

Chowan's mace depicts heritage

The ceremonial Chowan College Mace, one of the symbols which depicts the school's heritage, mission and religious affiliation, became more meaningful and symbolic when the college completed its transition and returned to four-year status.

Chowan's mace, like those of many other colleges and universities, signifies the dignity and authority of an institution of higher learning. Originally a mace was a stout club used as a weapon, but medieval universities adopted it as a symbol of order and authority and thus started the worldwide tradition.

The college's history and heritage may be traced in the mace's symbols. It first opened in 1848 as a four-year college for women as Chowan Baptist Female Institute, but in 1910 it was renamed Chowan College.

Men were first admitted as students in 1931, but the school became a two-year institution six years later as a result of financial difficulties during the depression years.

The college, completing its return to a senior college, has entered the third era of service to students, the community and the region.

The designs for the Chowan mace were submitted by R. Clayton Lewis, the director of

corporate and foundation relations. Lewis completed extensive research to formulate plans for the mace and drew the original sketches for its construction. It was wrought by George Cloyed, a prominent and noted Colonial Williamsburg craftsman.

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The Chowan mace is crafted in three sections and is made of solid walnut and ornamented with gold and silver.

Lewis suggested that the staff of the mace be a fluted column representing the historic McDowell Columns building and the nine pillars of Chowan support which are the Baptists of

North Carolina, students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, trustees and visitors.

On the front side of the capital of the column is the college seal. On the rear are the Greek symbols for Christian, *chi* and *rho*, and *alpha* and *omega*, all of which indicate the Christian her-

itage of Chowan. Lewis, who also teaches a world history course in addition to his other duties at the college, points out that the flame portrays Chowan's experience as a source of intellectual and spiritual illumination.

The Chowan College Mace, first used at the graduation exercises several years ago, is now seen on special occasions during the academic year when it is carried in academic processions by the faculty marshal. Its placement and removal from a position of honor indicate the opening and closing of ceremonial sessions.

When not in use the mace is on exhibit in the antiquities room of Whitaker Library and may be viewed at any time.

Mace

The Chowan College Mace was designed by R. Clayton Lewis, director of corporate and foundation relations.



Student life is promoted at Chowan

Chowan College is strongly committed to educating the total student — mind, body and spirit.

The student activities and residential living complement the classroom experiences and lead to the student's personal growth and total development.

Campus life at Chowan enables each student to develop social and interpersonal skills, foster leadership skills, cultivate sound ethical and moral principles, deepen spiritual commitments, formulate a philosophy of life and explore career opportunities.

Chowan encourages and supports student life through a student services provided by trained professionals in the Office of Student Development.

The areas provided by the office include: student activities, campus ministry, health services, counseling, career development, safety and security, intramurals, special programs, residence life, international student affairs, commuter student affairs, student publications, discipline and orientation.

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