

## pathways to success

Chowan develops "learning communities" to assist first-year students

"I miss my friends.—I can't seem to manage my time.—How do I say 'no' to a party when I know I should study?—I'm used to having a room of my own.—How do I know which clubs to join?—Which professors are right for me?—How do I decide upon a major?"

These common expressions and questions, and others of similar concern, are heard frequently in classrooms and residence halls across the country during the often-difficult first year of college.

In order to assist students with academic and personal success during that tenuous first year and provide a support group in which to discuss these issues and more, Chowan has designed *Pathways to Success*. Beginning in the fall, the unique program will help students learn how to "connect" to their new academic environment and succeed.

Within an encouraging atmosphere, first-year students will be "clustered" in small groups of learning communities, a process that begins with fall Welcome Week, for a comprehensive orientation program that integrates classroom learning with out-of-classroom experiences.

Each student will receive support from three

primary contact persons. The *academic advisor* is a professor who works closely with the student to develop educational plans and goals, a *freshman guide* serves as the student's Freshman Seminar instructor and works with students to develop personal and professional growth, and the student's *peer mentor* is an upper-class student who works with the small "cluster group" of students. Peer mentor relationships begin during Welcome Week, develop further in the Freshman Seminar and continue throughout the year.

Freshmen will begin their first semester at Chowan by enrolling in a 3-credit-hour Freshman Seminar (IDS 111) that is clustered with one other course. The "cluster groups" of students take the seminar together, along with either History 105, English 101, Math 130 or Religion 111.

The seminar is designed to enable students to: make the adjustment to college life both academically and socially, acquire basic academic "survival skills," develop skills in a number of important personal growth areas, allow students to explore careers and begin to develop a career plan, provide an orientation to College resources and

leadership opportunities, facilitate the integration of the content and skills learned in the other clustered course and develop a support group to assist students in their learning.

Freshman Seminars incorporate a weekly series of lab activities that seek to integrate learning inside and outside of the classroom. Lab activities are structured times for first-year students to participate in educational, cultural, spiritual and social programs; community service and philanthropic projects; intramural sports; class trips to the library, computer labs and Career Center; reading, English and math labs; and study groups. Lab hours occur twice a week for a two-hour period.

In addition, in order to encourage academic success, the credit hours for some first-semester students may be limited to either 14 or 16 hours, depending upon students' SAT scores and high school GPA.

Valuing the success of its students, Chowan strives to provide an environment for students to become learners who possess the skills, knowledge, creativity and ethical values necessary to survive and flourish in a rapidly-changing, culturally-diverse, global society.

## employee recognition honors longevity of service

In a time when employees change jobs more often than vehicles, thirty members of Chowan's family of faculty and staff were recognized for a total of 480 years of service on April 24. John Hinton, director of human

resources and institutional services, presided with his imaginative wit and humor at the annual Employee Recognition Banquet on April 24.

Inclusion into the twenty-five-year ORDER OF LUX ET VERITAS included a gold watch, embossed with the Chowan seal, for Kenneth Wolfskill, chair of the department of



W. C. Bryant - 13 years



Carol Sexton - 32 years



L. M. Wallace - 40 years

languages and literature.

Retirement tributes were delivered to: W.C. Bryant for 13 years of service by Johnny Brock (maintenance); Carol Sexton for 32 years of service by Julie Blake (library); and L.M. Wallace for 40 years of service by his wife, Dor-

othy Wallace (department of business). Also retiring during the year was Joyce Garrison after six years of service (admissions).

The inspirational *Voices of Hope*, from Union Baptist Church, provided entertainment and featured vocals by Johnny Brock, director of physical plant, and Jessica Early.



Kenneth Wolfskill (right), chair of the department of languages and literature, receives recognition for twenty-five years of service from President Stanley Lott (center) and Dean Frank Lowe.