

## Veteran science professor announces retirement

After thirty years in the classroom, J. P. Harris has decided to change his lecture time to leisure hours, trade his biology projects for bird raising, and begin retirement at the close of the spring semester.

"I'll probably do more work than I do now," said Harris, associate professor of science, "but I am ready to retire and I look forward to it."

Harris has devoted almost his entire working life to education. He has been in the classroom for more than 39 years to serve "more students than I can probably count." Harris has also had the opportunity to teach some of the children of his former students.

Harris grew up in Warren County where his father operated a general store and also engaged in farming. It was, perhaps, work on his parents' farm that caused Harris to develop an interest in science.

The only member of his family to attend college, Harris entered Louisburg College several years after high school to begin his college education and earn an associate's degree.

"I was awarded my bachelor's degree from East Carolina College and my master's from East Carolina University," he said jokingly.

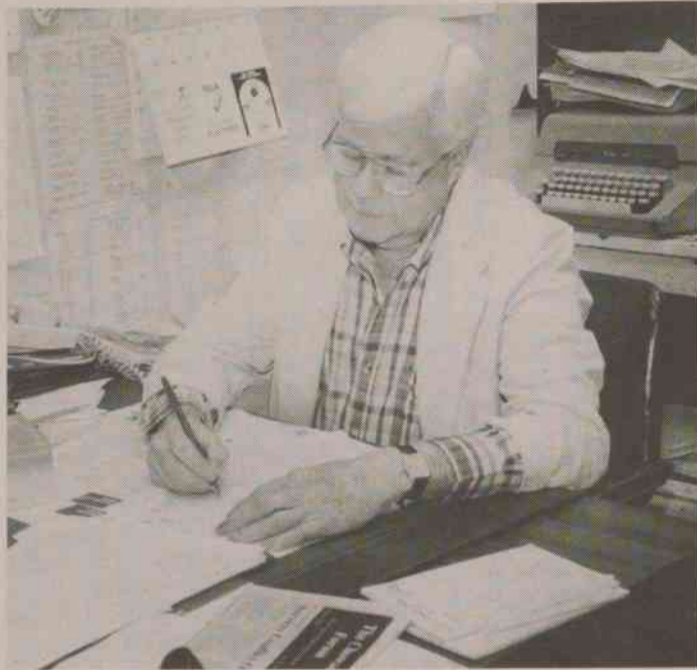
Since his graduation from ECU he has completed additional graduate work at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Boston, MA, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Harris' first teaching assignment was at Conway (NC) High School when he "was fresh out of college" to teach high school science courses. He continued at this position for nine years and until the school closed due to consolidation and the construction of a larger facility.

While teaching at Conway, "J. P.", as he is affectionately known by his multitude of friends, taught summer school courses at Chowan. "This helped me get my foot in the door toward becoming a college professor," he stated.

In the fall of 1964, Harris accepted an invitation to join the full-time faculty at Chowan, and "I started teaching in the science building, which is now Greene Hall of Visual Arts."

"Back in those days, we had to teach labs in the morning and also at night in order to accommodate all of the students," he related. "There were several years when our total college enrollment was more than 1,200 and at one time we had six biology teachers in the department."



J. P. Harris prepares for some of the classes and labs which will end his long teaching career.

Retirement years will be filled with such hobbies as domestic and exotic birds, Collie dogs and gardening

It was during his tenure at Conway High that Harris met a young future teacher of the home economics department who would later become his wife.

Geraldine Liverman, a native of Conway, and Harris were married on June 12, 1959, and they are the parents of a son, Alan, and a daughter, Mrs. Shari Lee. Both of the Harris children are graduates of Chowan College.

Mrs. Harris, who also became a full-time teacher at Conway High School, followed her husband to Chowan and is the head librarian in Whitaker Library.

"We don't have any grandchildren yet," Harris noted, "but that fact may change."

"I will really miss working with students," the professor noted, "for this is what I like best about teaching. Being able to help students is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done."

The retirement years will be very busy for Harris because he doesn't plan to spend all of the time relaxing. In addition to his many hobbies, he plans to continue his community and church involvement.

An active member of the Murfreesboro Methodist Church, Harris is a member of the administrative board, a member of the church

choir, and a teacher of the men's Sunday school class.

He has been a member of the Murfreesboro Exchange Club for more than 20 years and has served as secretary. He is now a director.

Harris plans to continue his hobby of raising domestic and exotic birds. "I probably now have more than a couple hundred birds," he said, "and I want to get more."

In addition to maintaining two "bird barns" near his home to keep most of the birds, Harris houses additional species in a Florida room connected to his home. "I have several birds that do not stay in any type of cage," he testified, "and spend most of their time sitting on my shoulder."

"I really enjoy my birds, but they do require a lot of attention," he noted. "It is necessary for me to carefully plan when I can be away from home for a day or so, and vacations—well, that takes a lot of planning!"

Harris also raises registered Collie dogs, "but I won't ever have as many Collies as I do birds," he quickly proclaimed.

An expert gardener and a noted authority on flowers and ornamental plants, Harris has made his family residence "a picturesque showplace."

"My vegetable gardens have become smaller and smaller during the past few years," he noted. "Of course, I will continue to have a garden because I enjoy it so much . . . but, I probably won't have a very large one after I retire."

## Fecho named head of Art Division

Susan B. Fecho, associate professor of art, has been appointed head of the Division of Visual Arts, effective at the beginning of the spring semester which began in January.

A resident of Tarboro, Fecho was awarded the bachelor's and master's degrees by East Carolina University. She has completed additional study at the Goldsmith Division of the University of London, and at Jan Van Eyck Academy in Maastricht, Holland.

"I am very pleased that Susan Fecho has accepted the appointment to serve as head of the division of art," said Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., vice president for academic affairs.

"She is well qualified for the position and holds a genuine interest in serving students," he continued. "Her expertise, experience and her unceasing energy should serve to add further strength to our programs in the visual arts."

Prior to joining the Chowan faculty in 1987, Fecho served as a visiting artist, lecturer and private instructor in the area of painting, crafts, printmaking and drawing. She has also been a

studio assistant in surface design and printmaking.

Fecho has teaching experience in high schools and with several colleges. She also served for six years as a visiting artist and lecturer for teacher renewal and college courses.

She has written a number of articles for periodical publications and produced *Portrait of the Outer Banks: An Artist's Sketchbook* last year.

Fecho's work has been exhibited in many galleries and shows throughout the state and she is the recipient of numerous awards.

She is the recipient of a 1994 Community Development Grant with the Edgecombe County Arts Council to research, plan and implement a community mural of Edgecombe County history involving grades 4 through 12.

Fecho replaces Doug Eubank, who resigned as head of the division of art at the conclusion of the fall semester due to personal reasons. Eubank will continue to serve as a professor in the department.

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## Chamblee awarded national certification

Dr. James C. Chamblee, chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, has been recognized as a nationally certified teacher of voice by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

Chamblee, who received the B.A. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was awarded his master's degree by Columbia University. He earned the doctorate in musicology from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1973 and has chaired the Department of Fine Arts since 1959.

He is a member of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association, serving as voice chair.

Eligibility for MTNA national certification is based on stringent criteria developed and administered by the association's National Certification Board. Renewal of the certificate every five years requires continuing self-improvement and growth in the music teaching profession.