

Chowan

A newsmagazine for alumni, parents and friends

Today

Week-long inauguration celebration

21st President looks optimistically to 21st Century

With a brass quartet prelude and a bagpiper leading the colorfully-hooded processional to the tune of the traditional Highland Cathedral, the installation ceremony for Chowan College President Stanley G. Lott was officially launched.

The morning observance, held Thursday, April 17 in the Helms Center, was a fitting pinnacle to the week-long inauguration celebration.

B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., vice president for academic affairs, directed the service as eleven distinguished guests each greeted the president.

Honored guests salute president

More than 100 colleges and universities across the country sent delegates and greetings to the new president and special guests presented their salutations at the installation ceremony.

Jane Smith Patterson, governor's advisor for budget, policy & technology, represented the State of North Carolina and Douglas Ray Cox, mayor, represented the Town of Murfreesboro. Patterson congratulated Chowan for cutting-edge technology advancements and dedication to student achievement.

Roy Jordan Smith, executive director-treasurer,

carried greetings from the Baptist State Convention of N.C. and Roy Everett DeBrand, pastor of the Franklin Baptist Church in Franklin, Va., brought salutations from the Baptist General Association of Va. DeBrand greeted Lott by saying, "You fill a critical need and we're glad you are here . . . we Virginia Baptists are proud to partner with you."

Other representatives included Stephen Paul Carleton, executive director of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges & Schools, who acknowledged Lott's appointment with, "You have brought one who has been a leader, I have no doubt in my mind that the best days are ahead for this institution."

Agnes Hope Williams, president of the N. C. Center for Independent Higher Education, praised Chowan for providing academic leadership for the region and being "such an important part of northeastern North Carolina." Michael Alston, member of the board of visitors, and W. Jerry Holcomb, chair of the board of trustees, represented their fellow board members. Holcomb recognized Lott's leadership, "You have been uniquely prepared to lead . . . we look forward to your encouragement and insight as you lead Chowan College to its destiny."

Richard R. Gay, president of the Faculty Forum represented the Chowan faculty, Thomas J. Ballance spoke for the Alumni Association and Laura B. Allgood, president of the Student Government Association, brought greetings from the student body.

The welcoming address

Introducing speaker Walter B. Shurden, chair of the Department of Christianity, Mercer University, was Thomas Robert Mullinax, executive director of the Council on Christian Higher Education, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

In his welcoming address, Shurden, spoke of the 149-year history of the original Chowan Baptist Female Institute and addressed the first of four words in the school's original name, "I hope that we all have eyes to see the heroic which hangs over our humble heritages . . . you are who you are partially because of where you are . . . educational elitism is out of place here; educational

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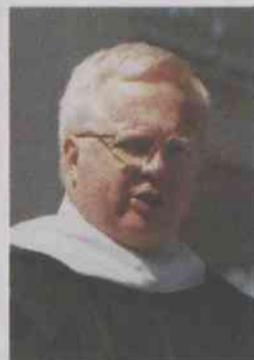
More than 100 colleges, universities send delegates and greetings

Record 105 baccalaureate degrees bestowed at graduation

Under sunny skies and comfortable temperatures on the lawn of McDowell Columns, President Stanley Lott, awarded the largest number of

baccalaureate degrees in the history of Chowan College, Saturday, May 17.

Graduates from as far away as Fujisawa, Japan, Sacramento, Ca., Key West, Fl., and Wetherfield, Ct., joined many regional recipients for the awarding of 105 bachelor degrees and 26 associate degrees in a broad range of majors.



Phillip Kirk, Jr.

Introduced by Lott to deliver the commencement address, Phillip Kirk, Jr., president and secretary of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry and publisher of North Carolina magazine, took the opportunity to congratulate the Class of 1997. "Being at Chowan on this day is a 'first' for me, but it's an important

one," said Kirk. "My wife, who is with me; my minister and his wife; and my administrative assistant, all had the pleasure of being students here."

Kirk, who graduated from Catawba College in Salisbury, recognized the benefits of attending a small college. "They are places where our professors and staff know us by our names. Classes are usually small, and friends become friends for life. Here at Chowan, we find an emphasis on excellence, on character, on leadership and on preparation for a meaningful life."

Drawing from his own experiences, Kirk shared bits of wisdom with graduates, families, friends, faculty and staff. "After God, one's family is the most important thing . . . schedule time for yourself . . . do what is right, not necessarily what is popular . . . when you make a decision, stick to it . . . a positive attitude will take you far . . . what you don't like, work to change . . . establish goals . . . and, do not give up, never give up."

A firm believer in volunteer work, Kirk advised graduates to learn, earn and return. "Use your ability, don't let your life be a passive

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On the inside . . .

Jill McCorkle receives 1997 Hobson Prize, Medal Page 3

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Year 2000 looms on horizon with computer problems Page 13

Alumni Loyalty Fund reached record high Page 16

Athletic awards presented at close of semester Page 19



A record number of spectators lined the walkway to view the processional as the candidates for graduation approached historic McDowell Columns.