

# Graduation Exercises to Close 133rd Session



**DR. RALEIGH KIRBY GODSEY**  
*President, Mercer University  
Commencement Speaker*

The president of Mercer University, Dr. Raleigh Kirby Godsey, will be the commencement speaker when Chowan College closes its 133rd year Sunday, May 17.

Dr. Ben C. Fisher, retired executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and a Murfreesboro resident, will speak at the 11 a.m. baccalaureate service.

#### Other Participants

Also participating in the baccalaureate program will be Mrs. Betty Batchelor, professor in the Department of Languages and Literature, who will give the invocation; Dr. R. Hargus Taylor, chaplain, who will deliver the scripture and prayer; and Mrs. Marianne Jackson, professor in the Department of Graphic Communications, who will present the benediction.

Business professor, Mrs. Dorothy Wallace, will deliver the invocation during the 2 p.m. graduation exercises. Chowan President Bruce E. Whitaker will preside and introduce the speakers at both services.

Dr. Godsey has earned five degrees including two doctorates. He received his B.A. from Samford, his B.D. and Th.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, his M.A. from the University of Alabama, and his Ph.D. from Tulane University.

#### Lengthy Service

He has served as minister of Norwood Baptist Church in Louisiana; assistant professor, philosophy and religion, Judson College; Danforth Associate for Danforth Foundation; and vice president, dean of the college, Averett College.

He began his service at Mercer in 1977 as dean of the college of liberal arts. He served as executive vice president before assuming the presidency in July, 1979.

His professional activities include chairman, Task Force on Academic Affairs for Council for Advancement of Small Colleges; chairman, Conference on Institutional Planning, sponsored by American Association of Higher Education; Higher Education Panel Representative for American Council on Education; and chairman, Board of Directors, School of the Arts, Danville, Va.

He is the chief consultant for Comprehensive Institutional Development Project serving 56 colleges in the United States, funded by the U.S. Office of Education for \$4.5 million over three years. His civic and church service includes member, Board of Directors, Macon Chamber of Commerce; member Rotary Club, Macon, Ga.; president Forest Hills Parent-Teacher Association; speaker at

business, professional, civic and church groups; and deacon, First Baptist Church, Macon.

He served as a member of the State Committees on Health Planning and Educational Needs for the State of Virginia and received the Danville, Va. Citizenship Award in 1971.

The Birmingham, Ala. native is the author of a number of articles published in national religious and educational publications. He is married to the former Joan Stockstill and they have two sons and two daughters.

Dr. Fisher is a cum laude graduate of Wake Forest College and earned his master of divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School. He holds honorary doctorates from Campbell College, Wake Forest University, and Mercer University.

After serving as a North Carolina pastor from 1938-47, and for seven years as a faculty member at Gardner-Webb College, Fisher served for two years as associate secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, beginning in 1952. He joined Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1954 as administrative assistant to the president.

## Alumnus Is Candidate For Top Teacher Award

Chowan alumnus Charles Freeman was recently named one of the top three teachers in North Carolina. The North Carolina Teacher of the Year will be named at a luncheon in Raleigh during a meeting of the State Board of Education.

The state winner then becomes eligible for national honors.

Freeman is the coordinator for the Distributive Education (DECA) courses at Murfreesboro High School and teaches a Sunday School class at Ahoskie First Baptist Church. He represented Rotary District 771 on a trip to Australia last year with a team in a Rotary Group Study Exchange program.

He is the recipient of scholarships to study economics and his DECA group has won national and state honors over the last four years.

He and his wife, Gloria, and their two sons live in Ahoskie. He is a native of Powellsville where his father is the mayor. He is a graduate of Ahoskie High School, Chowan College and Atlantic Christian College.

He has taught at Forest Glen High School in Suffolk and Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute.

Freeman holds a master of education in business education from Virginia State University and is enrolled at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University to earn an advanced certificate.

He referees football games and coaches pee-wee baseball. His other interests include doing state and federal income tax returns.



**DR. BEN C. FISHER**  
*Retired Executive Director-Treasurer,  
Education Commission,  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Baccalaureate Speaker*