

## McCrary receives inaugural Trustee Service Award

*Served three four-year terms as trustee; eight years on Executive Committee*

During the October 17 annual Awards and Appreciation Dinner, Thomas M. McCrary, of Raleigh, was named the first recipient of the Chowan College Trustee Distinguished Service Award. College trustees will bestow the award annually upon an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to humanity in a manner consistent with Chowan's heritage and mission as an institution of Christian higher education.

McCrary has served 3 four-year terms as a Chowan trustee, including 2 years as chair, and 2 years as chair of the Executive Committee, on which he served 8 years. He chaired the 1989 Presidential Search Committee and has chaired the Investment Committee. Other trustee and campus committees on which he has served include the Four-Year Study Committee, Four-Year Transition Committee, Retirement Home Committee, Ella Cobb Camp President's Home Committee and various accreditation committees. In addition to his 12-year tenure as a trustee, he served on the board of visitors for five years.

A former member of the International Investment Subcommittee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, he has also been affiliated with the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce for many years. He is a charter member of the Steering Committee for the UNC Law School annual seminar on International Law and Commercial Regulation.

He actively participates in the life and work



Pictured at the annual Awards and Appreciation Dinner are (l-r) son Thomas M. McCrary, Jr., Mrs. Mavis McCrary, Thomas M. McCrary and daughter Marcella Little.

of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, where he has been a member and chair of the board of deacons, chair of the Personnel Committee and longstanding teacher of the men's Bible class. McCrary is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh.

From March 1947 to July 1962, McCrary was associated with what is now known as Westvaco Corporation serving ultimately as corporate manager of industrial relations and chief personnel executive. From August 1962

to December 1983, he served in executive positions with Huyck Corporation, later called BTR Paper Group, including senior vice president and assistant to the president.

After serving 20 months in the New Guinea Pacific theatre in WWII as skipper of landing craft tanks (LCTs), McCrary married Mavis Nadine Avery December 22, 1945. The McCrarys have two children, Marcella Little, of Durham, and Thomas M. McCrary, Jr., of Dallas, Texas.

## Mary Turner Endowed Landscaping Fund established by bequest

*Member of Class of 1912 followed teaching career, successful business ventures*

Through a bequest from the estate of Mrs. O. C. (Mary) Turner of Gatesville, the college has received \$78,275 to establish the Mary W. Turner Endowed Landscaping Fund.

At the time of her death February 17, 1995, Turner, a member of the Class of 1912, was the oldest living graduate of Chowan College. At one time she served on the board of trustees.

"Mary Turner was a major benefactor of her alma mater throughout her life," said Stan Lott, president of the college, "and we are indeed grateful for her significant bequest to make the campus she loved so much a more beautiful place for students and faculty in the years to come."

E. Vincent Tilson, vice president for development, said "Mrs. Turner had an unceasing interest in the pastoral beauty of the campus. She was always animated about Chowan's progress and development."

During graduation exercises in May, 1977, Turner received the Distinguished Alumni Award which was presented to "an alumna who has made significant contributions to Chowan College and the benevolent causes involving religious, educational and civic life."

When Chowan returned to four-year status and awarded baccalaureate degrees in May, 1994, Turner was recognized as the oldest living alumna and was presented a bouquet of

red roses. The time-honored tradition for recognizing each graduate was established when the institution was a four-year college for women.

While a student at Chowan, Turner, the former Mary Wiggins, was a member of both the tennis and basketball teams. She was also a member of the PNA Literary Society as well as a gifted artist who designed her class pin.

After graduating from Chowan, Turner taught school in a one-room school at Wiggins Cross Road School, and Wiggins Hill School in Gates County. In 1919, she married O. C. Turner and they became the parents of two children, both now deceased.

Following her teaching career, Turner became an active businesswoman. Beginning in 1922, she served as postmaster of Gatesville Post Office for 13 years. After the death of her

husband in 1932, she was responsible for a farming operation and also conducted a hardware business and farm implement business in Gates County.

Turner made many financial contributions to the life and mission of Chowan. She served as president of the Gates County Chowan College Club and worked long and hard to help raise support to reopen Chowan College after the institution had been closed during World War II.

*Was oldest living alumna at the time of her death*

On behalf of the late Mrs. O. C. (Mary) Turner, Phil Godwin (right) of Gatesville and a former Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, presents a check for \$78,275 to President Stan Lott. A student from 1911-12, Turner later returned to serve on the board of trustees.

