7 for further details about the four-year transition.)



Dr. Carl Garrott was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award.

One graduate, Jemeul Johnson, from East Orange, NJ, came to Chowan from Rochester Institute of Technology in New York to study printing technology at a small school where he could get more "hands-on" training.

"I've learned a lot," he said. "The

professors here really care and give you extra attention."

After graduation from Chowan, he hopes to go on to San Francisco State to study printing technology and education so he can one day teach in the field of graphic communications.

Descendant of 1863 alumna funds Rightmire scholarship

Maylia (Mollie) G. Rightmire, of Lynchburg, Va., has established the Maylia G. Rightmire Scholarship for students attending Chowan College. She established the scholarship by means of a Charitable Gift Annuity in the amount of \$150,000.

"We are both pleased and honored that Mollie Rightmire has presented Chowan with this generous gift," said President Jerry F. Jackson. "Because of her desire to help others, students in need of financial aid will reap the benefits of an education at Chowan."

Originally from Emporia, Va., Mollie Rightmire today resides in Lynchburg, Va., and at her "cottage" on the Rappahannock River in Virginia where she "can get away from it all". Her grandmother, Mary Olivia Parker Green, graduated from Chowan, the only member of the class of 1863.

"My grandmother was from Emporia and attended Chowan when it was an all-female Baptist college," Mollie remembers. "She loved Chowan very much."

The Green Science Building (today Green Hall which houses the division of art) was erected in 1955-56 through a gift from Rufus J. Green in honor of his mother and Mollie's grandmother, Mary Olivia Parker Green.

Mollie lived in New York while growing up, but lived in Whitesville, Va. after she married Harry Omell Rightmire. She attended Mary Baldwin College and Randolph-Macon College, as well as studied abroad for one year. She was married for 41 years and at her husband's death, moved to Lynchburg to live with her sister.

"I came to Chowan recently with no expectations. I met the delightful president of the college and other faculty and staff members and decided it would be a wonderful thing to establish a scholarship at Chowan," she states.

During her visit to Chowan, Mollie toured Green Hall, named for her grandmother. A portrait of Mary Olivia Parker Green is located in the Antiquities Room of Whitaker Library.