



Royalty visits Chowan's campus

Following her performance of Elizabeth R, Miss Barbara Hird attended the reception in the Queen's regalia. Her one-woman, 45-minute performance, written and directed by Labame Houston, was well-received by the large group attending in McDowell Columns auditorium. Above, Miss Hird greets the group at the reception and (below) chats with Dr. James Chamblee, chairman of the Department of Fine Arts and a member of the Fine Arts Foundation which sponsored production.



Emma Gay Stephenson left a legacy of commitment

Emma Gay Stephenson, an alumna, former member of both the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors, benefactor, advisor and a genuine good friend, died in June after a quiet, but yet courageous, battle with cancer. With her death she left a legacy of commitment and caring: a commitment to education and Chowan College and caring for her fellowman.

A role model for others, Emma Gay gave more than half of century of service to helping others and to what she called "of special interest - Chowan College."

The spring of 1931 was the beginning of Emma Gay Stephenson's 63 years of strong commitment, outstanding stewardship, and unceasing support for Chowan College. She graduated



Emma Gay Stephenson enjoying fellowship at a Homecoming luncheon

magna cum laude from the institution she both loved and cherished.

During those years as a student, she demonstrated uncommon campus citizenship and earned distinction as an outstanding student. She received the Kiwanis Medal for highest scholastic average as a freshman and the Daniels Medal for achievement in piano. But perhaps Emma Gay was most proud of her Jenkins Medal in recognition of achieving the highest four-year scholastic average.

The editor of the 1931 CHOWANIAN wrote that Emma Gay, "with her calm and persuasive manner, has won the love and admiration of the students."

She also won the love and admiration in the 63 years which followed of all who knew her in many walks of life and, indeed, all of those privileged to live and work at Chowan College.

Prior to her retirement in 1974, Miss Stephenson served for 16 years as administrative manager for the School of Business Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She also held several business positions in North Carolina and Virginia and taught high school English in nearby Severn and Williamston.

Emma Gay was also a "pillar of strength" in the communities where she lived. An active clubwoman, she served in every post of the Durham Woman's Club and was awarded honorary lifetime memberships in both the Durham club and the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

She was active in the Ahoskie Woman's Club, as well as the Northampton County and Murfreesboro historical associations. She was president of the Kirby Music and Literary Club and a charter member and officer of the Henry Lee Society.

A person with strong religious commitment and a devotion to her church, she was a Sunday school teacher, pianist and active in the Woman's Missionary Union of Durham's First Baptist Church and her beloved Robert's Chapel Baptist Church in Pendleton.

During the commencement exercises of 1985, Emma Gay was again honored by her alma mater and presented the Distinguished Alumni Award. In making the presentation, Chowan's president said she was so honored for "her good deeds in behalf of the college she loved" and "in behalf of Christian higher education."

She served three terms as a Chowan trustee and several terms on the Board of Visitors. Emma Gay was also a member of the Feasibility Study Committee when Chowan was considering the return to senior college status and she became both an encourager and a supporter throughout those years of change. She was unceasingly excited about what the future could, and would, provide young people who chose to be served by her beloved Chowan College.

Emma Gay's life ended in June 1994 but she will live on through the countless contributions she made to help others at her college, in her community, church and profession.

Her memory will continue to inspire those who serve this institution in whatever capacity. But, more importantly, the students who seek directions in life from Chowan College will be the greater beneficiaries of the life and legacy of Emma Gay Stephenson.

Indeed, Emma Gay Stephenson was a good friend. She will be sorely missed.

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