

Graduation Exercises Conducted In New Jesse Helms Center

One hundred ninety-eight students received degrees and diplomas and an Ahoskie resident, Randy Britton, accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award as Chowan College closed its 133rd year with commencement exercises Sunday, May 17 in Helms Center.

Commencement speaker, Dr. Raleigh Godsey, left the graduates "lessons about time," in his words. He said that human triumph does not lie merely in living a long life, but in the quality of life a person lives.

"We are not likely to be known by the number of days we lived but by the way we lived those days," noted Dr. Godsey. "I judge it to be a serious distortion of the truth to say that we live in time. It would be better to say that time lives in us."

The Mercer University president said that human triumph lies in becoming a "force for love, integrity, humanness, hope and respect."

"In the face of all of our progress, in the face of all of our achievements, in the face of computers and space probes, genetic codes and cancer cures, we are left with this simple matter - the course of our own lives, the course of our history depends on what you and I judge to be important and there lies the human triumph."

The morning baccalaureate speaker and

Murfreesboro resident, Dr. Ben C. Fisher, reminded the graduates "there is a power and resource available to you over and beyond the power of wisdom, knowledge, teaching, books and learning."

He said that by remaining close to this transcendent power the graduates would receive the strength needed to meet their own personal needs and also to make a contribution to a world desperately in need of love, light and hope.

The retired chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission said the world's great need is for Christians to show concern for those in need, including the aged and mentally and physically ill, and to fight prejudice and work to improve race relations.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to alumni for their contribution to Chowan and religious, educational and civic causes. Britton is vice president and general manager of Carolina Aluminum Co. in Winton.

In presenting the award to Britton, Dr. Whitaker stated, "Chowan is proud to claim Randy Britton as an alumnus and to commend him to you for his dedication and service to his community, alma mater, and church."

He continued, "In all of his many com-

munity endeavors, he keeps the interests of Chowan College in mind."

A Menola native, Britton graduated from Chowan in 1960. He is a former chairman and present member of the Hertford county commissioners. His community service also includes chairman of the March of Dimes for many years; vice chairman of the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute Board of Trustees; member of the Finance Committee of the State Board of Education; and director for the Gaston Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Britton is a member of the Ahoskie First Baptist Church where he has served as chairman of the Board of Deacons and Sunday school director.

His service to Chowan includes past president and member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. He is currently a member of the college's Board of Trustees. He is married to the former Mary Anne White of Aulander and they have one son, Timmy and two daughters, Malinda and Michelle.

Noted Dr. Whitaker, "Randy Britton has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of life in Hertford County and northeastern North Carolina through his active participation in the life of the community."

Graduate Receives Second 'Outstanding Teacher' Award

Chowan graduate, Patricia Elizabeth Watson Keith, Class of 1961, received the Hardbarger Junior College of Business "Outstanding Teacher" Award during graduation exercises in June in Raleigh. The award is based on annual student body evaluation and vote prior to graduation.

Mrs. Keith was also the recipient in 1978. She is an instructor in the General Studies Curriculum, teaching Old Testament, New Testament, psychology, sociology, philosophy, and English courses.

She also graduated from Greensboro College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Keith also teaches philosophy and logic in the Campbell College Transferee Program at Central Carolina Technical College in Sanford.

Mrs. Keith and her husband Marvin, son Owen, and daughter, Nicole, live in Fuquay-Varina. They are members of Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church, where Mrs. Keith teaches a Sunday School class.



Happiness at Graduation

With degree in hand, Kathy DeHart is congratulated by her mother immediately following graduation exercises in the new Jesse Helms Center. Kathy received her associate degree in Printing Technology.

Wootens Establish Memorial Scholarship

Mathematics professor, Ed Wooten, and his sister, Greta Wooten Price of Hollywood, Fla., have established the J. Sherrill Wooten Scholarship at Chowan College in memory of their father.

The academic scholarship will provide an annual gift of \$250. The recipient will be selected by the College's scholarship committee, with preference given to students from Yadkin, Surry and Wilkes counties.

J. Sherrill Wooten was born in 1912 in Yadkin County. He was employed by the Chatham Manufacturing Co., in Elkin for 45 years. He was an active member, leader and Sunday school teacher in the First Baptist Church of Jonesville for most of his life. Wooten died December 24, 1980.

Mrs. Vesta B. White, Class of 1918, Dies

Chowan alumna, Mrs. Vesta Benthall White, 82, class of 1918, died May 21, 1981 in Southampton Memorial Hospital, Franklin, Va. She lived in Conway and was a member of Conway Baptist Church.

A native of Northampton County, she was the widow of Dr. R. Kelly White, Baptist pastor and the first president of Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn. He served as a Chowan advisor.

She worked closely with young people, both at the four churches pastored by her husband and at Belmont College.

Mrs. White received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Chowan College during graduation exercises in May, 1970.

Survivors include nieces and nephews.