

International students finishing first year

Two international students at Chowan will head for New York City after completing a year of study in May, one to assume a summer job at the United Nations and the other to enplane for her homeland.

The students, Annika Kritz of Sweden and Ronaldo A. Karunungan of the Philippines, shared frank appraisals of their stay at Chowan and in the United States with Smoke Signals (the Chowanian).

Annika, attractive blonde, says her year at Chowan has been full of surprises. "I never thought I'd meet so many people," she said. "I found it is very easy to make friends. The students at Chowan are outgoing while the Swedish young people tend to be more shy or reserved," she added.

She termed the campus atmosphere as "relaxed" and said she plans to keep in touch with her roommate, Becky Wall of Clayton, and other friends. Annika said Becky has made plans to visit her in her hometown, Stockholm.

Another surprise was the fact that many students hold "conservative opinions." Annika explained she expected more would have liberal ideas, such as on the race issue.

She frankly believes that Swedish students place more emphasis on studies and intellectual endeavors than do their American counterparts. "Team sports are more important here than they are in the colleges in Sweden." She said extracurricular activities commonly take the form of discussion groups, political organizations, chess and photography in Sweden.

She said that such winter sports as ice skating and skiing are popular and that she has missed these activities. She attended most of Chowan's football and basketball games and admitted she did not understand football very well. She said she enjoyed watching basketball more "perhaps because there is always action."

As a student, she found the fall semester harder than the spring as she took 15 hours then and now has 12.

Concerning her Chowan professors, she said they "are very good," and was pleased to find they "show an interest in the students. It is easy to talk to both faculty and staff members," she stated.

Her busy schedule has included traveling to cities in North Carolina and Virginia while visiting in the homes of girls from her dorm, Jenkins, or speaking to a civic club.

Annika, a Rotary exchange student, reported she spoke to Rotary clubs in Murfreesboro, Columbia, Elizabeth City and Ahsokie and also to several churches in the area.

She also visited Greensboro, Raleigh, Richmond, Va., and Norfolk, Va., and plans to see Washington, D. C., and New York City before leaving the middle of June.

Annika said she had to adjust to the North Carolina weather. "I arrived in August and it was very hot. Our winter extends

from October to April or May. The March weather in Murfreesboro is equal to May weather in Stockholm," she explained.

She has not been bothered with homesickness, she said, perhaps because she returned home during the Christmas holidays.

When asked, "Have you changed any?" she reflected for a moment. Her reply: "I think I have changed. I'll have to wait until I get home to find out."

She feels she has matured by traveling and meeting many different people and becoming acquainted with a different way of life. "I believe I can take care of myself better," she commented.

Her advancement has taken one concrete form: she can now understand her roommate and vice versa. "We had difficulty in September communicating with each other," she laughed. "Now I can talk easily with her and the other students."

She believes she'll make use of her command of English at the University of Stockholm where there are many foreign students. A Swedish student spends three years in college and thus she has two years of study remaining. She is planning a career as a librarian, teacher or archaeologist.

Asked to summarize her year at Chowan, she said, "I've enjoyed every moment being here. Sometimes I feel like I shouldn't go back."

Then she added, "I'm pretty sure I'll return to this country. I want to come back to North Carolina to see my many friends."

Ronaldo Karunungan

Ronaldo, known as "Ronnie" on Chowan's campus, is from Binan, Laguna province of the Philippines. He arrived in San Francisco in May, 1969 and spent the summer in Washington, D.C., where he was the guest of a former Chowan professor, Dr. J. E. O'Connell.

Dr. O'Connell, now associated with the National Science Foundation, is the reason Ronaldo is at Chowan. Ronaldo became acquainted with Dr. O'Connell when his uncle, who works with the foreign service, introduced him to an American scientist, Dr. O'Connell.

Later, in 1966, Ronaldo again met Dr. O'Connell, this time in Tokyo. The two did considerable sightseeing together, giving Dr. O'Connell the opportunity to convince Ronaldo of the value of an education in the United States.

He recommended Chowan College for his first two years of study. "He explained Murfreesboro would be quiet and a good place to study and not play," Ronaldo said.

Ronaldo arrived at Chowan August 24 for orientation for freshmen. Since then he has grown to appreciate the faculty and staff. "I like all my subjects and professors," he said.

He'll return for the 1970-71 academic year before transferring to a senior college, "most

likely Chapel Hill." He plans to major in public administration.

On campus he shares a room with Roger Cope, president of the Baptist Student Union, in President and Mrs. Whitaker's home.

Ronaldo helps to finance his education by working in the cafeteria. He also relies heavily on his summer wages and has received two scholarships from Chowan, the International Student Scholarship and the Lee Fagan Scholarship.

Ronaldo says he has made many friends at Chowan. He frankly believes that some of the students have reversed their priorities, however. "Some study in chapel and talk in the library," he mused.

He also questions why some students are critical of certain college policies when they do not get involved. "I can understand that it is only natural not to want to get involved. But they should not complain if they do not participate in student government and campus activities," he stated.

Although he considers himself to be an independent thinker when it comes to religion, he believes in respecting the views of others and concentrates on the messages presented in chapel programs.

Ronaldo, sensitive and bright, is conscious that as a visitor in the United States he represents his country. "I am aware that what I'm doing reflects on my country as well as on me."

This responsibility and the opportunity to be on his own has helped him learn "to be more independent in all my actions," Ronaldo explained.

His interest in politics — both of the campus variety and in the future — comes naturally. His uncle is one of three elected representatives to the national government from his province, of which there are 53 in the Philippines.

He ran, unsuccessfully, for the vice president's position of the Freshman Class and has decided to compete for the presidency of the Student Government Association.

He hopes to sharpen his political acumen this summer by taking advantage of an opportunity, which he hopes will materialize, to work at the United Nations in New York City.

The permanent delegate from the Philippines to the UN, Privado G. Jimenez, is a close friend of the Karunungan family and he has invited Ronaldo to spend the summer with him. He is attempting to land him a job at the UN.

"I would love the opportunity," Ronaldo said. "I would be able to meet many people from many different nations. Also, I plan to talk with Mr. Jimenez about the situation in the Philippines."

This will be practical experience for the friendly but intense young man. When he returns to the Philippines after completing his education in America, he plans to run for Congressman. He will not see his family, which includes two brothers and a



Recount experiences

Chowan's two exchange students, Ronaldo A. Karunungan and Annika Kritz, right, point out their respective countries on a world globe as they discuss plans with Rowland Pruet, professor of religion.

sister, for another three or four years.

His desire to enter the political arena stems from a conviction that through personal involvement the way of life of his people can be vastly improved.

"At present some 90 percent of our economy is controlled by 10 percent of the people," Ronaldo, who has a penchant for the succinct, pithy phrase, said.

"The way we elect officers in the Philippines is not always according to the merits of the candidate's platform. Often, it

is a negative vote. We vote out of office a person who has been doing a bad job by replacing him with anyone. I want to work to upset this pattern and get rid of the negative vote."

He also has a vision of a developing middle class society so that more of the people have a share in the wealth of the nation. "The reshaping of the economy is important and I want to involve myself in it," he said quietly but with determination.

Coach McCraw reviews prospects for 1970-71 Chowan basketball play

By COACH BILL MCGRAW
Basketball during 1969-70 provided few opportunities for optimism in view of the dismal record. General team attitude was good in face of repeated disappointment.

Todd McConnell deserves much applause for he performed well. No player in the conference was more valuable to his team than Todd was to Chowan. When you consider that he was forced to work with little help, still managing to place runner-up in both scoring and rebounding in conference play, his achievements take on added significance.

Notwithstanding Clifton Faison, Ken Byrd, and Karl Yankey filled in, and in sports, looked good enough though victories were few and far between.

There is some reason to review this last season and see promise for the future. Faison, a freshman who wasn't counted on for much of anything, acted well and proved to be the best of the freshmen. He gained valuable

experience and shows promise for next year. It is possible that others from this year's squad will be of help next season.

However, without a question, basketball in 1970-71 will see many new faces. We are looking for the return of Flipping and Jack Ross. Many outstanding high school seniors have been contacted. Should room deposits from a few selected boys come in, Chowan will certainly have enough size and jumping ability to play around the backboards.

It is also possible that the Braves will be quick enough and fast enough to handle themselves in the backcourt, too. Of course, these are only "ifs" right now; the news won't be in until later this spring. It can be said, however, that the picture looks a little optimistic at this time.

There are usually several boys already in school who can help the varsity team, but do not come out for one reason or another.