

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Board Offers Advice, Time and Commitment

The Alumni Board at Chowan College is made up of a diverse group of 20 people from throughout the alumni body. It is representative of the fields of education, business, real estate and agriculture. The directors that serve on the board are from small towns and big cities and span the classes from the 50s through the 80s.

Even though the Board of Directors is a diverse representation of the alumni body, it has in common the purpose of the Alumni Association which is to "promote the interest of Chowan College and Christian higher education, establishing mutually beneficial relations between the College and alumni." Each director serves as an advisor to the Office of Alumni Services and assists with their attendance at quarterly meetings, representing the college at events on and off the campus and supporting the Alumni Loyalty Fund with their gifts.

The board has two functioning committees which assist in the direction and implementation of the Alumni Office's programs.

The Fund-Raising and Long Range Planning Committee is responsible for promoting and organizing the campaign for the Alumni Loyalty Fund. The committee members also are charged with reviewing and revising the association's long range plan.

The Programs and Special Events Committee is charged with the responsibility of assisting the Alumni Office in organizing, promoting and executing programs which include and promote the Alumni of Chowan. This committee assists with Homecoming, chapter development and merchandise promotion, to name a few.

The Board is an active group of advisors who always welcomes comments and suggestions from throughout the alumni body.

"A group of people like the Alumni Board is very special to my office and the College," stated Kevin Clary, director of alumni services. "Their suggestions and input are invaluable. I enjoy the opportunity to spend time with these wonderful people."

Chowan Alumni Association Board of Directors Officers

- Jeff E. Howle III ('57)
President, Norfolk, Va.
- Harry W. Webster ('63)
President-Elect, Rocky Mount, N.C.
- Dianne Griffin Agricola ('70)
Vice President, Courtland, Va.
- Gary Williams ('65)
Secretary, Suffolk, Va.
- Charles B. Pond III ('62)
Past President, Suffolk, Va.



Kevin Clary,
Director of Alumni
Services

Homecoming '93: Walking Into the Future

As the springtime begins to warm and Chowan looks at closing another academic year, members of the staff, faculty and student body are busily preparing for the Fall Homecoming, October 16. The Homecoming '93 Committee has already laid the plans for a weekend filled with pep rallies, bonfires and reunions.

This year will bring back an exciting rivalry as Chowan, The Four-Year College, faces off with one-time rival Ferrum College of Virginia. Joining the ranks of NCAA Division III offers us the opportunity to face many new opponents in the fall lineup.

The afternoon game will be preceded by a parade through the streets of Murfreesboro and the college campus. The Chowan clubs and organizations are currently meeting to plan their floats and exhibits for the parade.

The events of the weekend will be

topped off with the classes of 1953, 1968 and 1983 celebrating their 40th, 25th and 10th reunions, respectively. The committees for each of these classes are presently forming and will soon begin planning their reunion event for the weekend. If you are a member of one of these classes and are interested in helping with your reunion, please contact the Alumni Office.

Already it looks to be a busy and fun-



By Debra Griffin

Former faculty member, Anna Belle Crouch, waves along the parade route as she represents Jenkins Hall. Crouch was once a resident director for the women's dorm. She is accompanied by Smiley the Clown.

filled weekend for alumni, parents, students and Chowan family and friends. Look for more details about the Homecoming '93 schedule in the next *Chowan Today*, or call Kevin Clary at (919) 398-4101.

An Alumni Profile

Shirley Johnson ('74), A Legal Eagle

Chowan College boasts of a number of alumni who are serving their communities in a meritorious manner. One of these is Shirley Gatling Johnson ('74), who is the Hertford County Clerk of Superior Court. Her experience and background in the Superior Court is quite possibly unmatched by any other county clerk in the state.

A life-long resident of Murfreesboro, Shirley attended Riverview Elementary School, C. S. Brown High School and graduated from Murfreesboro High School in 1971. At Chowan, she majored in secretarial administration and business law. She credits Chowan with providing her with an excellent background which she has drawn upon in all her jobs.

After serving as a receptionist and secretary at Dr. J. D. Weaver's Clinic in Ahoskie for 18 months and as office clerk at Belk's Department Store in Ahoskie for two years, she began her service with the Superior Court in 1976.

She worked as both a receptionist and a child support enforcement

specialist. Later, when she became the small claims, juvenile and child support courtroom clerk, she earned the opportunity to work as the assistant bookkeeper in addition to her other duties.

In 1982, she was promoted to the position of chief deputy clerk. As deputy clerk, she worked in the criminal district courtroom, did the calendar preparation, kept all court records, took judgments and made sure all documents reached their proper destination.

In 1984, she was selected to fill the position of junior assistant clerk of Superior Court. In this position, she experienced for the first time the judicial phase of the job. Her responsibilities in this office consisted of filing all Civil District Court cases (divorces, equity settlements, child custody and general law suits), calendar preparation and distribution and officiating as civil district courtroom clerk, which involves recording minutes, processing and documenting all judgments rendered, microfilming, etc. Other duties were reconciling bank statements and in the absence of the other employees, performing double duty.

In 1988, Shirley was elevated to the top level, short of being the clerk of Superior Court, senior assistant clerk of court.

The duties of this office are primarily the same as clerk to Criminal

and Civil District Court, but on a larger scale and more complex. The work deals with "special proceedings" such as adoptions, foreclosures, guardianship, incompetency, protective services, etc.

Shirley called another duty of the senior assistant clerk, handling estates, as "the most important and by far the most serious responsibility in the entire office."

She continued, "Here, the clerk deals with individuals on a very personal and confidential basis, which warrants much compassion and understanding. This important job entails qualifying administrators, executors and collectors; inventorying lock boxes and auditing 90-day inventories, annual and final accounts.

From mid December 1989 - March 1, 1990, because of the absence of the clerk of Superior Court, she had total office responsibility.

This helped prepare her for the role she is now playing. The motto for her May 1990 election campaign was, "Why Train - When You Already Have Experience and Dedication." The voters agreed with this assessment and elected Shirley to her present position of Hertford County Clerk of Superior Court.

Shirley is married to Clyde Johnson. They have two daughters, Clytia Auvette and RaShonda Shirmae Johnson.



By Phil Royce