

CHOWAN

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TODAY

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Chowan graduation marks a new beginning

Associate degrees were conferred on 105 graduates of Chowan College May 9, but this year, something was different.

Tammy Marie Joyner, of Ahoskie, received the associate of science degree and she plans to continue her education at Chowan to pursue the four-year degree in teacher education.

Natalie Candice Taylor, of Eure, walked away with an associate degree in music, but she has plans to receive the equivalent four-year degree from Chowan in 1994.

Rumonda Tyre Smith graduated with the associate degree in printing production technology and plans to return for the four-year degree in the fall.

That is the story repeated many times at this year's Chowan graduation, the college's 144th in a long history of graduations. What is different about this year's graduation is that many of those graduates are electing to stay on at Chowan to pursue the four-year degree.

Graduation exercises, which were held in Turner Auditorium inside the Columns building due to the recent weather, included the presentation by Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, vice president for academics, of the Excellence in Teaching Award to Dr. G. Kenneth Wolfskill, chairman of the department of language and literature and a favorite English teacher among students at Chowan. This award is presented each year to the faculty member elected by other members of the faculty.

Dr. Carl Garrott, professor of languages, and recipient of last year's Excellence in Teaching Award, delivered the invocation and devotion during graduation exercises. He urged graduates to have "burning hearts", which are "necessary to the highest success in Christian service".

Dr. T. Robert Mullinax, executive director of the Council on Christian Higher Education at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, delivered the commencement address, announcing he was the "final barrier between you and the awarding of your final degrees."

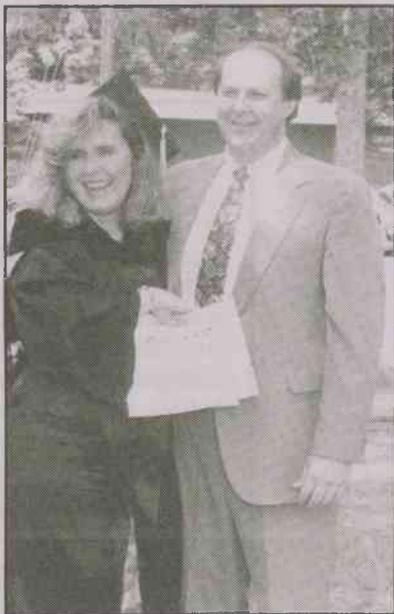
He declared, "What Chowan hopes for you and what will be expected of you, as college graduates, is to think, to dream and to act."

"Thinking is perhaps the most valuable aspect of the college education," said Mullinax. "Dreams transcend the problems of today. But, it is not enough to think and dream, you must act. I assure you that it is going to be all right for you out there if you can think, dream and act."

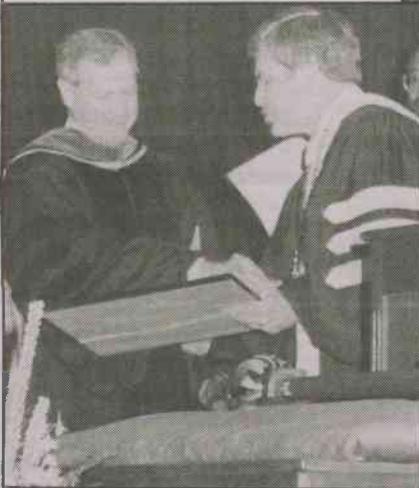
President Jerry F. Jackson, assisted by Darrell Nicholson, registrar, presented associate degree diplomas to students as they marched across the stage in Turner. A capacity crowd of over 500 attended graduation exercises, which were preceded by a continental breakfast in Thomas Cafeteria honoring graduation candidates and parents. Many graduates and their families stayed for a luncheon in Thomas following graduation.

Teaching Excellence Award Winner Dr. Wolfskill said he was very surprised with the award. He has taught English at Chowan since 1973; received the doctoral degree from the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill; the master's degree from the University of Kentucky; and the bachelor's degree from Samford University. He was also nominated for the Academic Advisor's Award last year by Chowan students and was one of the winners in the nation of an academic advisor award.

According to Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Chowan will continue to award a number of associate degrees for years in the transition to four-year institutional status. He predicts the number of associate degree graduates who elect to stay on at Chowan for four years will continue to rise.



Melissa Lewellen (above) celebrated with Bruce Moore, vice president for student development. Dr. Ken Wolfskill, (right) received excellence in teaching award.



Dr. T. Robert Mullinax addressed graduates.

Joyners make Chowan a family tradition

by Jessica Kiser '95

At a time when undergraduates at college are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with large universities, Susan Harmon and Tammy Joyner are two sisters who are attending a smaller college and loving it!

These two sisters from Ahoskie represent two major categories of the population on college campuses today: the recent high school graduate and the student who is coming back to school in later life.

Susan, the oldest of the six children in the Joyner family, (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Joyner) is married and has two daughters of her own, ages 8 and 11 years. She has gone back to school to get her elementary education degree and has found that going back to school later in life is challenging and rewarding.

"It is totally different. I had to relearn how to study, to budget our time, and to make everything fit together, but I knew I wanted to go back to school and get my degree. I quit my job and that is what I did - what I wanted to do. I went back to school", says Susan.

"My girls think it's great and they look up to me,"

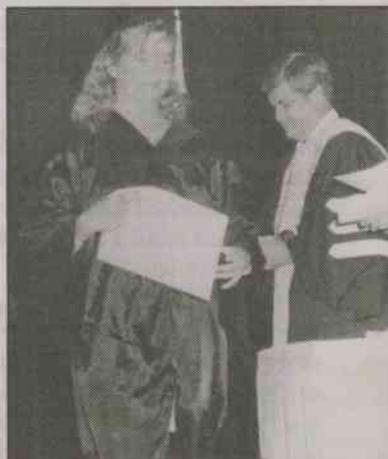
she continued. "My husband is proud and encourages me to stick with it. My entire family supports me." Tammy, the youngest of the Joyner children, graduated from Hertford County High School in 1990. She enrolled at Chowan and plans to get her degree in elementary education.

"When I graduated from high school, I had made plans to attend Chowan. That was where I wanted to go. It has worked out for the best all the way around," she relates. "The first thing that attracted me to Chowan was the quality of the professors, but after I began attending here, I really began to appreciate the fact that I could talk to them. I am not just a number like I would be at a larger school."

Including Susan and Tammy, four of the Joyner children have attended Chowan College. As a matter of fact, there will be four of the Joyner siblings at Chowan this fall when brother David returns to Chowan and younger brother Steven enrolls.

Peggy Joyner, who teaches at Hertford County Middle School, remarks that if Chowan had been a

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Tammy Joyner, '92