

Chowan inaugurates new president on April 24

The inauguration of Dr. Jerry F. Jackson as Chowan College's 20th president was held on April 24.

Baroque trumpets from the balcony of McDowell Columns summoned the processional of faculty and delegates in full academic regalia. Guests luncheoned on the campus green beneath striped tents of yellow and white. An inaugural symposium with a panel of experts on 'educating for the 21st century' intrigued participants to discover new ways of reaching students.

In his inaugural response, President Jackson challenged the Boards of Trustees and Visitors, faculty and staff of the college, saying, "It is time for us to return to our full strength. Chowan was planted here as a four-year college, and it is time for us to blossom once again into a four-year coeducational college."

A Four-Year Study Committee has been at work for months examining the issue of whether Chowan, a two-year liberal arts college should become a four-year institution.

"The Baptists claimed this particular plot of Albemarle land for a college in 1848. A Baptist school was planted here, and it has been tended and grown well," stated the new president. "But, we see there is a need here for new crops, and new planting."

Crediting the former president of Campbell University, Leslie H. Campbell, for giving him first job in higher education, Dr. Jackson thanked

the community and college 'family' for their support of his presidency. He remarked on Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, president emeritus of the college, who served for the past 32 years, saying, "No man in our time or in times past has ever done more for Chowan College than President Bruce Whitaker."

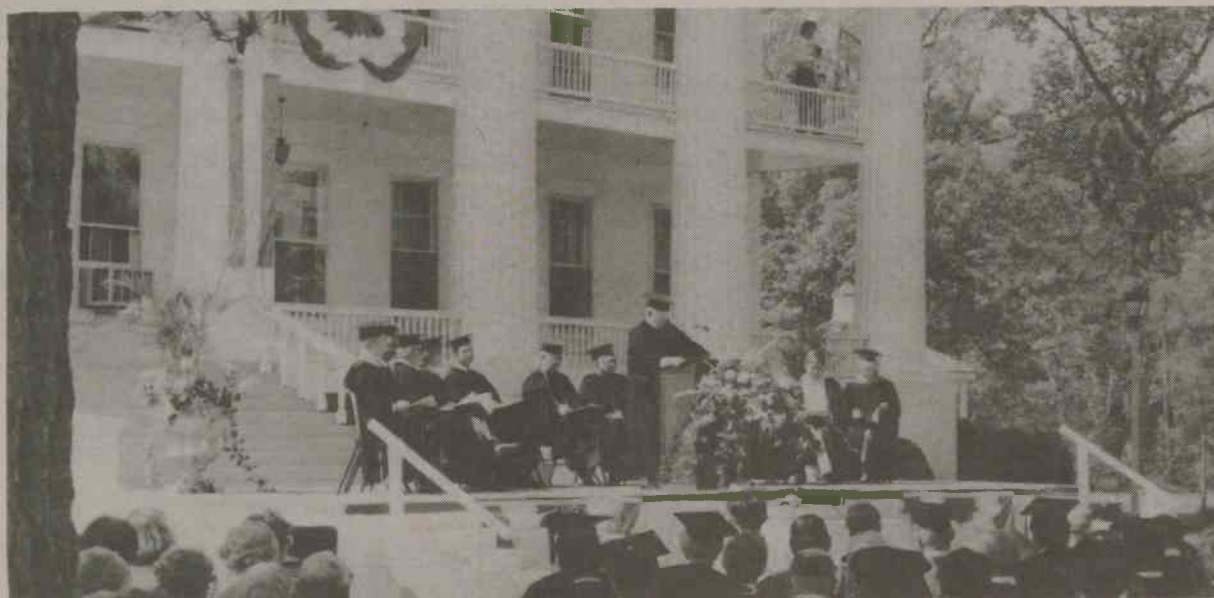
Dr. Thomas Corts, president of Samford University in Alabama delivered the keynote address during the convocation. His address, which was reprinted in The Biblical Recorder, was a

stirring reflection on the times we are living, and the challenges we must face today.

"We are told each person influences 500 people for good or bad every year. Our Lord ... taught us we are helped one by one. This college will never be what (others) make it, as important as they may be. But, it may very well become what you intend it to be," Dr. Corts concluded.

Greetings from the state were

delivered by the Hon. Howard Hunter Jr., N.C. House of Representatives. Greetings were also brought by the Rev. Gene Lee Watterson, president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, William W. Hill, mayor of Murfreesboro, Benjamin B. Ussery Jr. from the Board of Visitors, Thomas M. McCrary, from the Board of Trustees, Phyllis Dudley Dewar from the faculty, Janelle Langley Green from the alumni of the college, and James D. Hobbs, from the students.



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