

Chowan

A newsmagazine for alumni, parents and friends

Today



J. Guy Revelle, Jr., (right) presents stocks, bonds and cash from the estate of the late alumna Susan Parker Kerr to President Lott.

Largest gift in Chowan's history provides \$1 million for scholarships

In a special conferral of stocks, bonds and cash, October 1, Chowan received \$1,150,000 in scholarship monies from the estate of the late alumna, Susan Parker Kerr. Longtime family friend and attorney, J. Guy Revelle, Jr., presented the largest, single gift in the 149-year history of the college to President Stanley G. Lott.

Announcing the establishment of the Susan Parker Kerr Memorial Scholarship, Revelle explained, "The recipients shall be chosen by the Scholarship Committee of Chowan College with scholastic ability and financial need the prime criteria for selection. It was Susan's desire that the scholarship would be the largest and most sought-after scholarship presented each year."

A native of Murfreesboro and resident of Indian

Lakes Estates, Florida for more than thirty years, Kerr was the daughter of Murfreesboro residents, Elwood W. Parker and Elizabeth Sewell Parker. Revelle noted, "Although Susan spent more than thirty years as a resident of Florida, her heart remained in Murfreesboro and with Chowan College."

Kerr was preceded in death by her first husband, Richard Bennett, son, Richard D. Bennett and second husband, Andrew Judson Kerr. She is survived by her son, Elwood Parker Bennett, of Florida.

The Parker family heritage symbolizes a legacy of strong ties to Chowan College. Kerr's mother graduated with the Class of 1929 and her maternal grandmother served as a trustee. Her father, who was instrumental in the reopening of Chowan following World War II, supported the college over his lifetime as a trustee and major benefactor. Chowan's eight-story, Parker Hall residence building is named in his honor.

Graduating from Murfreesboro High School in 1951, Susan Parker Kerr was among the first students to benefit from Chowan's reopening in 1949.

Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, president of Chowan from 1957 to 1989, developed a close relationship with Kerr's family during his tenure at Chowan. On hand for the presentation, he recalled, "What a great heritage Susan enjoyed, from a family which believed in and supported good causes like Chowan College. Susan's estate will establish her memory and influence at Chowan for many generations to come."

Receiving the exceptional gift, President Lott stated, "For the second time in a little over a year, Chowan College is the recipient of an estate whose worth is in excess of one million dollars. I am profoundly grateful to those whose cultivated the relationship with Susan Parker Kerr and convinced her that Chowan was worth remembering in her will. Among others, these would include Dr. Bruce Whitaker and Mr. Guy Revelle."

"This is the kind of gift that can truly make a difference for the college," Lott continued. "It is my deep hope that this gift will encourage others to place Chowan in their estate and that it will prompt generous support from those who can help to secure the future of this fine institution."

Parker family heritage symbolizes a legacy of strong ties to Chowan College

Ernest R. Vadersen, Jr., '64

Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Ernest R. Vadersen, Jr. '64 was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming ceremonies October 18. Vadersen, a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl., was recognized for exceptional achievements in the business world and continuing loyalty to his alma mater.

A native of Norfolk, Va. and graduate of Granby High School, Vadersen graduated from Chowan with an A.A. degree in pre-education. After continuing his education at Guilford College, he served a two-year tour in the U.S. Army.

His business career began with Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, where in just two short years, he became the youngest general agent in the 123-year history of the company. Following his brief stint in insurance, Vadersen moved into real estate. Within his first three years, he was recognized by the National Association of Home Buyers as the 11th leading real estate agent in the U.S. with personal sales of more than 200 units totaling in excess of 5 million dollars.

After seven years in the real estate market, Vadersen turned his interests toward the golf industry, operating his own consulting firm and attracting such powerful clients as Spalding,

McGregor and Yamaha International. Serving as design and marketing consultant and PGA and LPGA tour representative for such companies, he interfaced with such golf celebrities as Jack Nicklaus and David Graham and established a significant presence on the touring circuit.



Ernest R. Vadersen, Jr.

In 1993 Vadersen established Snake Eyes Golf Clubs and, completing his own design work, began producing and marketing his own line of high-tech, tour-quality clubs.

Charlie Aycock, director of alumni affairs described the company's rapid growth, "Beginning just four years ago as a small privately-owned company, Snake Eyes has rapidly become a well recognized and respected name in both the business world and golf industry. With stock traded publicly on the NASDAQ Small Cap Exchange, Snake Eyes clubs are both nationally and internationally marketed, known and

played."

"As founder, past CEO and current chairman of the board of Snake Eyes Golf Clubs, Vadersen's achievements represent the highest standards of

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King Chris Scott '98 of Newport News, Va., joined Queens Laura Allgood '98 of Danville, Va., (left) and Chris Fields '98 of Kill Devil Hills, N. C., (right) during Homecoming activities in Garrison Stadium.

