

## Program expansion moves academics into strengthened position

ON 17 May, 1997, Chowan College concluded its 149th year of service with the graduation of 136 students. Of this number, 110 were awarded the bachelor's degree and 26 were awarded the associate degree. The college has now phased out all but three of its associate degree programs. Further, the college has now graduated four classes with the bachelor's degree.

Chowan College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (COC/SACS), to offer the baccalaureate degree. It is required that the accreditation of all institutions be reaffirmed every ten years, following the completion of an Institutional Self-Study. Since Chowan's accreditation was last reaffirmed in 1988, the next reaffirmation should occur in 1998.

In preparation for reaffirmation, the college was granted permission to do an Alternate Model/Strategic Self-Study. In such a self-study, most of the faculty and staff are involved in an in-depth study of issues that the institution considers to be vital to its well being, while a smaller group is involved in documenting compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. Initial work on the self-study began in the fall 1995 and work continues as of this writing. The college is scheduled for a two-part visit by a Reaffirmation Committee from COC/SACS in April 1998. One committee will evaluate the college's compliance with the criteria, while the other will consult with the college concerning issues raised in the strategic portion of the self-study.

The State Board of Education has granted the college temporary authorization to offer the following teacher education licensure programs: Elementary Education (K-6); Mathematics Education (secondary); English Education (secondary); and Physical Education (K-12). In North Carolina, full authorization is not granted until an institution achieves academic National Council for Accreditation of Teaching Education (NCATE) accreditation. The college, led by an NCATE Steering Committee, is currently pursuing the regional study in preparation for an NCATE committee visit scheduled for the fall of 1998.

When the college moved to four-year status, expansion and improvement of library resources became a necessity. The budget for the improvement of the resource collection was increased in approximately the following amounts: 1993-94--\$50,000; 1994-95--\$35,000; 1995-96--\$50,000; 1996-97--\$100,000; 1997-98--\$200,000.

At the end of the 1996-97 academic year, the resource collection included some 93,808 volumes. The improvement of the collection also required the deselection/weeding of materials that were obsolete and of no real use for historical or research purposes. As a result, some 11,000 volumes were withdrawn from the collection in 1996-97. It is noteworthy that the library collection also includes 1,014 periodical titles.

Plans for fully automating the library are in place and on schedule. Eight vendors have been invited to bid on the system and software. It is anticipated that a vendor will be selected and a contract signed by December 31, 1997. System installation should be completed in March 1998 for on-line cataloging and circulation, with acquisitions and serials added by May 1998.

The college begins the 1997-98 academic year with the following baccalaureate programs in place: Business Administration (emphasis available in Accounting, Information Systems, Marketing, Small Business); Elementary Education; English; English Education (secondary); Graphic Communications; History; Liberal Studies; Mathematics; Mathematics Education (secondary); Music; Physical Education (emphasis available in Teacher Licensure, Sport Management, Sport Science, Athletic Training); Psychology; Religion; Science; Biology (emphases available in Environmental Biology and Allied Health); Graphic Design, and Studio Art. In addition, a program in Criminal Justice was approved late in the 1997 spring semester. Introductory courses are currently being offered, with full program implementation scheduled in the 1998 fall semester. The Curriculum Committee is reviewing proposals for additional programs and continues to review current programs.

One of the major emphases of the Institutional



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Self-Study has been a review of the current core curriculum with a view toward major revision. This matter has been under consideration for more than a year and discussion continues.

The college recognizes the increasing need for education to assume a global perspective. A London Program has been approved for implementation in the spring of 1998, when some 15 students, with a faculty sponsor, will spend a semester studying in England. Attention is being given to the development of other opportunities for international study.

During 1996-97 considerable attention was given to the development of an Ethics-Across-the-Curriculum emphasis. Full implementation of this concept will entail a required ethics course for all students and an emphasis on ethical issues built into all of the curricula of the college. In addition, a Center for Ethics will be established which will afford an opportunity for the study and discussion of ethical issues by the broader community. A search for a program director is underway with the expectation of program implementation in 1998.

The department of fine arts was divided into the department of art and the department of music. Christina Rupsch has been named chair of the department of art.

Dr. Jean Tillman has been employed to fill a newly created position in the department of education. Tillman received her Ed.D. in educational administration and M.A. in elementary education from UNC-Greensboro. She holds a B.S. in elementary education from Guilford College.

Sarah Davis, who had been employed on a part-time basis, has been moved to a full-time

position for the 1997-98 academic year. In addition to her teaching responsibilities in English, she will coordinate most of the college's academic support services. Janet Rogers resigned her position as director of academic support at the end of the 1996-97 academic year.

Dr. Calvin Owens agreed to serve as acting chair of the department of mathematics for the 1997-98 academic year. Joining the department this fall is Dr. Neil Sigmon. Sigmon holds his Ph.D., M.S., & B.S. degrees in applied mathematics from N.C. State University. Dr. Carol O'Dell, former chair, resigned her position effective with the end of the 1996-97 academic year.

As a result of heavy enrollments in both the department of mathematics and science, Dr. Michael Justice, who taught on a part-time basis in 1996-97, has been given a one-year, full-time appointment for 1997-98 with teaching responsibilities in both mathematics and biology.

Carole Nicholson will serve as acting chair of the department of music for the 1997-98 academic year. Joining the department this fall will be Dr. Dennis McIntire and Fred Smith. McIntire received his Ph.D. in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi and M.M. and B.M.E. in vocal music from Mississippi College. Smith received his M.M. from the Peabody Conservatory of Music at John Hopkins Univ. and his B.M. in trumpet performance from East Carolina Univ. Dr. James Chamblee, former chair of the department of fine arts, elected to enter retirement at the end of the 1996-97 academic year and Dr. James Rogers resigned his position effective with the conclusion of the 1996-97 academic year.

Dr. Frederick Mercilliot was hired to fill the newly-created position in criminal justice. Mercilliot holds a Ph.D. in criminal justice and M.S. in philosophy of justice from City University of New York, M.S. in forensic science from University of New Haven and both the M.P.A. in public administration and B.S. from John Jay College.

The following information pertains to the full-time faculty at the beginning of the 1996 fall semester and reflects changes in the faculty and faculty status. The full-time faculty consists of 36 (55.4%) males and 29 (44.6%) females. Of the 65 full-time faculty members, 61 are involved in instruction and 4 are professional librarians. Among the instructional faculty, 26 (42.6%) hold tenure while 35 (57.4%) are nontenured. Two of the four professional librarians are tenured and two are nontenured. Under current policy, the college no

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*Additional professors join faculty; preparations being made for next reaffirmation of accreditation*

## Athletic department has active, challenging year

THE department of athletics reached a milestone during the 1997-98 academic year when the college gained full admittance into the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division III. The admittance was granted following Chowan's successful probationary period, required of all institutions assuming four-year status, and making application for NCAA Division III competition.

Application for admittance into the Dixie Conference was declined based on marketing and media attention efforts. A "marketing plan of action" along with short and long-range department goals, athletic policies and procedures, departmental reorganization and a gender-equity plan will be developed within the next year and presented to the presidents and athletic directors of the Dixie Conference for reconsideration of acceptance.

In addition, plans have begun for Chowan to join with five other senior institutions in forming a new football conference scheduled for competition in the fall of 1998. Joining Chowan in the efforts to establish the new conference are Ferrum College, Frostburg State College, Methodist College, Salisbury College and Wesley College.

The Helms Center received a polished facelift during the summer with the installation of new carpet and interior painting and the pool received an upgraded filtering system. Preliminary planning is underway for the construction of a new football

stadium and a proposal will be presented to the board of trustees during the December meeting.

A new Student/Athlete Handbook will be developed to outline procedures and regulations for all students participating in the various athletic programs of the college. In addition a handbook will be written for coaches that will include updated materials on NCAA compliance regulations.

The Athletics Committee, which serves an important role in college athletics, will consider a proposal for the establishment of an absence policy for all students representing the college as a member of a student organization or function. The proposal will be presented to the administration and full faculty for consideration and approval. In addition, the Athletics Committee will study the minimum grade point average required for students to participate in intercollegiate athletic programs and will submit conclusions and recommendations to align requirements of Chowan with the expectations of the NCAA.

Multiple facets of the athletic department will undergo exploration during 1997-98. The need to provide additional athletic opportunities for female athletes has been recognized for several years and work has begun to identify the most feasible areas of expansion. Reorganization of faculty office space, corrections to the ventilation system in the

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*Plans underway to form new football conference with five other senior institutions*