

# CHOWAN TODAY

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## Distinguished alumni awards go to 'treasured' music teacher and a Fortune 500 businesswoman

Two outstanding Chowan College alumnae were honored with the college's highest awards October 5 during the annual Chowan homecoming alumni meeting. Before a standing room only crowd, the 1991 Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Suzanne S. Clifton, of Cary, N.C. and Louise Lassiter Strickland, of Woodland, N.C.

In making the presentations, President Jerry F. Jackson stated "These two alumnae have reached the height of success in life by distinguishing themselves as leaders of their communities, by achieving excellence and making lasting contributions through their lives and work."

Suzanne S. Clifton, class of 1964, is the president of Executive Temporaries, Inc. in Cary, one of the 500 fastest growing privately owned businesses in the United States, according to Inc. 500 Magazine. From Roanoke Rapids, N.C., she attended Chowan during the 1960's because of an exchange program available in her hometown. She graduated with the associate of arts in elementary education and remembers her days at Chowan as "very influential" in her later success as a business executive in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina.

As a supporter of Chowan College, Suzanne currently serves as chairperson of the board of visitors. She is a leading contributor each year to the college's annual fund. A member of the alumni association, she visits the college often. She states she "is highly in favor of the four-year transition." The Suzanne S. Clifton Endowed Scholarship in business has also been initiated at the college.

Literally a self-made executive, Clifton got into her own private business at the urging of her husband in 1984. Since that time, she has developed a small office providing personnel for business and industry into a thriving human resource business placing over 285 temporaries in positions throughout North Carolina. She staffs two growing office locations

with fourteen permanent employees and runs a "tight ship," training most of her employees herself.

Dr. Jackson stated that Clifton is an inspiration to others in that she overcame breast cancer because of early detection. She emphasizes excellent training as a reason for the success of her company, which has a training center to give one-on-one tutorials on different computer programs and systems to the temporaries.

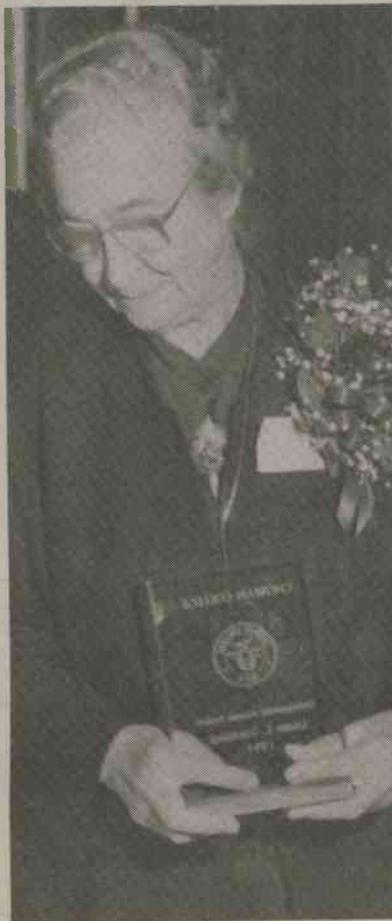
"I never stop with just enough. I always want to do more," says this highly motivated woman who has launched many careers and influenced many young women as they prepare to enter the workforce. A perfectionist, she encourages young people to try hard for what they want.

She is also the recipient of an award for outstanding contribution to the economy of North Carolina by the North Carolina Chapter of National Association of Women Business Owners; is listed in Who's Who in American Executives, Who's Who in the South; and Outstanding Young Women in America.

She is married to Larry Clifton and has two sons, Brooks and Matt Savage.

Louise Lassiter Strickland, class of 1936, was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award for her years of service and contributions through music. She has used her twin talents of music and teaching to bring happiness to people of all ages in the Roanoke-Chowan area of North Carolina.

Strickland recalls that through the sacrifice of her parents, Joe E. and Birdie Futrell Lassiter, she was able to attend Chowan in 1932. Her Chowan roots go way back because her mother, Birdie, attended Chowan and her aunt Vergie Mae Futrell graduated from Chowan in 1909. At Chowan, Strickland studied piano for four years and graduated in 1936 with a well-rounded education that included a piano diploma, public school music diploma and a bachelor of arts degree in history and English. She returned to Chowan to study piano with Carole Nicholson, professor of music,



Louise Lassiter Strickland



Suzanne S. Clifton

in 1983.

When she retired in 1983, she had completed twenty years as music teacher and choir director at Murfreesboro High School. But, she wasn't ready for the rocking chair because even today she is still the organist at the Methodist Church in her hometown of Woodland. She also goes to a nearby nursing home weekly to conduct Sunday School lessons for residents there and assists in playing music at the funeral home in Rich Square.

Strickland has been heard to say many times that she receives a lot more than

she gives when she sees the men and women tapping their feet as she plays. According to her, it gives her a good feeling to know that she has made someone's life a little bit brighter.

She always enjoys seeing former students and on any trip downtown can usually greet several of them within a few moments time. Her service to others is recognized by the plaques which hang on the walls in her home.

It has been said of Louise Strickland that "she loves everyone -- that's why so many people love her."

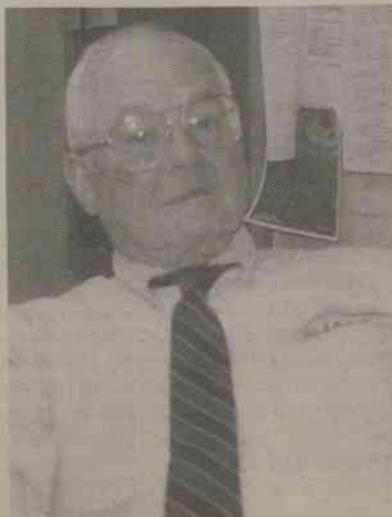
## Harden Chapel will be 'quiet place for meditation'

Students, faculty and staff members will soon have a quiet place to go for comfort and reassurance when the construction of Harden Chapel is completed early next year.

A chapel on the campus of Chowan has long been a dream at the College, and it is now a dream made reality by Ach Harden, professor of math in the department of math and science.

"I conceived of the chapel as remaining an informal area that is warm, peaceful, friendly, comforting and reassuring," states Professor Harden who asked that it be dedicated Harden Chapel in memory of his wife Mary Carus Harden, who died in 1985.

"One of my reasons for presenting a gift to the college for a chapel is that I thought a church-supported school should have a chapel as a place for any of the college family to use for private



Achson Harden

meditation and prayer."

Harden Chapel will be located downstairs below Thomas Cafeteria. The design for the chapel was recently completed by David Parker, chairman of the division of art. Plans are for Doug Eubank, professor of art, to make the stained glass across the back of the chapel.

"Every church-related institution needs a chapel," said President Jerry Jackson. "I am pleased that Professor Harden has seen the need at Chowan to provide a quiet place where students, faculty and staff can meet, pray or just meditate. This facility will add a spiritual dimension to the campus."

The chapel, which will be open 24 hours a day, will be ecumenical in nature. The campus minister will be responsible for programs held there. Inspirational quotations will hang inside

the chapel, which is modern in design combining functional and traditional features.

A dedication for the chapel is planned for February, 1992 when construction is completed.

Professor Harden returned this semester on a part-time basis following his official retirement at the end of last year. He completed undergraduate studies at Williams College, received the T.M.A. from N.C. State University after he retired from the Army, and began his second career teaching at Chowan almost 22 years ago. The professor is a sportsman who enjoys hunting and fishing and likes to spend summers "up north" in New Hampshire at his home there. He has two daughters who live in Vermont and one son who resides in Montana.