

# Rowland Pruette Enjoys Life With Good Reason

By Jennifer Moore  
Herald Writer

Rowland Pruette is the advisor to the foreign students attending Chowan College, and he laughingly reports that he gets telephone calls "at all hours of the day and night" from former students who want his advice on how to handle a problem.

"I enjoy working with them, but a call at three o'clock in the morning from California or Washington is a little beyond the line of duty," he smiles.

Rowland has established a rapport with all his students which continues beyond the academic years. He gets letters from all over, not just from former students but from their parents as well.

"The Africans seem to come from a patriarchal society and I've even had letters from fathers telling me to 'make my son do what he should'" the religion instructor says thoughtfully.

He laughs when he explains that very often, the person calling will say "this is Razir (or Mohammid or Hussein), and they get upset when I don't recognize them instantly. These are very common names and I have taught many with these names. It takes real work to find out who they are" when the phone rings.

The Wadesboro native majored in political science at Wake Forest but after a tour of duty in Italy with the Army during World War II, he felt the call to the ministry.

### Holds Divinity Degrees

The Baptist minister holds divinity degrees from Duke. He earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree from there. He has done graduate work at Union Seminary in New York and at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.

Pruette was named acting chairman of the department of Religion and Philosophy at Chowan last spring. He came here as minister of Murfreesboro Baptist Church in 1956 and lead that congregation for over 12 years.

During his tenure as pastor, he worked with the Hertford County Good Neighbor Council and has been chairman of the group.

During the racial strife of the 1960's, Pruette was a leader in bringing the black and white races together.

One of the first bi-racial church services in many decades was held during this period. Pruette worked with the Rev. A. M. Williams to achieve harmony in community



Pruette serves as Acting Chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy. He is pictured during a class lecture.

relations and the two men were instrumental in keeping discord to a minimum when the schools were integrated.

The preacher-teacher worked in the pastoral ministry 20 years, serving three different churches and still helps out in this area and in Virginia when called.

### Active in Community

Rowland has held offices in a number of organizations, having been president of the Rotary Club in the early 1960's. He was vice chairman of the Choanoke Family Life Council and served two terms on the N. C. Baptist Children's Home Board. He has also been on the board of the N. C. Baptist State Convention.

Most recently, he has been working with the Chowan Humanities Seminars just completed. "We had a very good response and were very pleased," he reports. "The au-

dience was varied, including some students, and people from throughout the county. The discussions were quite meaningful, I thought," he smiled.

Pruette is married to the former Mary V. Price and they have a daughter, Mary Beth Parker, who lives in Windsor. She and her husband, Bob, have two children. Their son, David, also is married and lives in Greenville where he is a computer technician.

One experience in his life causes Rowland Pruette to have a more than passing interest in the experiences of others who have been pronounced dead and come back to life.

### Unusual Experience

He had the same thing happen during an operation in Durham Veteran's Hospital. His heart and breathing stopped.

While he was "dead" he kept hearing the words to the anthem "Lead Me Lord" especially the final words 'make Thy way plain before my face.'

"I didn't see any lights or 'stand outside' and observe what was going on. In fact, I didn't know what had happened for several weeks. My experience was a little different from others." He doesn't dwell on it. It just happened.

Rowland and Mary V. now enjoy traveling "when we get the chance" and used to go camping often. Reading is a favorite pastime and so is bicycling. "I really enjoy working out in the yard. In fact that's what

I've been doing the most of during this break from school."

Rowland Pruette doesn't say it but his real hobby is people. Perhaps coming back from the dead has given him an added appreciation for life and lets him enter into new ventures with a characteristic enthusiasm.

## Sophomore Receives Two Scholarships in Music

A sophomore at Chowan has been awarded two musical scholarships.

Anthony DeAngelo is the recipient of the Conrad Plyler Music Scholarship from Gates County and the Emily Barnes Music Scholarship from Chowan.

A native of Goldsboro, DeAngelo, according to Dr. James Chamblee of the Fine Arts Department, taught himself to play the piano when he was 16.

"In less than four months, he was playing sonatas by Hayden and Beethoven and soon afterward became a student of Mrs. Carol Nicholson, a part-time member of the music faculty," Dr. Chamblee said. The student has been taking lessons from her four years.

During the past summer, DeAngelo attended the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro. He was one of 200 young people selected from approximately 1,500 applicants. Of those selected, 25 were pianists.



Photo by Wilson Hitchings

## Individual Instruction

Dwight Collier, right, a professor in the Department of Graphic Arts and Photography, explains the use of an exposure scale to Mike Ferrara, a graphic arts major from New Jersey. Students majoring in printing technology complete many laboratory projects in their preparation for employment in the printing industry, or for transfer to a senior institution to continue their work toward a four-year degree.

## The Chowanian

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Rowland Pruette and his wife enjoy bike riding as one of their hobbies.