

Chowan graduates largest baccalaureate class

awards first honorary degrees since 1937

Dr. James Howard Royston, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, addressed graduates and their guests during Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 16.

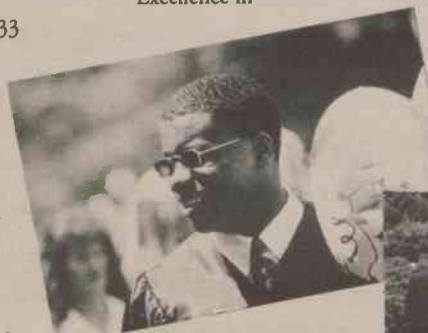
Exercises for the 133 candidates of the largest baccalaureate class in Chowan's history and seven candidates of the associate degree were held in the Helms Center.

Royston, who received his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, is closely associated with higher education. His work with academic institutions includes lectures on seminary campuses, supervision of graduate students and minister-in-residence at Carson-Newman College.

Student Government Association President Laura Allgood, from Danville, Va., and Senior

Class President Melissa Matthews, from Greenbackville, Va., presented responses from the class.

The Senior Scholastic Award was presented to Heather Madren, from Burlington, N.C., and the Excellence in



Teaching Award went to Dorothy Wallace, associate professor of business.

In addition to presenting diplomas to graduating seniors, the college conferred honorary doctorates on Senator Marc Basnight, President Pro Tempore, North Carolina General Assembly, and Dr. T. Robert Mullinax, Executive Director,



Council on Christian Higher Education, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Only four other honorary doctorate degrees have been awarded in the 150-year history of the college, the last in 1937.

Senator Marc Basnight was presented an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of his support to northeastern North Carolina. A native of Manteo,

Basnight was first elected to represent the First Senatorial District, North Carolina General Assembly, in 1984. In addition to serving the Assembly, he is President of Basnight Construction Company in Manteo and owner of Basnight's Lone Cedar Cafe in Nags Head.

Richard Gay, faculty marshal and associate professor of English, presented Basnight's degree. "Quickly recognized by his colleagues as a patient and meticulous legislator, fellow senators first elected him to the prestigious post of



President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate in 1992," said Gay. "Still holding the position, he has become one of the most significant and influential members of state government. We are grateful for his awareness of, and attention to, the particular problems of the Albemarle Region and indeed all of northeastern North Carolina."

An honorary doctor of letters degree was awarded to T. Robert Mullinax in recognition of his service to the Baptist institutions of higher education in the state of North Carolina. His executive leadership of the Council on Christian Higher Education, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina covers one-half the life span of the body. A native of Cedartown, Ga., Mullinax earned his seminary degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and went on to pursue



postgraduate studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Ca., and Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Ca.

John R. Jordan, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees, presented the degree to Mullinax. "His qualities of patience, wisdom and sound counsel have served him, the educational institutions and the Baptist State Convention well throughout his tenure of twenty-seven years at the helm," said Jordan. "We pay tribute to him on the eve of his retirement from the Council."

