

## 'Mission Possible'

# \$1 Million Goal Reached for New Science Structure

Chowan College has passed the \$1 million mark in pledges and gifts in its drive to raise funds for a new \$1.2 million science-engineering facility.

The announcement was made Sept. 24 by Don G. Matthews of Hamilton, general chairman of the "Mission Possible" campaign, at a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors held in the office of President Bruce E. Whitaker. He said that \$1,007,000 had been received in pledges and gifts.

Commented Matthews, "We are grateful for the public's acceptance of our call for assistance in providing the critically needed new science-engineering facility. The person who will benefit, of course, is the student. The new building will help Chowan to continue to offer a quality education to its students," he said.

### More Is Needed

Matthews said Chowan had reached the "publicly announced goal of \$1 million in gifts and pledges," but that an additional approximate \$96,000 is needed to complete the project. He said this would include landscaping, parking and lighting. The total cost of the building equipped is \$1,229,660.72, Matthews noted.

Construction of a new facility was first recommended by the Fifth Annual Planning Conference in September, 1970. The conference participants suggested a campaign to raise funds to replace the present science building, Green Hall, constructed in 1956 for a student body then numbering 300. Chowan's soaring enrollment during the 1960's had forced students to meet in overcrowded classrooms and laboratories.

In January, 1971, the Board of Trustees, with M. E. Valentine of Raleigh serving as chairman, authorized the campaign. The response of the administration was the planning and implementation of the Mission Possible program. Named chairman was Matthews, then a trustee and presently chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The campaign was launched in September, 1971 with an initial gift of \$100,000 from long-time supporters, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood W. Parker of Murfreesboro. Chowan's own faculty and staff pledged \$112,000. The Sixth Annual Planning Conference held that month, was devoted to informing and training the volunteer leadership concerning the Mission Possible program.

By late November, Chowan had reached the halfway mark. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on February 21, 1972. Chowan's president called the occasion "the initial step in a long cherished dream . . . fulfilling a critical need." Dr. Whitaker also said the groundbreaking was the result of "hard work expended on raising funds by many different people" toward the construction of the new three-story structure. At the time of the ceremonies, some \$700,000 in gifts and pledges had been raised.

### Widespread Support

Matthews said support for the campaign has been widespread.

He said the largest gift has been the \$100,000 from the Parkers. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem has made two grants, noted Matthews, totaling \$70,000. The first was for \$25,000 and the second, a challenge grant requiring matching funds, for \$45,000. Meeting this challenge grant has enabled Chowan to top the \$1 million mark, Matthews explained.

Another foundation participating in the Mission Possible program was the Belk-Tyler Foundation. This foundation, with three of its key executives, Irwin Belk, then chairman of Chowan's Board of Advisors; H. Douglas White, presently chairman of the executive committee of the Board of Trustees, and former chairman of the Board of Trustees; and L. A. Bailey, a Chowan advisor, donated funds for the amphitheatre. The gift was made in honor of Arthur L. Tyler, Rocky Mount businessman. At the time of his retirement in 1970, Tyler was chairman of the Board of Belk Stores Services, Inc. In honor of Tyler, the amphitheatre will be named the Arthur L. Tyler Lecture Hall.

The new building, now nearing completion, will house the science and mathematics departments. The air-conditioned structure will feature fully equipped and modern laboratories, classrooms, storage and animal rooms, amphitheatre and library-reading room. A green house is located at the rear of the building at the ground level. The facility will provide Chowan's students ample space for classroom learning, laboratory experiences, and individual research.

The ground floor will be used by the mathematics department. Animal rooms and the amphitheatre will also be located on this floor.

The main floor will be for biology and feature lecture rooms and laboratories. The third floor is for chemistry and physics.

### Expresses Thanks

Expressing thanks to the volunteer leadership and donors was Matthews. "The success of Chowan College: Mission Possible development program is due to the efforts of many people, pledging, giving, and working. College trustees, advisors, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents have been joined by churches, corporations and business firms, foundations, and many individual friends and supporters whose pledges and gifts now exceed one million dollars," Matthews said. He continued, "It has been heartwarming to have so many people across North Carolina and Virginia and the nation respond to the challenge of providing this critically needed classroom facility for the young men and women who come to Chowan. We are grateful."

Joining Matthews in expressing thanks to the volunteer leadership and those supporting the Mission Possible campaign was Dr. Whitaker.



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETS**—Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, President, gives a report to the Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors in joint session recently. Announcement was made to the groups that the "Mission Possible"

campaign had reached its goal of \$1 million in pledges and gifts for the new science-engineering facility which will be ready for use with the beginning of the spring semester in January.

## Annual Planning Conference Stresses Need for Support

Participants in Chowan College's Eighth Annual Planning Conference, held Sept. 15, heard college officials emphasize the need for support of the day-to-day operation of the institution.

Following the theme, "The Heart of our Mission" the conference stressed the critical need for support from the college's public to help keep the cost of attending the private, church-related institution within the means of students from average families in North Carolina and Virginia.

According to Bobby Cross, director of development, the conference represented a departure from previous ones which stressed the need for a

specific building. He said the conference, instead, would mark the beginning of a program of annual support for Chowan. "We must strengthen the overall program of the college," he declared. "This will require annual giving for the daily operational costs of the institution," he said.

The participants were told by Dr. B. Franklin Lowe Jr., dean of the college, of the need for a highly personalized liberal arts education based on Christian presuppositions. He also spoke of the necessary cost involved in maintaining high academic standards.

Guy Revelle Jr., Chowan's general counsel, stressed the

need for alumni, friends and supporters to take seriously the appeals of Chowan and other institutions to which they are related.

Expressing optimism of the future of Chowan College was President Bruce E. Whitaker. He challenged those attending the conference to help translate the need for annual support and join him in the work, mission and program of the college.

"The individual student is at the heart of our mission — he is not alone — he is cared for and supported by people like you and those who join with you. With your help, we will not fail," summarized Dr. Whitaker.