

## Largest annual gift total sets records in development office

HIGHLIGHTING the 1996-97 academic year was Chowan's receiving the largest gift in college history. The gift totaled more than \$1 million and was provided through a bequest of the late Ruth M. Thomas and a trust distribution originally funded by her brother, the late William "Will" A. Thomas, both of Cofield, N.C. Ruth Thomas, Class of 1917, was a strong supporter of the college and made significant contributions throughout her life to Chowan as well as to community and church projects. Her mother, Mary Green Mitchell Thomas, was an 1876 graduate of then Chowan Baptist Female Institute. Ruth's sister, Mary, was a 1902 graduate. Throughout his life, Will Thomas was a major advocate of Christian higher education. He contributed toward various campaign drives for library expansion and cafeteria construction and helped to establish scholarship funds for students at Chowan. R. P. Thomas, father to Ruth, William and Mary, served on the board of trustees from 1883 to 1916. During 17 of these years, he served as chairman of the board. The Thomas gift has been designated to scholarship and technology endowment as well as capital improvements.



E. VINCENT TILSON  
Vice President  
for Development

Gifts to the college during the 1996-97 year totaled \$2,247,901.67, the largest annual gift total in Chowan's history. For the second consecutive year, donors numbered more than 2,000. These 2,003 donors made 2,810 gifts to the various giving programs on campus with many donors making more than a single gift during the academic year. The estate of Mary Wiggins Turner, of Gatesville, N.C., provided Chowan a significant bequest to initiate a landscaping endowment in support of campus beautification. The Murfrees-

boro Rotary Club funded a generous endowed scholarship. Members of the Ahoskie Woman's Club, of Ahoskie, N.C., presented the college with two strong scholarship endowments. A gift of \$40,000 initiated an endowment for Chowan's new overseas study program which will involve 15 students studying in London during the spring 1998 semester. Alum Linwood Parker, of Beaufort, N.C., and president of Parker Marine, made an extremely helpful gift to the department of science by donating the time and labor for the production of a custom-crafted commercial power boat for use in the department's environmental biology program.

The campaign for library computerization was given a boost by a \$50,000 challenge extended to the college by the trustees of the Alden Trust, of Worcester, Ma. Chowan's having raised \$150,000 in project funds by June 30, 1998 will result in the Alden Trust, on a three-to-one basis, awarding a grant of \$50,000 toward library computerization

expenses. Computerization of the library is needed to provide users technological access to information as efficiently and accurately as possible. Book and article searches, for example, will be made by using a keyboard and monitor rather than by flipping manually through card catalogs and indexes. It is important that Chowan provide students digital library services not only because of instantaneous connectivity to other libraries and information sources across the state, nation and world but also to familiarize students with computer research skills so often required in today's job market. To date, the campaign totals \$73,444 toward a \$250,000 basic goal. Dr. Catherine (Betty) Moore, of Pendleton, N.C., serves as campaign chair. Dr. and Mrs. Bruce E. Whitaker, of Murfreesboro, serve as honorary chairs. The campaign ends June 30, 1998. Until then, all gifts to library computerization will be matched, on a 3:1 basis, by the Alden Trust.

More than 1,000 guests and volunteers attended 20 scheduled events planned in recognition of Dr. Stanley G. Lott's inauguration as twenty-first president and in celebration of Chowan's heritage and mission. Jill McCorkle received the 1997 Mary Frances Hobson prize conceptualized by Charles M. Hobson III, of San Francisco, and funded by the Hobson Family Foundation. Ella Ann Holding, of Smithfield,

N.C., made a special guest appearance presenting a piano concert.

Other noteworthy recognitions and occasions during the 1996-97 year included Thomas M. McCrary, of Raleigh, N.C., receiving the inaugural Trustee Service Award during the annual Awards and Appreciation Dinner. Mrs. Hunter (Jean) Sharp, Jr., of Ahoskie, N.C., was the recipient of the Community Service Award presented by the Chowan College Alumni Association. The 1997 Day for Chowan fundraiser, co-chaired by Larry Joyner, of Ahoskie, and Tommie Hill, of Murfreesboro, totaled \$176,093.

The Chowan College Technology Advisory Council was established and held its first board meeting. The purpose of the council is to support, enhance and inform the college's recent technology initiatives. Eighty alumni and friends participated in the sixth annual Chowan Classic superball golf tournament; the proceeds of which are directed to a Chowan Classic endowed scholarship.

Chowan is blessed by her many alumni and friends who have always been for the institution a source of strength and pride. As an institution of Christian higher education affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the college family remains grateful for the support of North Carolina Baptists.

### Good Dads and Bad Dads

## Justice team pursues clues

Next to a dogwood tree in Squirrel Park, a tiny wooden platform on a slender iron stake appeared mysteriously along Jones Drive. It stood nondescriptly about 30 inches or so off the ground. Then, during the next several weeks, additional platforms seemed to emerge like mushrooms around campus. They surfaced near bushes and woodlands and in open fields.

Dr. Teresa Justice, assistant professor of psychology, and her husband, Dr. Michael Justice, assistant professor of biology and mathematics, had begun to set up shop for extensive bird trapping, banding and observation research on Chowan's campus. The curious little platforms quickly turned into bird feeding stations used in the capture process.

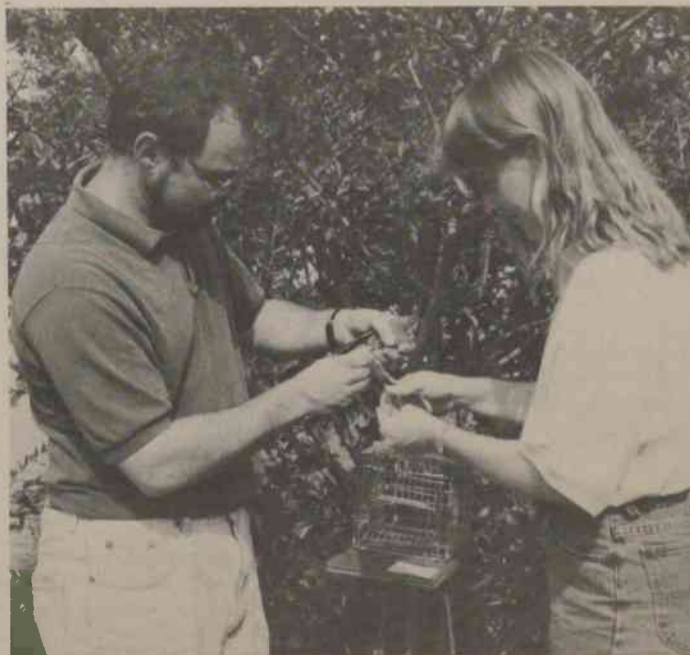
Operated under the auspices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the banding program concentrates on two major goals.

The first purpose of the program is the investigation into birds' use of color patterns when defending their territories, attracting mates, raising their young and protecting themselves from predators. Trapping the birds allows the Justices to measure the brightness and extent of each individual bird's colors and banding allows them to keep track

of individual birds during the breeding season as they try to incubate, brood, feed and protect their young.

Michael, an animal behaviorist, focuses on how a bird's color pattern can make the bird more or less conspicuous, depending on how the bird orients itself with respect to the location of the sun in the sky. The main concern of Teresa, a developmental psychobiologist, is the relationship between color pattern and provisioning of parental care. Through the use of visual signals, birds may be able to gauge the parental ability of potential mates allowing them to carefully select only a good parent, with which to reproduce. Thus, the "good dad, bad dad" label affixed in jest by Michael.

The second goal of the program is to provide psychology and biology majors at Chowan with the opportunity to observe and participate in all aspects of the research, such as formulating research questions, trapping, banding, observing behavior and analyzing data. Student investigators will be encouraged to share the results with the broader scientific community by publishing their observations in an academic journal or presenting them at professional conferences. Such research experience makes student applicants more attractive candidates for jobs or positions in graduate programs.



Drs. Michael and Teresa Justice carefully band a robin for parenting research on Chowan's campus.

## Chowan College Academic Calendar

- 25 November, Tuesday—Thanksgiving holidays begin at conclusion of classes
- 1 December, Monday—Classes resume at 8:00 am.
- 15-19 December, Monday-Friday—Final exams
- 19 December, Friday—Christmas holidays begin at end of exam schedule
- 9 January, Friday—Faculty/Staff Workshop
- 11 January, Sunday—Students arrive and check in. Residence halls open at 2:00 pm.
- 12 January, Monday—Sophomores, juniors, and seniors meet with advisors at 8:30 am. Freshmen and new students meet with advisors at 1:30 pm.
- 13 January, Tuesday—Class registration in Marks Hall. Class changes only-9:00-10:00 am. Registration for those who did not preregister-10:30-11:30 am.
- 14 January, Wednesday—Classes begin
- 19 January, Monday—Martin Luther King Day (no classes)
- 21 January, Wednesday—Spring Convocation at 11:00 am.
- 4 February, Wednesday—Last day to drop classes without record
- 6 March, Friday—Mid-term grading period
- 6 March, Friday—Mid-term break begins at conclusion of classes
- 16 March, Monday—Classes resume at 8:00 am.
- 20 March, Friday—Last day to drop classes with grade of WP or WF
- 10 April, Friday—Good Friday (no classes)
- 13-17 April, Monday-Friday—Preregistration for fall semester
- 4 May, Monday—Awards Day Convocation, 11:00 am.
- 7 May, Thursday—Reading Day (no classes)
- 8-14 May, Friday-Thursday—Final exams
- 16 May, Saturday—Graduation exercises at 10:30 am. Residence halls close at 3:00 pm.