

Doors Open Wider At Chowan College

By DR. BRUCE E. WHITAKER

Chowan College, now in its 118th year, is going through a period of consolidation and maturation. We have the largest enrollment in our history with a total of 1,234. This is compared with 1,179 at this time last year. Our emphasis is not upon increased numbers of students, although we could have accepted many, many more. This is based on the fact that we had more than two and one-half applications for each on-campus bed for the current academic year.

With our facilities completely filled, some over used and over filled, we are concerned with providing the very best possible academic program and facilities for our student body. This means that we are trying to look at the present with a critical eye to the end that we will render every possible benefit for those who study here. For example, we are currently evaluating our purpose, our academic and extra-curricula offerings and programs, our financial resources and our opportunities for an enriched and more meaningful service. This is being done as a part of our self-study under the direction of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, our accrediting agency. This study comes about every ten years. This means that we are majoring on matters of great depth and importance.

We are also looking toward the future. Attention has been given to the status of Chowan College covering a period of many, many years to come. This has been accomplished by a Long-Range Planning Committee which gave attention and consideration to these matters over a period of more than two years. This committee, authorized by the Board of Trustees, was made up of alumni, faculty, staff and members of the Board of Trustees.

With the help of a skilled and experienced landscape architect, a Long-Range Master Plan has now been devised and subsequently adopted by the Board of Trustees. We now know what additional facilities we will need, whether academic or auxiliary enterprise, and at what stage of students enrollment these will be provided. This covers a span of approximately 15-20 years. All of these efforts are designed to help us and our friends to demonstrate and realize the admonition, "know thyself."

On September 10, 1966, we held our First Annual Planning Conference on the campus. Attended by well over 200 outstanding men and women, the group was made up of friends of the college, members of the Board of Trustees, members of the newly-formed Board of Advisors, students, alumni, faculty, and administrative staff.

Each participant now has in hand a copy of the report from the First Annual Planning Conference. This report is most helpful. By design and purpose, this Conference and the

forementioned efforts will help us to "come of age" at a crucial time. This is true as regards the life of Chowan and as regards the fact that there are many changes in higher education and on the national scene. We know, for instance, that higher education is going through a period of great growth and popularization.

Colleges Face Dangers

Dr. Patillo of the Danforth Foundation, has indicated that colleges and universities are in danger of losing something in the way of dignity. He says, "With the praise-worthy emphasis these days on legal rights, on social equality, and on stripping away hypocrisy—all good things in themselves—we tend to neglect other values—decorum, propriety, taste, good manners, prudence. (Indeed, these words have come to have an unpleasant connotation in many quarters.)" He continues, "Our colleges are not alone in this. It is a characteristic of contemporary culture. We see it in advertising, in politics, in public entertainment, and in the literary world. The liberal arts college should be one of the primary agencies for defining sound standards of taste and manners—for preserving what Sir Ernest Baker has called "the tradition of civility!"

In the midst of these changes and developments, it is obvious that higher education is of greater public interest and concern than ever before. It is my contention that the Chowan College Family and friends must be careful to keep a certain identity and perspective during these demanding and changing times.

Another step must be taken and the door opened wider in Chowan's program of service. In order to meet the needs of our present student body, we know that we must have a new library-fine arts center. This facility will cost a minimum of \$800,000.00, equipped. It is our intention to break ground for this building by the first of the year. Elsewhere in this issue of *The Chowanian* you will find additional information about our immediate efforts to secure at least a portion of the necessary funds for the purpose of constructing this critically needed new facility. This center will be located between the new cafeteria-students union building and the Graphic Arts building.

Trustees Adopt Program
Participants in the Planning Con-



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ference studied the needs of the college and made recommendations concerning goals toward meeting the costs of the new library-fine arts center. Subsequently, the Board of Trustees, on September 26, adopted a Phase I Development Program goal of \$500,000.00 which we hope and expect to reach by the end of the year. It can and will be done with the cooperation, work and giving of our alumni and many friends. Then, once we have demonstrated our "intention to help ourselves," we will be in a position to go outside the immediate area to business concerns and foundations inviting them to consider opportunities for an investment in youth through Chowan.

Chowan alumni are being asked to participate in this first phase of our goal of \$5,500,000.00 by 1973, the year we will celebrate our 125th anniversary. I am certain that we can count on our alumni to participate. Quite frankly, we must.

We are very well pleased with the development and organization, by authorization of the Board of Trustees, of our new Board of Advisors. To date, it is made up of 22 outstanding businessmen, professional leaders and friends of the college. Elsewhere you will read more about this significant innovation. The Board of Advisors met on the campus, Thursday, November 3rd.

Proud of Alumni

We are also very proud of our alumni. They, more than anything else, bear witness to the program and service of this college. We have tried to point this up in our new 16 mm. film, "Born to Serve". We are fortunate to have good alumni leadership, as well, in the person of our Alumni President, John Roger Griffin, Director of News and Public

Affairs at WTAR-TV in Norfolk, Virginia.

Alumni can help in many ways. For instance, you know of individuals who could very well be interested in making an investment in youth through Chowan College. You may know a student with the motivation and ability who would do well on our campus. This is the type that we should and want to serve here. Encourage them to make application by November of their senior year in high school. If you would like a current catalog to assist you in talking with prospective students, write the Director of Admissions, Mr. E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., (a Chowan graduate) and request one.

On May 15, Mrs. Whitaker and I entered into our 10th year of service to this beloved institution of Christian higher education. These have been the happiest and most fruitful years of our lives. I rededicate myself, along with the faculty and staff, in an effort to provide a program at this college which is both academically and spiritually challenging, and to those Christian principles out of which this "school of high order" had its inception and has flourished through these many years.

It is my hope and expectation that this institution will continue to merit the devotion and support of its many friends as it seeks to be of increasingly greater importance and benefit to all mankind and the Kingdom Enterprise. I am thankful for the privilege that I have here.

Pray for and support financially your alma mater. If we can provide information or otherwise help you to render a contribution to your alma mater, contact me or the appropriate individual at the college.