

In historic McDowell Columns Building

Renovated, newly furnished parlor dedicated to Wards

Another chapter in the history of McDowell Columns building was written on May 4 when the newly renovated and beautifully furnished Ward Parlor was dedicated.

The parlor, located on the main floor at the entrance of the historic building, was made possible by the major gift of James K. and Joe Anne Ward of Thomasville, in honor of their children, Julie and S. Kirk Ward. Julie is a graduate of Chowan in the Class of 1984.

The Rev. William B. Stillerman, president of the North Carolina Baptist Retirement Homes, delivered the dedicatory address and cited the many contributions of the Wards to their church, community, and to Chowan College.

Mrs. Elaine E. Myers, an alumna of the Class of 1960, and chair of the college's Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation in behalf of the governing board. Charles H. Albritton III, of Hookerton, the chair of the Board of Visitors, also thanked the Wards for their significant contribution to the college.

Mrs. Kate M. Allen of Roanoke Rapids, a member of the Class of 1929, recalled her student days at Chowan and compared the parlor's use and appearance of the room 65 years ago.

Ward Parlor was designed by Martha Alice Jenkins of Ahoskie. Several antique pieces of the furniture are from the 19th Century period, and the other furniture consists of reproductions of the same period.

In addition to the major gift of the Wards, a

Room is named in honor of the two Ward children, Kirk and Julie



The Ward family greets guests at in the parlor immediately following the dedication services.

number of alumni who attended Chowan when it was a four year institution made contributions toward the parlor's renovation. The dedicatory plaque at the parlor's entrance carries the names of all persons and firms who made the room possible.

James K. Ward, president of Heirloom Furniture, Inc., in High Point since 1979, is very active in community and civic affairs. He is a past chairman of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina and a past chairman of the Thomasville School Board. He has served on the Board of Visitors of Mars Hill College and the Board of Piedmont Council of Governments.

Mrs. Ward is a native of Salem, VA, and has served as a teacher at the Baptist Children's Home for 27 years.

The Wards are members of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point where Mr. Ward is a deacon, a Sunday school teacher and the Interpreter for the Deaf.

Kirk, a graduate of Gardner-Webb University, is associated with his father in Heirloom Furniture, Inc., and holds the position of vice president.

Julie is a graduate of Chowan College in the Class of 1984 and was a member of the varsity cheerleader squad and was also named Queen of Spring in 1984. After transferring to Gardner-Webb University, she was awarded the bachelor's degree in 1986.

Following her graduation, Julie worked with the Baptist Retirement Home in Winston-Salem before assuming her present position in public relations as a development officer with the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in Thomasville. Julie, like other members of her family, is a member of Green Street Baptist Church. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Chowan College Alumni Association.



Julie Ward expresses appreciation to her parents for honoring her and her brother with the parlor dedication.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward were presented an engraved plaque at the luncheon which followed the dedication in McDowell Columns.



The parlor is attractively furnished with a combination of antique and reproduction pieces of furniture.



A word of thanks

I've heard it said that first impressions are lasting impressions. I expect this Columns building is visited more than any other building on campus. And, if beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, this is a beautiful place and I am anticipating the beauty of this newly done room.

Another lovely thing about this day and occasion is that this wonderful Baptist family, The Wards, have done this in honor of their children, Kirk and Julie. This makes the tribute even more special and should serve as a model for others.

Also having the Class of 1937 — the last four year class (and they will lose that status soon) — to help with this is significant, as well as various other friends of the college. What you all have done will be used for many years to come. You have left your mark and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank you for these gifts.

Elaine E. Myers, Chair
Board of Trustees