



# Whitaker cited for 25 years as President

By DEBBIE MESSINA — Virginian-Pilot Staff Writer

Dressed in black ceremonial cap and gown, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker stood behind the lecturn, looked around the spacious Chowan College gymnasium and said, "In true Chowan tradition, it's been done up right."

The gymnasium floor had a blue- and-white covering, the podium was adorned with flowers, the faculty and distinguished guests marched about with black caps and gowns, and the Chowan College Choir sang out Christian spirituals.

All this pomp and circumstance took place Feb. 22 in honor of Whitaker's 25th year as Chowan College president. "I want to express my genuine appreciation and sincere gratitude to everyone here today," Whitaker said.

About 2,500 students and area residents filled the gym

nasium to honor the man who contributed so much to the two-year Baptist college's progress.

The featured speaker at the convocation was Robert Mullinax, the executive secretary of the Council on Christian Higher Education of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

Mullinax noted the changes at Chowan College since Whitaker became president in 1957. "Dr. Whitaker has brought Chowan College from a school with regional influence to national recognition. Chowan College is one of the strongest and best two-year institutions in the nation," Mullinax said.

During Whitaker's 25 years with the college, enrollment has increased from 293 students to more than 1,100, and total assets have grown from \$750,000 to more than \$18 million.

"You have dreamed worthy dreams and labored to make them come true," Mullinax said, "Thank you for your dreams and toils at Chowan College."

Mullinax also cited Whitaker's many positions on state, regional and national educational and civic organizations. "He has generously given his time to these organizations while giving steady leadership to the college," Mullinax said.

Other speakers at the convocation included Frank Campbell, the president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention; Peggy Chestnutt, the president of the Council on Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Con

vention; the Rev. Patrick Neal of Bacon's Castle, Va., the president of the Chowan College Alumni Association; B. Franklin Lowe Jr.,

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## Gift presented

In recognizing his 25 years of service to the college, Dr. Whitaker was presented a silver tea service at the conclusion of the Anniversary Convocation. Shown with the president, from left, is Gary Whitaker, Mrs. Esther Whitaker. To Dr. Whitaker's right is Barry Whitaker, and the Rev. J. Felix Arnold, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

# The February, 1982 Chowanian

## Cuts in aid concern Board

Chowan College Trustees were told the college is headed toward operating in the black for the 24th straight year during their semi-annual meeting Feb. 22 in the office of President Bruce E. Whitaker.

Dr. Whitaker expressed the importance of a successful Annual Giving program to enable the college to maintain its long record of fiscal soundness.

### Concern Over Cuts

At the same time, Dr. Whitaker expressed concern over the proposed cuts in federal student financial assistance in the 1982-83 budget recommended by President Reagan's administration.

He said that if the budget is adopted by Congress, both private and state supported colleges can expect a drop in the number of students who will be able to afford a higher education.

He said that while he supports cutbacks in the budget across the board, he feels that the reduction in student financial aid is too "severe and out of proportion to other budget item reductions."

He said the projected budget calls for a 50 percent reduction in federal student aid funds for the

fall of 1983 compared to the fall of 1980.

### Enrollment Drop Possible

"If the proposed budget is adopted, Chowan will be affected adversely," he noted. "It's possible that Chowan could have 100-200 fewer students in 1982-83."

He asked the trustees to call the White House to express their opinion for the continuing resolution level of funding for 1982-83. He said a phone number had been established for that purpose and that the number is 1-202-456-7639.

Trustees elected J. Guy Revelle, Jr. of Murfreesboro as chairman and Miss Emma Gay Stephenson of Durham as vice chairman. Randy Britton of Ahoskie was elected the Executive Committee chairman.

### New Facility Planned

Bobby Cross, director of development, reported the college is preparing to build a new graphic communications facility. He said the present building is inadequate and does not have enough space to meet the needs of the students.

Cross said the new building will have 18,000 square feet and be located behind Camp Hall on Union

St. He said the projected cost is in excess of \$500,000.

Trustees thanked Dr. Whitaker for his 25 years of leadership as Chowan's president. With their spouses, they attended a special convocation in Whitaker's honor held earlier in the day in the Helms Center.

### New Members

Welcomed were new trustees: James L. Briley of Henderson; Mrs. Frances Farthing, Durham; J.E. Ferebee, Camden; Sen. J.J. Harrington, Lewiston; Mike H. Johnson, Hamilton; Thomas W. McCrary, Raleigh; the Rev. Bennie Pledger, Colerain; Charles L. Revelle, Sr., Murfreesboro; and Mrs. Henry Stokes, Winston-Salem.

Trustees who have completed their four-year terms of service received certificates of appreciation. They include: Mrs. Kate M. Allen, Weldon; the Rev. J. Felix Arnold, Enfield; Norman S. Beeks, Greensboro; L.M. Brinkley, Ahoskie; James H. Ferebee, Shawboro; Alvis Poe Fleming, Littleton; Bob F. Hill, Sr., Murfreesboro; Mrs. Ethel K. Smith, Benson; and Jennings B. Teal, Tarboro.

## President's response . .

EDITOR'S NOTE — These remarks were made by Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, during the Anniversary Convocation which honored the president for his 25 years of service to the college.

I am grateful for the motivation which prompted this Convocation, Anniversary for Mrs. Whitaker and me. Of course, I am aware of the fact that many, many people have had a hand in the preparations for this event, steered by a committee co-chaired by trustee J. Guy Revelle, Jr. and Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., Dean of the College. From where I sit, it would appear that, in true Chowan tradition, it has been "done up right!" I deeply appreciate the presence of all in attendance. We are delighted to have you here.

During my tenure of office, there have been numerous causes/sources/ for satisfaction on my part:

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