

Smith describes "new era for agriculture" at bi-annual agricultural conference

Tribute was paid to agriculture and "the role it plays in our society" when Chowan hosted the second bi-annual Agricultural Celebration in March.

More than 125 guests heard Dallas R. Smith, deputy under-secretary of farm and foreign agricultural services of the Department of Agriculture, speak at the banquet which climaxed the day's activities.

Smith spoke on "A New Era for Agriculture" in which he began, "As a USDA official, I'm very pleased to be a part of an event that recognizes the vital role production agriculture plays in the economy of the Roanoke-Chowan area and in neighboring Southampton County, Virginia."

He reminded the audience that with state leadership, agriculture is a driving force in the country's and world's economy.

"Trade expansion and market development are the keys to agriculture's future growth and prosperity," he said. "They are the keys to rising incomes for producers and rural residents. North Carolina agriculture is positioning itself to take full advantage of emerging opportunities and to create new ones."

R. Clayton Lewis, director of corporate and foundation relations, was instrumental in organizing the celebration to recognize the farming industry of the region and also presided over the event.

The program began in early afternoon with concurrent sessions being offered on a variety of

farm related topics.

Dr. Paul E. Dew, Executive Director of North Carolina Agribusiness, and Robert R. Sutter, CEO of N. C. Peanut Growers Association, conducted a session on "The Impact of NAFTA and GATT on Local Agriculture."

"The Agricultural Forecast" was held by Dr. Charles L. Moore of N. C. State University and E. W. Rogister, Jr., county extension director of Northampton County.

Dr. Justus B. Coltrain, Jr., a farm management specialist from Williamston, presented a session on federal crop insurance, credit and computer software for agriculture. He was assisted by William Early, director of Hertford County's Consolidated Farm Services Agency, and Rick Holland, vice president of First Citizens Bank in Greenville.

Katherine M. McCracken, an education

specialist of the Vernon James Center, Plymouth, presented a session on water quality management and nonpoint source pollution.

Russell C. Schools, executive director of the Virginia Peanut Growers Association, Inc., gave the introduction for Smith's address at the evening banquet.

Elaine E. Myers, who chairs the Chowan Board of Trustees, welcomed the guests and expressed appreciation for their role in the area's economy.

Melvin L. Everett, a Southampton County (VA) farmer, talked about "Agriculture, North Carolina, Virginia and the Chowan College Connection."

Musical entertainment was provided by John W. Eley, Jr., a Hertford County farmer and minister of music at New Bethany Baptist Church in Harrellsville. Also performing were C. Andrew Paul, a Chowan junior majoring in music, and Carole F. Nicholson, of the music faculty.

Hugh C. Vincent, a member of the Chowan Board of Visitors, recognized the sponsors and donors of the event.



DALLAS R. SMITH
... banquet address is highlight of celebration



Bill Rogister leads one of the afternoon sessions in Marks Hall.

Flexographic press dedicated in School of Graphic Communications

A new program in flexographic printing and packaging was launched in early April when ceremonies were held in the W. A. Krueger School of Graphic Communications to dedicate new equipment.

The highlight of the day was the dedication

of a new Mark Andy 830 flexographic press which will be used by the school to further broaden and strengthen the program in printing production and imaging technology.

Bill Dowdell, of Ronkonkoma, New York, president of the Flexographic Technical Association,

and Mark Cisternino, vice president, were the key note speakers following the traditional ribbon cutting.

Ron Harper, chairman of Harper Corporation of America, of Charlotte, also spoke to the large group of guests, faculty, staff and students.

Harper read a letter from N. C. Governor Jim Hunt who said Chowan's "dedication of their new flexographic printing press is certainly a strong and visible indication of their serious commitment to the graphic arts."

Dr. Jerry Jackson, President of the College, said "Chowan is very proud of this program and we are committed to supporting the fine work that the faculty and staff in this program are doing."

The dedication program and day's activities were organized by Sally Schaible, instructor for the specialty printing classes which will use the Mark Andy press.

"We are excited about partnering with our friend in the flexographic industry," she said. "We are appreciative of their support and we are committed to education and training for the flexographic and packaging industry."

The school, founded in 1953 by the newspaper publishing industry of North Carolina and tidewater Virginia, now offers a diversified program in all major areas of printing production and imaging technology.

Named in honor of the late William A. Krueger who endowed the program several years ago, has more than 2,000 graduates now working in all aspects of the industry from owners and publishers to press operators and sales managers.

Press will be used to broaden and strengthen program in printing production



Participants in the press dedication of the W. A. Krueger School of Graphic Communications, are, left to right: Curtis Mullis, Mark Andy, Inc.; E. Vincent Tilson, vice president for development; Dr. Jerry F. Jackson, president; Mark Cisternino and Bill Dowdell, both of Flexographic Technical Association; Ron Harper, Harper Corporation of America; and Sally Schaible, instructor of printing production.