

After 15 years of research

## Stephenson's book traces life, work of Gatling, area inventor

E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., director of the Upward Bound program, has authored a new book tracing the life and work of Richard Jordan Gatling, inventor of the famous Gatling Gun who was a native of Hertford County.

*Gatling - A Photographic Remembrance*, published by the Meherrin River Press, tells for the first time what happened to Gatling and his family as he became one of the world's greatest inventors. Stephenson reviews Gatling's "rags to riches and riches to rags" life story as well as those of other members of the Gatling family.

Stephenson, recognized as an authority on the history of the Roanoke-Chowan area and in the restoration of historical structures, grew up on a farm adjoining the Gatling Plantation in Como, just east of Murfreesboro.

He spent more than 15 years collecting data for his newest book and traveled thousands of miles to interview descendants of the famous inventor and to collect historical photographs.

"In many respects the book is like a Gatling family photo album," Stephenson said. "It includes many rare photographs than have never been published."

Illustrated with 144 photographs, *Gatling - A Photographic Remembrance*

also includes archival material made possible by John Waters Gatling, a grandson of the inventor, who now resides in Asheville.

"I am greatly appreciative of the help provided by Mr. Gatling," Stephenson noted, "who furnished original blueprint drawings and notes made by his grandfather as he developed his farm tractor, seed planter, and machine gun."

A graduate of Chowan College and North Carolina State University, Stephenson has been associated with the college for more than 25 years and was Director of Admissions

prior to being named to his present position.

Among his writing credits are six books, including *Renaissance in Carolina* and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. He is currently completing *North Carolina's Herring Fishermen*, a documentary on herring fishing on the Chowan and Meherrin Rivers. His photographic portfolio of the same name has been exhibited at several galleries in eastern North Carolina.

Stephenson is also completing *Carolina Moonshine Raiders*, a look back at the "moonshine busters" of the Roanoke-Chowan region in the 1940-1970 period.

Contains many photographs which have never been published.



Stephenson displays one of his new books; he grew up on a farm adjoining the Gatling plantation.

—Photo by Jessica Kiser

### A Poetics of Jonah

## Dr. Ken Craig authors first book in biblical studies

Dr. Kenneth M. Craig, Jr., assistant professor of religion, has authored his first book in biblical studies entitled *A Poetics of Jonah*, which was published by the University of South Carolina Press.

Craig, who holds the E. Lee Oliver Fagan Chair of Bible and Religion, began research for the book in 1987 when he held a fellowship at Tel Aviv University's Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics.

The story of Jonah is only forty-eight verses long, but it is one of the most popular in the Bible. Craig examines what might be called the book of Jonah's literary architecture.

By looking closely at the various rhetorical resources available to Jonah's author, Craig distills a distinct narrative strategy while taking a major step toward illustrating the function of biblical art.

Craig's work received favorable jacket cover endorsements from Professor Phyllis Tribble, president of the Society of Biblical Literature, and Professor Jack



Dr. Kenneth Craig

Sasson of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Both professors have written major works on Jonah.

"Readers who imagine that there cannot possibly be anything new or worthwhile to say about such an old story as Jonah," Professor Sasson said, "should look into Kenneth Craig's *A Poetics of Jonah* for it will prove them wrong on both counts."

"The book is an elegant, imaginative, and responsible contribution that will please and instruct," he continued.

Dr. Craig, who joined the Chowan faculty in 1989, received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and his master's and his Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Craig has published a number of articles in major publications and recently received a Research Assistant Grant from the American Academic of Religion. He has two books in progress on the story of Esther and rhetoric and the Bible.

## Hilda Gatling is appointed to new position in financial aid

Hilda Gatling has been appointed Assistant Director of Financial Aid, a new position in the Office of Financial Aid.

In the new position, Gatling will work with student loan programs and administer financial aid to students attending Chowan. She will also have responsibilities with the work/study program which provides part-time employment on campus for approved students.

"We are delighted that Mrs. Gatling has been named to this position," said Clifton S. Collins, director of financial aid. "She is very knowledgeable of current student financial aid regulations and I am confident she will render outstanding service in her new position."

Gatling has been associated with Chowan from more than 10 years and has served as secretary in the financial aid office for the past eight years.

Gatling resides in Murfreesboro and has one daughter, Mechelle, a sophomore at Appalachian State University.

## Frances Eason named editor of Forum, student newspaper

Frances Eason, a sophomore majoring in photography in Chowan's Krueger School of Graphic Communications has been named editor-in-chief of *The Chowan Forum*, the student newspaper.

The new editor is the daughter of Dr. Andrea Eason, director of academic computing at Chowan and Mr. Mack Eason of Sunbury.

"We are very pleased that Frances accepted the editorship of the student newspaper," said Dr. Brenda Gordon, faculty advisor to the publication. "She is a very hard worker and has devoted many hours to recruiting and organizing an editorial staff and making arrangements for the printing of the newspaper."

*The Chowan Forum* is published periodically and is devoted entirely to campus events and student life. It is distributed free to members of the Chowan College community.

Eason, a graduate of Gates County High School, received the Commuting Student Award during the annual Honors Day ceremonies last April for "outstanding service to the commuting student organization and to the college." She was also a member of the Honor Roll in recognition of her academic achievements during the spring semester.



Frances Eason, editor of Chowan's first senior college student newspaper