

## Three Receive Distinguished Alumni Awards

Three graduates of Chowan College received Distinguished Alumni Awards as the college closed its 131st year with commencement exercises in early May. Recognized were the Rev. Jerry E. Harper, Sr., of Littleton, Raleigh resident Mrs. Charles C. Hoggard, and Sandra G. McCoy, a resident of Chesapeake, Va.

The awards are presented to alumni for their contribution to Chowan and religious, educational and civic causes. President Bruce E. Whitaker made the presentations following the awarding of degrees and diplomas on graduation day.

Harper graduated from Chowan in 1963. He holds the B. A. degree from Wake Forest University and master of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Harper has served churches in Virginia and North Carolina as youth director, music director, education director, associate pastor and pastor. Since 1972 he has served as pastor of Enterprise Baptist Church.

The pastor has served in many leadership positions within the Cullom Baptist Association including moderator. He is active in community affairs as a member of the Community Schools Advisory Committee and vice president of Vaughan Elementary School PTA. He also serves as chaplain for Warren Prison and is a past trustee of Warren General Hospital.

The Enterprise pastor was named an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1975 and is the recipient of the Good Buddy Award from WCBT.

He is married to the former Nancy Garner of Roanoke Rapids and they have two children, Jerry, Jr., and Kevin Douglas.

### Mrs. Hoggard Active in Church Affairs

Dr. Whitaker, in making the presentations, said Mrs. Hoggard, a former president of the Chowan Alumnae Association, is a "trend-setter in church and educational circles." He explained she was the first woman named a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ahoskie School District, where she resided for 65 years.

She was also one of two women first elected to the Board of Deacons of the First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, a position she held for 25 years. Mrs. Hoggard is active in the Woman's Missionary Union on the local, regional and state levels.

### Active in Children's Work

A Chesapeake resident, Sandra G. McCoy is serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chowan Alumni Association and also a class chairman and secretary of the Tidewater Peninsula Chapter. She graduated from Chowan in 1962 and is employed by WTAR-TV in Norfolk.

She is active in Western Branch Baptist Church where she serves as a leader in the Sunday School, Training Union, and missions and music programs.

McCoy is an organizer for the Council on Advocacy for Children, a member of the Adoption Development Outreach Planning Team in Virginia, and a member of the Chesapeake Foster Parents Association. She is also active in the Family Service-Travelers Aid Organization.

McCoy and her husband, David, are parents of three adopted children, Steven, Carol and Hazel. They also have one other daughter, Mitzi.



### Addresses Merchandising Students

A popular feature of Mrs. Elizabeth Francis' Merchandising Management classes are visits from area businessmen. Above, Mrs. Francis talks with Chuck Gatten, owner of Lafayette Sound Equipment Stores in Suffolk and Franklin, Va. Gatten made a presentation as a retail merchandiser of electronic equipment.

## 1937 Graduate Honored by State Beta Club, Outstanding Teacher

(Editor's Note: The following article, published by the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald, concerns an honor received by Chowan alumna, Mary Alyce Williams, Class of 1937.)

By JANE GREGORY  
Halifax County Schools

AURELIAN SPRINGS—A Beta student is a better student, according to the club faculty sponsor at Northwest High School who leads the state in years of service to the national scholastic organization.

Mary Alyce Williams, mathematics and history teacher at Northwest, was honored at the recent state convention of Beta Clubs held in Asheville.

Miss Williams and two other sponsors from across the state received certificates for serving Beta Clubs over 30 years, an honor the Northwest sponsor had received previously.

The big surprise came, however, when she was awarded the state organization's trophy for over 35 years as a faculty sponsor of young Betas. "The North Carolina Beta sponsor with the most years of service," the trophy inscription proclaimed.

Miss Williams is a resident of 537 Roanoke Ave. in Roanoke Rapids who still calls her native Cofield "home." Her teaching career began approximately 37 years ago at Seaboard High School, and her interest in Beta Club started in the former Aurelian Springs union school a few miles south of Northwest High.

She said she maintained this interest because of the association "with the best of the youth in our school... tomorrow's leaders."

She said many of her former students are now teachers themselves.

Others include Dr. John W. Boone, Jr. of Roanoke Rapids and Mary Keeter, Beta

Club sponsor at Northampton County High School.

Comparing students today with those she served and taught earlier in her career, Miss Williams cited a decrease in motivation as the most drastic change among students as a whole. "Our better students, the Beta students, are still the same," she added.

Her duties as sponsor include helping members raise funds for trips to the state convention, and she has taken a group for the "last 15 years or so." Senior trips sometimes conflicted with the convention, she explained.

Teaching and Beta Club leave little room for outside interest, the honored sponsor admitted, but she enjoys embroidering and crocheting in her spare time.

Summers are spent at the family home near Cofield where she keeps her hands in as a Sunday School teacher at Winton Methodist Church.

Miss Williams is a graduate of Hertford County schools, Chowan College in Murfreesboro and High Point College where she received her A.B. Degree in mathematics and history.

She also was awarded a Master's Degree in secondary education from East Carolina University.

In a letter commending Miss Williams for her service, Beta executive secretary George Lockamy pointed out that the honorary club was organized nationally 45 years ago and in North Carolina 44 years ago, only about eight years before Miss Williams started a chapter at the Aurelian Springs school.

Among those attending the recent 45th anniversary convention with Miss Williams were Billy Lindsay, president of the Northwest Beta Club, and John Bradley, vice president.