

## Turnout Is Large For Spring Festival



The annual Spring Festival activities in late April were held under sunny skies and with temperatures balmy, and saw a large number of alumni return to their alma mater. The President's Dining Room was filled to capacity (top photo) as alumni and special guests enjoyed the traditional alumni luncheon. Miss Cheryl Maxine (Peaches) Gantt (far left) was crowned Queen of Spring and she is pictured being escorted to her throne. Sherry Lee Sellers (left) is all smiles after being named Freshman Princess and as she is congratulated by her escort. Earlier in the morning, President and Mrs. Whitaker hosted a reception for visiting parents and alumni; and in the photo at right, Dr. Whitaker greets one of the many parents who attended. A carnival was held on the campus green during the afternoon, followed by a picnic dinner for students, guests and alumni.



## Graduation Exercises May 15; Speakers Named

A Chowan College alumnus who pastors a North Carolina Baptist church and the president emeritus of Furman University will be the speakers for Chowan's commencement exercises Sunday, May 15.

Dr. L. Mack Thompson, who graduated from Chowan in 1964, will speak at the 11 a.m. baccalaureate service. Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell, who served as Furman's president for a decade, will deliver the graduation address at 2 p.m. to close Chowan's 129th year.

The schedule also includes the President's Coffee Hour at 9:30 a.m. in Thomas Cafeteria for candidates and their guests.

While a Chowan student, Dr. Thompson was president of the Baptist Student Union and Ministerial Alliance. He graduated with the B.A. from Campbell College, where he served as vice president of the German Club. He received the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Thompson also completed studies offered by the N. C. Baptist Hospital School of Pastoral Care.

He has served as pastor of three North Carolina Baptist churches: Wakeminister in Raleigh from 1967-69; Warrenton, 1969-76; and Warsaw since January, 1976. He was the summer youth director at Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh, in 1966 and served as the civilian chaplain, Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station, Raleigh 1968-69.

### Trustee Member

Thompson has served Chowan as president of the Alumni Association and is a member of the Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the Board of Ministers at Campbell and is active in the Eastern Baptist Association. Thompson has served as president and secretary of the Warren County Ministerial Association. In Warren County, he served as chairman of the Heart Fund, member of the Social Services Advisory Board, and member of the Human Relations Committee.

His honors include: Stealey Church History Award, Southeastern Seminary, 1969; Outstanding Young Men of America, 1971; Who's Who in Religion, 1977.

He is married to the former Carol Corbitt, who graduated from Chowan in 1965. They have two children.

Dr. Blackwell is a distinguished administrator, educator, author and social scientist who became Furman's eighth president on February 1, 1965. He has also served as president of Florida State University, Tallahassee, for four and one-half years and chancellor of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for three and one-half years.

### Led Furman Growth

In the decade Blackwell served as Furman's president, enrollment increased 58 percent, the operating budget 219 percent, endowment 147 percent, and student financial aid 291 percent. Between

1966 and 1971 Blackwell sparked a successful capital campaign of \$12 million, including a \$2 million Ford Foundation challenge.

During Blackwell's administration five major buildings were constructed including the \$2.3 million Herman W. Lay Physical Activities Center and the \$2.6 million Homozel Mickel Daniel Music Building.

Blackwell is the author or co-author of six books and more than 50 articles on a variety of subjects involving problems of the South, community relations and higher education.

Blackwell graduated from Furman summa cum laude in 1932. He received the Master of Arts degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1933 and the Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1940.

His community service includes vice president of the Greenville Housing Foundation; vice president of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce; director of United Fund; and Rotarian for 20 years in four communities.

Blackwell is now a trustee of the Greenville Hospital System, a director for the Greenville Urban League, a member of the Bankers Trust Piedmont Advisory Board, and deacon of First Baptist Church, Greenville.

Mrs. Blackwell, Converse 1935, is the former Elizabeth Blair Lyles of Spartanburg, S. C. They have two sons and two daughters.



Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell



Dr. L. Mack Thompson