

Vadersen

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professionalism and success" Aycock continued. Harry Webster, fellow Chowan alumnus who played football with Vadersen at Chowan, nominated his friend for the award. Webster reminisced, "Ernie has continued to succeed in the business world just as he did on the football field and in the classroom."

Over the years, Vadersen remained loyal to Chowan and continued to support various college programs. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Braves Club Foundation and for the past several years has significantly contributed to the success of the college's annual Chowan Classic Golf Tournament.

Jim Garrison, executive director of the Braves Club Foundation, remembers Vadersen's participation in football & baseball at Chowan. "The greatest thing I can say about Ernie is that he's very persistent. I like to think he got a little of that by participating in athletics at Chowan," laughs his former coach. "He loves Chowan College."

In town to receive the award, Vadersen reminisced about lessons learned at Chowan. "Jim Garrison was walking into the locker room one day just as a hurricane was hitting off the coast of North Carolina and stated, 'Boy, this is an opportunity.' We practiced for two hours during the hurricane and never let up. There are people and places who touch your life from day one. The lessons learned here from faculty and leadership touching young lives, took me into life."

Director of Braves
Club Foundation
and a strong
supporter of the
annual Chowan
Golf Classic



Tim Walters, technology support specialist, assembles the compact file server which will support the CMDS TEAMS ELITE administrative management software system.

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Editor, Director of News Services Jan Lefevre
Designer Herman Gatewood
Vice President for Development E. Vincent Tilson
Director of Alumni Services Charles L. Aycock
Sports Information Officer Jack Goldberg
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A Letter from the President

Those of us who now serve Chowan College, stand on the shoulders of every alumnus, alumna and friend of Chowan College who has offered financial support and encouragement during our 149-year history. For this I am profoundly grateful. As we approach both the sesquicentennial anniversary of our institution and the next millennium, it is with great honor that I have established myself among you. The entire Chowan community, and especially the students, who are the direct beneficiaries of your generosity, express deep appreciation.

I sincerely believe in the extraordinary potential of Chowan College and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. As you read the annual reports in this issue of *Chowan Today*, I believe that you, too, will quickly grasp a feeling for the excitement here at Chowan. However, there is much to be done.

Teachers will often say of a student, "She has a lot of potential." Coaches will often say of a player, "He has a lot of potential." In both instances, these statements say more about the individual in what they do not say.

To say that Chowan has extraordinary potential is the same type of statement. It says little that is concrete about the future of the institution. The concept of "potential" suggests unrealized aspirations and unfulfilled goals and objectives. I think that we all understand that "potential" does not assure us of success, only its possibility. There are long lists of individuals and institutions with "potential" who failed to realize their capabilities.

As I look across the landscape of higher education, I see many institutions like Chowan, struggling to realize their potential. If we were to create a continuum of the weakest to strongest institutions, I do not know exactly where Chowan would fall. I do know that we are not on either end. There are not many schools like Chowan that can match our sophisticated technological infrastructure; doubtless there are some that are superior. There are not many schools like Chowan that can match the physical beauty of our campus; there are some that surpass us. Our endowment is respectable, but not sufficient. Our enrollment is stable, but not where it needs to be. I believe that those schools with fewer than 1,000 students and inadequate endowments will face the most serious struggles in the future to be successful.

The most important issues facing Chowan today, are recruitment and retention. With over 50% of our revenues derived from enrollment-related income, recruiting an adequate number of students and creating an environment conducive to continuing an education at Chowan are extremely critical to the health of the institution. Chowan needs to attract a full-time enrollment of at least 1,000 students; a 33% increase from the current figure of 750.

Attracting and retaining students at Chowan depends on the excellence and variety of our curriculum and the quality of life across campus, as equally important parts of the formula. The faculty has worked hard to strengthen and expand the curriculum and their work will continue. We must continually insure that we are preparing our students for the careers they seek with the educational components that employers need.

A great deal of effort has been devoted to improve the quality of student life outside the classroom. However, much more needs to be done. At the top of the "quality-of-life" needs list is a new student center. Initial plans have been drawn and a decision has been made to locate the new student center on the pivotal site currently occupied by the existing football field. That decision requires that the existing football field be relocated before construction can begin on the new student center. These are only two of the capital projects that need to be completed to make our campus and its facilities more appealing to students and faculty and carry Chowan successfully into the twenty-first century.

My intuition, informed and influenced by thirty years in higher education, gives me a sense of urgency about the need to get things done as quickly as possible. Population projections indicate that there will be an increase in the college-attendance pool during the next six to eight years. Entering this critical period, Chowan needs to be in the strongest position possible. I believe that we are faced with a limited window of opportunity that we cannot afford to pass up.

It is impossible to cross a void in two jumps; it must be done in one incredible leap. I sincerely believe, that we need to front-load our future.

In order to do this, Chowan must develop a strong financial plan and will need to rely on the generous support of its alumni and friends. Over the next several weeks, we will be finalizing the plans for a major capital campaign, the first of its kind in more than a decade. As you hear more about the project in the future, I hope you will continue to support us with your prayers and begin to give consideration to a new level of personal commitment to Chowan College.



Dr. Stanley G. Lott

Sincerely,

Stan Lott
President