

New facilities for phonathon



The phonathon room has been completed and is now being used for telephone calls to alumni, parents and other friends of the college. At left, Debra Raynor of Littleton, makes a call to a Chowan alumnus from one of the private cubicles of the new facility. The photograph above shows a portion of the room that provides individual work areas for callers. The facility is housed on the ground floor of Thomas Cafeteria in the area which was formerly occupied by the college snack bar.

Developed program to provide opportunity for minorities to be awarded contracts

Ussery featured for innovative work with Richmond firm

Ben B. Ussery, Jr., a Chowan alumnus, has become a major force in providing opportunities for minority suppliers to be awarded contracts with one of Virginia's largest domestic operations.

Ussery, director of supplier diversity development for Philip Morris USA in Richmond, VA, was featured in an issue of *Metro Business*, published by *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

A member of the Virginia Regional Minority Supplier Development Council, Ussery was instrumental in making arrangements for James Earl Jones, popular television and film actor, to be the keynote speaker at an upcoming business fair sponsored by the council.

In the feature article by Bonnie Newman Stanley, staff writer of *The Times-Dispatch*, Ussery was cited as "being very enthusiastic when discussing the council and its impact on Philip Morris' efforts to bring diversity to its pool of suppliers."

During 1995, Philip Morris' domestic operations awarded \$130 million in contracts to ethnic minorities in Virginia, North Carolina and several other states.

Ussery, who served on Chowan's Board of Visitors and as chairman of the board, noted that

"Philip Morris supports minority businesses in the belief that they can compete if given a level playing field."

He also said that minorities will be a key factor in the future economy of the United States and added, "we have got to raise their wealth so they'll have money to spend on consumer products."

The feature article's author proclaimed that "minority suppliers who do business with Philip Morris speak highly of its diversity program and they marvel at Ussery's ability to follow through on contacts made at networking events that advocate corporate/minority partnerships."

"The Ussery-Philip Morris duet, many seem to agree, is a hard act to follow," she continued.

Philip Morris earned \$3.7 billion in profits on \$11.5 billion in sales last year, and has purchased janitorial, courier and computer services, forklift trucks, electrical fixtures and administrative supplies from minority firms, according to Ussery.

The article quoted Ussery as explaining that "Philip Morris' program is not perfect. We're not satisfied where we are and we will continue to do better."

Ussery and his wife, Dr. Carol Birkhead

Ussery, both graduated in Chowan's Class of 1968. In Dec. 1987, the couple established the Rev. Benjamin Bascom Ussery, Sr., and Sarah Elizabeth Howell Endowed Scholarship in honor of his parents.

Gary Williams elected president of Chowan Alumni Association

Gary Williams ('65), of Suffolk, VA, was elected president of the Chowan College Alumni Association at the December meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors. Williams succeeds Dianne Agricola ('72) of Courtland, VA, who will continue to serve on the board as immediate past president.

Tom Ballance ('69), of Norfolk, VA, was named president-elect, and Harry Webster ('63), of Rocky Mount, was elected vice president. A member of the Class of 1995, Tonia Chatham, who is in her first year of teaching, was elected secretary.

Held in the President's Dining Room of Thomas Cafeteria, the meeting was the first session for Charles Aycock, newly appointed director of alumni services. In addition to the elections, the meeting focused on methods to increase alumni participation in college activities.

New members elected to the board of directors with terms to expire in 1998 include: Bobby Deacon ('94), Jackson, NC; Ellen White ('69), Chesapeake, VA; Mary Jo Williams ('69) of Chesapeake, VA; Raymond Warren ('66) of Waverly, VA; and Dick Turner ('66) of Richmond, VA.

Continuing directors whose terms expire at the close of 1997 include: Jane Williams ('64), Murfreesboro, NC; Tripp Goolsby ('67), Suffolk, VA; Tammy Gish ('84) of Virginia Beach, VA; Michael Moore ('92) Colonial Heights, VA; and Jeffrey Grant ('94) of Richmond, VA.

Continuing directors who will complete their terms of office in December of this year are: Leamon Allen ('68), Pantego, NC; Cathy Averette Dixon ('84), Creedmoor, NC; Lee Johnson ('70), Onancock, NC; Charles Pond III ('62), Suffolk, VA; and John Settle ('83), Norfolk, VA.

The next general meeting of the alumni association will be held Nov. 2, during Homecoming.

Member of Class of 1913, Mrs. Mary Deanes died four days before her 103rd birthday

Death claims oldest living alumna

Mrs. Mary Peele Deanes, Chowan's oldest living alumna and the last surviving member of the Class of 1913, died on Monday, March 11, four days before her 103rd birthday.

The widow of Willie E. Deanes of Murfreesboro and known to all her friends and relatives as "Granny," Mrs. Deanes had made her home with a granddaughter in Apex for the past three years.

Growing up near Powellsville in Hertford County, Mary Peele Deanes was educated in a one-room schoolhouse before coming to Chowan. In an interview several years ago, she remembered coming to the Chowan Female Baptist Institute the same year as President Bruner and that her room was on the third floor of McDowell Columns building on the end.

Recalling her days at Chowan in the interview, Mrs. Deanes said "I have fond memories of Chowan the way it was and I enjoyed playing basketball. We played against each other in the

old gym that was where Turner Auditorium is today." A photograph of the 1909-10 basketball team was published in *Chowan Today* in the summer of 1992 and pictured the 16-year-old Mary Peele with her five teammates.

Mrs. Deanes' husband-to-be at the time, Willie Evans Deanes, had some connection to Chowan. His mother, Norma Spiers, was a student at Chowan and later taught at the college.

Mrs. Deanes was preceded in death by a daughter, Mary Louise D. Hardin; and two sons, William E. Deanes and Robert Sidney Deanes. She is survived by a son, Benjamin F. "Ted" Deanes of Murfreesboro, 19 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at Garrett Funeral Home, Ahoskie, by one of her great-grandsons, Jeffrey D. Parker, with burial in Riverside Cemetery, Murfreesboro.