

Tributes paid to four retiring faculty, staff members

Appreciation also expressed to Colliers, who leave after interim presidency

Retiring members of the faculty and staff received tributes, accolades and cash gifts at Chowan's annual "end of year" picnic held in Thomas Cafeteria at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., vice president for academic affairs, presided over the festive occasion to honor four members of the faculty and staff who have completed a combined total of 101 years of service to the institution.

Dr. Herman E. Collier Jr., who completed his interim presidency at Chowan on May 31, and his wife, Jerri, were also honored by the overflow crowd of members of the trustees, visitors, faculty, staff, townspeople and friends of the college.

The Colliers were presented several gifts by the faculty and staff in appreciation for their "outstanding service" in guiding the college on an interim basis until Dr. Stanley Lott assumed the presidency on July 1.

Among the gifts presented were a set of framed prints of floral subjects; a framed pen drawing of McDowell Columns building; and, a rocking chair monogrammed with the Chowan seal. The couple was also presented a gift certificate for their favorite restaurant on the Outer Banks and a sizeable contribution was made to the Chowan College Annual Giving Fund in their name. Mrs. Collier also received an engraved set of pewter Jefferson cups.

Johnny Brock, director of physical plant, told the group of Frank Harris' eight years of outstanding dedication and loyalty as the college painter. "He never watched the clock," Brock noted, "and he was never content with a job being done 'good enough' because he would do all he could to do the best job possible. He is a true Christian and a gentleman, and Frank Harris will be missed at this college."

Jack A. Hassell, who retired in December, 1995, as director of physical plant, spoke on the significant contributions over a 33 year period of Philmore Boone, the groundskeeper who was responsible for the area around McDowell Columns and the front lawn.



Philmore Boone holds a plaque in testimony of his 33 years of outstanding service to the college.



Frank Harris, who completed 8 years of service, was recognized for his outstanding work for the college.

"Mr. Boone took a tremendous amount of pride in his work," Mr. Hassell related, "and he made sure that the campus was as attractive as it possibly could be whenever visitors and prospective students were scheduled to visit.

"We had a very small maintenance staff when Mr. Boone came to work with us in 1963," Hassell continued, "so he was required to do many different jobs and work many long hours but he never complained and always maintained his wholesome, cheerful attitude."

Mrs. Betty Batchelor, who retired as associate professor of languages and literature, was introduced by Dr. G. Kenneth Wolfskill, chair of the department.

Wolfskill related that Mrs. Batchelor joined the faculty in the fall of 1961 to teach English and typing, but "since that time she has been called on to teach Spanish, reading, and English as a second language, a course required of international students who attend Chowan."

"She is greatly admired by her students and she is widely sought as an advisor and as a friend," he said.

Dr. John Gosnell's record of service was reviewed by Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, vice president for academic affairs.

An associate professor of social science and acting chairperson of the department of social science, Dr. Gosnell joined the faculty in 1971 to teach courses in sociology and later taught classes in psychology. "He was the founder of the Social Science Club," Lowe stated, "which developed into one of the more active campus organizations. He also promoted several series of lectures sponsored by the N. C. Humanities Committee."

An ordained minister, Dr. Gosnell completed 15 years of service in the pastoral ministry prior to joining the Chowan faculty and he is a past president of the local Rotary Club.

Charles L. Revelle III presented each retiree an engraved plaque in tribute to their service to the institution and also gave each a monetary gift based on their years of service.

Charles L. Revelle III, left, presented Dr. John Gosnell his engraved plaque and monetary gift in recognition of his 25 years of service in the department of social science.



The Colliers proudly display one of the gifts given by the faculty and staff in appreciation for their service to Chowan.



Dr. G. Kenneth Wolfskill, right, chair of the department of languages and literature, tells of Mrs. Batchelor's commitment and dedication to her students and to the teaching profession. Mrs. Batchelor's three sons and her mother attended the retirement ceremonies.



Dr. Herman E. Collier Jr., expresses appreciation for the many gifts presented to him and Mrs. Collier and also for the "many friendships we have formed at Chowan College."

