

Ken Lyons receives 1996 Distinguished Alum Award

With his associate's degree in photography in hand, Kenneth David Lyons '85, a native of Norfolk, headed for a successful career as photojournalist with the *Daily Press* in Newport News, Virginia. During his 11-year tenure with the paper, he has covered numerous events from local community news to international stories. Assignments have taken him from the back roads of area towns and communities to Cuba to cover the plight of Haitian refugees fleeing their homeland.

Lyons' photography honors include many "first place" and "best of show" awards. His accolades include tributes for such varied photo topics as an Army paratrooper landing, a political campaign, crewmen aboard the *USS America* performing morning exercises, student singers rehearsing in a restroom before a graduation ceremony, melons, a woman and her elderly mother and a young teen gunned down during a robbery.

During 1995, he was named *Virginia News Photographer of the Year* by the Virginia News Photographer's Association. Lyons' honors also include awards from the National Press Photographer's Association, Virginia News Photographer's Association and the Virginia Press Association. He has been named *Daily Press Photographer of the Year* three times and was recently elected the 1996 president of the Virginia News Photographer's Association.

Without question, his achievements and recognition in the field of



President Stan Lott (right) presented Ken Lyons '85 with the Chowan College Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award during the homecoming alumni and friends luncheon.

photojournalism represent the highest standards of professionalism.

Lyons resides in Newport News, Virginia with his wife Cathy Shelton Lyons, a native of Newport News, and daughter Hannah Paige Lyons, age 2.

1996 Community Service Award presented to Jean Sharp

The Chowan College Alumni Association recently named Jean Simpson Sharp, of Ahoskie, as the recipient of the second annual Chowan College *Community Service Award*. The award was presented during the homecoming alumni and friends luncheon.

Honorees of the Community Service Award "must exemplify the highest ideals of volunteerism, community concern and benevolent interest in the world around them" according to Charlie Aycock, director of alumni affairs. "The award is reserved for those who have truly made a difference in the local community and whose selfless service to meet community needs is generally recognized and applauded by their associates, friends and general public."

Sharp has served the Ahoskie community in a multitude of capacities for more than 45 years. Elaine Myers, member and past president of the Chowan College board of trustees, noted that Sharp's participation in *Day for Chowan* "became a very exciting thing for her" and added that "Jean has helped make Hertford County the best it can be."

A devoted member of the Democratic Party, Sharp has both encouraged citizens to become

involved in politics and assisted with several campaigns. Her late husband, Hunter Sharp, served as a Hertford County Commissioner.

A 1966 charter member of the Ahoskie Gallery Theatre, Sharp participated on the board for many years, including two terms as president, and devoted her talents to numerous stage appearances and choruses. Lottie Lassiter, former executive director of the theater, calls Sharp both dedicated and loyal. "We couldn't have done it (brought cultural arts to the area) without her. She inaugurated the Jean S. Sharp Endowment Fund and was instrumental in promoting the talents of young people."

Elizabeth Craft, secretary of the Ahoskie United Methodist Church, fondly refers to Sharp as, "a very special person who would do anything for anybody." Sharp has served her church in the choir, as a devoted member of the United Methodist Women, as a current circle leader and past president and as organizer. Craft recalls how Sharp organized the "Lunch Bunch" circle during the noon hour for working women and notes that, "When she sees something that needs to be done, she does it."

A selfless volunteer, Sharp has served on the board of governors for Elizabethan Gardens for 16 years, having served 1 term as secretary and 2 terms as vice chair. Marie Odem, who serves with Sharp, calls her "a gardener at heart, who has shared her wealth of gardening knowledge with the head gardener." According to Odem, Sharp has made many contributions in terms of plants and is best known for the development of a "bog" garden.

Sharp currently serves as the 1st vice president of the Ahoskie Garden Club. She has also performed as president, special events chair and as a member of numerous committees.

A current board member of both the Cypress Glen Methodist Retirement Home of Greenville and Hope Plantation of Windsor, she has also co-chaired the Hertford County Committee for the North Carolina Museum of History Associates for many years, is the current vice president and past president of the Ahoskie Women's Club and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Sharp is also an ardent supporter of Ridgcroft High School and a member of the Murfreesboro Historical Association.

"When she sees something that needs to be done, she does it."



Jean Simpson Sharp received congratulations from President Stan Lott (left) and Alumni Association President Gary Williams '65 for her dedication to community service.

National exhibition announces awards

The division of visual art presented *On & Of Paper*, a national juried exhibition held November 15 through December 6, 1996. Works in Green Hall included two dimensional works on and of paper including: drawings, computer prints, photography, painting and original prints.

Entrants competed for \$1500 in cash awards with the overall winner receiving a one-person show.

Chowan's own "artist in residence," Fan Warren, Oakland, CA, won \$500 for "best of show" with her *Seasoned Cargo* mixed media entry and judges awarded the first place prize of \$250 to Joseph Ostraff, Provo, UT, for *Recovery of the Black Madonna* in mixed media.

Grace Leach, Suffolk, VA, took second place and \$150 for "Leaf Series VI," a photo-collage and Dyan McClimon-Miller, Boston, MA, received \$100 for third place with *WatersEdge*, a mixed media entry.

Fine Arts Foundation purchase awards went to Babara Harding Sadt, Edenton, NC, for her pen and ink entry titled, *The Pines*, and Grace Leach, Suffolk, VA, for her *Leaf Series VI* photo-collage.

Artists Gary Jenkins and Tom Xenakis juried the exhibition. A Professor of Art/Printmaking at Norfolk State University, Jenkins has works in major collections worldwide. Xenakis, a Fulbright Scholar and internationally known painter and iconographer, who recently exhibited his own work at Green Hall, has pieces in museums and major collections.