

## Mark Richard to receive second Hobson Prize

MARK RICHARD, a noted young author who has won numerous awards, has been selected as the second recipient of the Mary Frances Hobson Lecture and Prize for Distinguished Achievement in the Arts and Letters.

Richard will be awarded the Hobson Prize and Medal at the second annual lecture on Monday, April 22, on the campus.

The Hobson Prize is awarded annually to recognize the distinguished achievement of a person in the field of arts and letters. The recipient, who is awarded a medallion and monetary gift, presents a lecture entitled the "Mary Frances Hobson Lecture," which is open to the Chowan College family and the Roanoke-Chowan and Southampton County, VA, areas.

The endowed program was established at Chowan College by the Hobson Family Foundation of San Francisco, CA, as a memorial to Mary Frances Hobson, a North Carolina journalist and poet.

"Mrs. Hobson always treasured her relationship to Chowan through her aunt, Lois Vann Wynn," said E. Vincent Tilson, vice president for development. "Mrs. Wynn was a graduate of Chowan in the Class of 1905 and a member of the faculty 1908-1915," he added.

The connections of Mrs. Hobson, who died in December, 1993, and her family to the towns of Como and Murfreesboro, through the Vann family, now runs five generations deep, Tilson noted.

The Hobson ceremonies will begin with a "President's Luncheon" at 12:00 noon, in the Ella Cobb Camp President's Home. Following the luncheon, classroom dialogue sessions will be held in Robert Marks Hall to give students an opportunity to meet Richard and to hear an address on a topic of his choice.

A "Writer's Reception" is scheduled in Ward Parlor of McDowell Columns from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., where Richard will greet guests and to sign copies of his books.

Following the reception, a dinner will be held in the author's honor in the President's Dining Room of Thomas Cafeteria. During the course of the

dinner, Richard will receive the Hobson Prize and Medal.

The noted author will deliver an address in Robert Marks Hall Amphitheater at 8:00 p.m. to conclude the day's activities and ceremonies.

The Hobson Family Foundation grants Chowan the widest flexibility in selecting a distinguished person in the field of arts and letters.

"A committee of Chowan professors makes the selection of the Prize recipient," Tilson said, "and it is hoped that members of the faculty at large will submit nominations to the prize committee."

The first recipient of the Mary Frances Hobson Lecture and Prize was Kaye Gibbons, a Nash County native who authored several critically acclaimed works.



MARK RICHARD  
Hobson Prize recipient

## Author recipient of many awards for literary works

MARK RICHARD, a native of Franklin, VA, is the author of the critically acclaimed first novel *Fishboy*, published by Doubleday/Nan A. Talese in 1993. After the book went into a third printing, Richard was the subject of a two-part profile in *The New York Times' Book Review* on the marketing of a first novel.

Richard's first collection of short stories, *The Ice at the Bottom of the World*, received the PEN/Ernest Hemingway Foundation Award in 1990 for "best first book of fiction." He has also received the Whiting Foundation Writers' Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship.

Short stories by Richard have appeared in *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Grant Street*, *Antaeus*, *The Quarterly Shenandoah*, *Equator*, and have been widely anthologized, including *Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize Stories*, and *New Stories from the South*.

In 1994 Richard was the first Tennessee Williams Fellow at the University of The South, Seawanee. Last year Richard was Visiting Southern Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi by an endowment from John and Renee Grisham.

A 1980 graduate of Washington and Lee University, Richard's journalism has appeared in *Spin*, *George*, *Vogue*, and *The Oxford American*, and he is a correspondent for BBC Radio.

Richard has just completed a second collection of short stories and is now working on his second novel, *Babyhead*.

## A scene from yesteryear

The center walk approaching McDowell Columns is pictured in a photograph that was probably made in the late 1890s. The trees planted on each side of the walkway have now grown to maturity but many have been lost due to age and storms.

The photograph is from the collection of E. Frank Stephenson, director of *Upward Bound*, and is reproduced with his permission.



Chowan Institute  
Murfreesboro NC

## New program of study planned in business area

Beginning with the 1996 fall semester, the department of business will expand its curricular offerings by adding a program of study leading to the bachelor of science degree in business administration with a marketing emphasis.

Incoming students will be able to take advantage of marketing-related courses already in place as well as three new course offerings to be phased into the program. Four current courses will be redesigned and renumbered to provide a foundation for more advanced work and an orderly sequence to the emphasis.

According to Dorothy Wallace, chairperson, marketing is a career field that will enjoy a 20 percent growth rate over the next ten years and is of interest to many business students.

Currently enrolled students interested in the marketing emphasis will have an opportunity to enter the program, Mrs. Wallace noted.

## Library awarded grant

The Cannon Foundation of Concord, N.C., has awarded Whitaker Library a \$25,000 grant to be applied to the Retrospective Conversion Project. The library has used the grant to employ four part-time personnel to help with the project. Retrospective conversion is the process of converting the card catalog into computer form. The process involves recataloging most of the collections (70,000 volumes) and will take seven to eight years to complete. The library will operate with both a card catalog and computers during the conversion process.