

From The President's Desk

I am happy to have this opportunity to greet you former students of Chowan College through the pages of the alumni issue of *The Chowanian*. The ties of our alumni with the college are manifestly strong and meaningful, and we trust that these ties will be increasingly significant and enthusiastic.

You will be interested to know that your Alma Mater has the largest September enrollment in its 113-year history—585 regular and 28 special students, for a total of 613! This is an increase of 124 over the 1959 September enrollment of 479. Eleven states are represented in the student body (N. C., Va., Ala., W. Va., Del., N. J., S. C., N. Y., Fla., Ga., and Pa.) and two foreign countries, Thailand and Finland.

Envision, if you will, what this means in terms of crowded dormitory facilities, a library situation where not everyone can find a seat who seeks to carry out research and to study, a crowded offices; and also what it means in terms of the obligation and privilege of providing Christian higher educational opportunities for so many young people!

Many of our older alumni will be interested to know, also, that we have more young women enrolled (about 200) than at any time when Chowan was strictly a woman's college.

Another first at Chowan this year is the presence of Rotary Exchange Student, Miss Liisa Marjatta Keski-Luopa of Finland. Before long she will be on the "Speaking Circuit" representing your Alma Mater. Perhaps you would like to arrange for her to attend a meeting of some club to which you belong.

We had only one resignation from our faculty last spring, F. Milam Johnson of the Science Department, certainly an indication of the high morale which exists among our faculty and staff. It was necessary, however, to add five additional members to our faculty in order to take care of the increased student body. We now have 36 faculty members, and, in my opinion, the college has its strongest faculty in recent years, from the point of view of graduate degrees, additional study, and teaching experience.

No doubt you have read of the recent dedication of our new 118 bed dormitory for men. We hope that those of you who could not

be here on that occasion will soon have an opportunity to see it, for it is truly a beautiful and functional structure.

We are tremendously encouraged concerning the future of Chowan College. Its future is as bright as the business concerns, alumni, and friends of Chowan College want it to be. Many more students are seeking entrance to the college than we can care for. Even with the new colleges being erected in North Carolina and Virginia, there is still no other college within a sixty-mile radius of Murfreesboro.

A new classroom building with additional administrative offices, a new library, and general endowment funds are our most pressing needs now. These, and others, are specifically and definitely related to the future status and service of the college.

Many friends ask us about possible senior college status for Chowan College. The Board of Trustees has taken the following action incident to this matter:

"The immediate concern of the Board of Trustees of Chowan College is to make Chowan as good as the best in junior college Christian higher education. The phenomenal growth and strengthening of academic standards in the past few years is evidence of this dedication on the part of the Trustees and the Administration. However, when there is sufficient demand for its services as such, and when adequate financial assistance is available for such a change, the Chowan Trustees (as well as many alumni and friends) are definitely interested in seeing the College again resume senior college status, a status it gave up in 1937 in the midst of the depression years."

We are now entering what promises to be the greatest period in the life of Chowan College. As we do, I pledge my best to the college and I am sure we can count on your continuing interest and support. In closing, let me request that you write and give us your suggestions for the college. And, while writing, why not write a check to the "Chowan College Development Fund" for the provision of greatly needed physical facilities? Please visit us at the college whenever you can, and, by all means, remember Alma Mater in your prayers.



MEMBERS OF CLASS OF 1910 — They celebrated their 50th anniversary at the spring meeting of the alumni association. Left to Right are Mrs. Archie Richardson, High Point; Mrs. R. F. Zeigler, Florence, S. C.; Mrs. Joe Whitley, Whiteville; Miss Tulie Speight, Art Colony, Pa.; Mrs. Bill Griffin, Woodland; Mrs. J. F. Carter, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Archie Pruden, Margaretsville; and Miss Grace Parker, Murfreesboro. The other two members of the class were unable to attend: Mrs. Pearl Pope of Aulander and Miss Eunice Evans of Winston-Salem.

Phi Beta Kappa

Wanted:

An Alumnus Like This One!

Needless to say, Chowan College could use a few alumni like the one described in *TIME MAGAZINE* a while back. The alumnus in question is frugal old Charles E. Stillings, 81, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire who is now a retired railroader living in a shabby hotel overlooking the New Haven train tracks in Stamford, Conn.

His philosophy of life has been simple: "Whatever your income, save some of it." And, though his weekly income as foreman of a railroad power plant never reached \$100 per week, bachelor Stillings practiced what he preached. He put most of his savings into blue chip common stocks—and he held on to them!

After his retirement in 1948, the alumnus' hotel room became more and more cluttered up with company reports and market letters. Every now and then he'd hop on a train and use his lifetime pass to visit his broker in New York; sometimes he traveled all the way to Florida to look over real estate.

About ten years ago, the University of New Hampshire, from which he was graduated in 1900, heard from the old grad. He gave the University a small scholarship fund of \$200 a year, to be used for one student "of good scholastic ability, sound character, and unquestioned loyalty to the U.S."

Then, early this spring Stillings dropped his bombshell... a scholarship fund of \$228,000, the largest gift ever received from a New Hampshire alumnus. And that's not all. The shrewd old investor, whose first job paid him \$5.60 a week, is now worth about \$500,000, and at his death most of it will go to his alma mater.

His purpose in his gifts to the University is to leave a memorial to his farmer father who helped him through college at great sacrifice. Said Charles Stillings: "I want to help those poor guys who can't go to college, and give them a chance in life." Wanted Indeed! A N Alumnus Like This One!!

The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance.

Music Minister



The Rev. Rex Gardner of Holland, Va., is the new minister of music at the Riverfront Avenue Baptist Church in Lynchburg. After attending Chowan, Rex graduated from Wake Forest College, the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and received the Master of Sacred Music degree from the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville.



CHARLIE WHITLEY



MRS. CHARLIE WHITLEY

Congratulations to Charlie Whitley ('58) of Murfreesboro, who was graduated from the University of North Carolina in the spring with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Charlie and his wife, the former Jean Long ('58) of Hertford, are living in Winston-Salem. He is employed in the Actuarial Department of the Security Life & Trust Co., while Jean is the minister of music at the Hawthorne Road Baptist Church in Winston.

News Wanted

The Alumni Section of *The Chowanian* will appear again in the spring. If you have any news of graduates please forward information to the Alumni Editor, *The Chowanian*, or to Mr. John C. Gill, Chowan College. Contribution to this section are wanted.



FROM THE CLASSES OF 1954 AND 1955 — At their Reunion on May Day last spring are Left to Right, Mrs. Joyce Ann (Parker) Miller, Murfreesboro; The Rev. Joe Lang, Fairfield; Shelton Asbell, Windsor; Mrs. Marilyn (Turner) Lang, Fairfield; Mrs. Jean (Parker) Smith, Hubert; Mrs. Mildred (Wheeler) Morgan, Portsmouth; Mrs. Gwen (Cooper) Adams, Florence, S. C.; Mary Lou Harker, New Bern; William Stradley, Murfreesboro; Mrs. Faye (Barkley) Fussell, Rock Mount; Phyllis Ward, Whaleyville, Va.; Rebecca Flythe, Norfolk; Mrs. Ella Jane (Smith) Brown, Murfreesboro; Mrs. Betty (Boyd) Snead, Charlotte; Bill Warren, and Mrs. Ann (Long) Warren, Raleigh.