

"A Smoky Mountain Christmas"

Fine Arts Foundation plans annual fall trip

"A Smoky Mountain Christmas," that includes a five-day trip to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the famous Biltmore Estate in Asheville and the Moravian village of Old Salem near Winston-Salem, is being planned by the Chowan Fine Arts Foundation for Dec. 3-7, 1996.

Carol Piper, president of the Fine Arts Foundation, said that only forty tickets will be available for the festive trip that includes admission to three Christmas shows, four dinner meals, tickets to the Dollywood theme park, the Biltmore House and Old Salem. Also included in the price of the trip is charter bus transportation and four nights of lodging at full service hotels.

The cost of the trip is \$550.00 per person, double occupancy, or \$675.00 per person for single occupancy. Reservations are now being accepted and the advance deposit is required by Aug. 1.

Piper said that Pigeon Forge, located in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, "features a myriad of attractions, diversified restaurants and outlet shopping malls that draw people from all over the country."

"Live music shows and the famous Dollywood theme park are also major attractions of the area," she added.

Gatlinburg, a small mountain village, features a collection of unique shops and many inviting attractions, including the famous Christus Gardens with realistic life-size figures and scenes depicting the life of Christ.

The Biltmore Estate is the largest private residence in America. Built by George Vanderbilt, the historic landmark celebrated its centennial year in 1995. During the holidays, special candlelight evenings are provided for guests to view the house as it was decorated by the Vanderbilts a century ago.

Randy Brantley, director of college relations, who is coordinating the annual trip for the Fine Arts Foundation, said that the tour bus will leave Murfreesboro on Tuesday, Dec. 3, with rest stops and lunch before arriving in Pigeon Forge in late afternoon. "The Chowan group will check into the Holiday Inn Resort Hotel for three nights and dinner will be served at the famous Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant," he said.

On Wednesday morning, Dec. 4, the group

will have an opportunity to relax or visit the shops of Pigeon Forge. In the afternoon, transportation will be provided to Gatlinburg for shopping in the many unique shops of the village and for a visit to Christus Gardens.

Dinner on Wednesday evening is scheduled for the Open Hearth Steak House, cited as one of Gatlinburg's finest restaurants. Following dinner, the group will return to the Dolly Parton Music Mansion Theater for the traditional Christmas show.

Brantley said plans have been made for the group to spend the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Dollywood theme park and attend the special "Christmas in the Smokies" show. After dinner, the Chowan group will attend the Lee Greenwood Christmas Show in Greenwood's new theater in Pigeon Forge.

After three nights in Pigeon Forge, the tour group will begin the return trip with a stop in

Asheville and lodging at the Quality Inn Biltmore Hotel. Following their arrival, a tour of the Biltmore House is scheduled with dinner at the estate's Deerpark Restaurant. "After dinner, we will return to the Biltmore House for the candlelight Christmas evening celebration," Piper noted.

The final stop on the itinerary is the historic Moravian settlement of Old Salem where Christmas is celebrated in the same manner as the Moravians did more than 200 years ago.

Additional information and reservation forms concerning "A Smoky Mountain Christmas" are available from Carol Piper, President, Chowan Fine Arts Foundation, 809 High Street, Murfreesboro, NC 27855, telephone (919) 398-3531. Interested persons may also make reservations with Randy Brantley, Director of College Relations, Chowan College, Box 1848, Murfreesboro, NC, telephone (919) 398-6365.

**Visits to
Pigeon Forge,
Dollywood
theme park,
Gatlinburg,
Biltmore
House and Old
Salem
included in
itinerary**



Christina Rupsch (seated), acting head of the division of visual art, assists with registration for two fellow faculty members, Dr. Jane Markert, right, and Dr. Wendy Dower, center.

First Gala Art Auction successful event

By RANDY BRANTLEY
Director of College Relations

A stately museum, exquisite objects of art, beautiful people, delicious food, and a lively

auction. All of these elements converged at the first annual Gala Art Auction sponsored by the Chowan College Fine Arts Foundation and the division of visual art at the Rawls Museum in Courtland, VA, on Saturday evening, February 17.

"Sweethearts for the Arts" was the theme for the event. Women were dressed "red hot to the nines" and many of the men attending were in "black tie" attire.

The evening's festivities began with a reception that included heavy hors d'oeuvres, music and a silent auction. Following the reception, the big Gala Art Auction commenced with Darrell H. Nicholson serving as auctioneer. More than 100 finely crafted pieces of art were offered for sale.

Christina Rupsch, acting head of the division of art, stated, "We are grateful to the talented artists throughout North Carolina and Virginia who donated pieces of their work for the auction. Many of these artists were in attendance as special guests."

The Gala Art Auction was one of the biggest and most elegant social events of the year and preliminary plans are already underway for the 1997 event.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Chowan College Fine Arts Foundation and the division of visual art.



Sprint/Carolina Telephone continues to support Chowan in many ways, including the annual "Day for Chowan" campaign held late last fall. Janie B. Tulloss (center), retail sales manager for Sprint Cellular in Elizabeth City, presents a check to Laurie Bass, director of Chowan's Annual Fund, while Jon Chesson, account executive with Sprint Cellular, looks on.