

# Optimism high among students, faculty in Graphic Communications

Although the economic outlook continues to cast a chill on the nation to match the weather, it's difficult to find a pessimist among the faculty and students of Chowan College's School of Graphic Communications.

The optimism of the department is reflected in two of its recent brochures, "Job Opportunities for YOU" and "Pathways to the Future."

## Future in Two Directions

For graduates of the School of Graphic Communications, the future lies in one of two directions according to Herman Gatewood, department chairman.

"Many of our students seek immediate employment while others transfer to senior colleges," Gatewood said. In both areas, Chowan's graphic communications graduates have produced enviable records over the years, Gatewood stated.

The Graphic Communications Department offers programs in photography; news writing and advertising; and printing technology, the original program offered when the department opened in 1952.

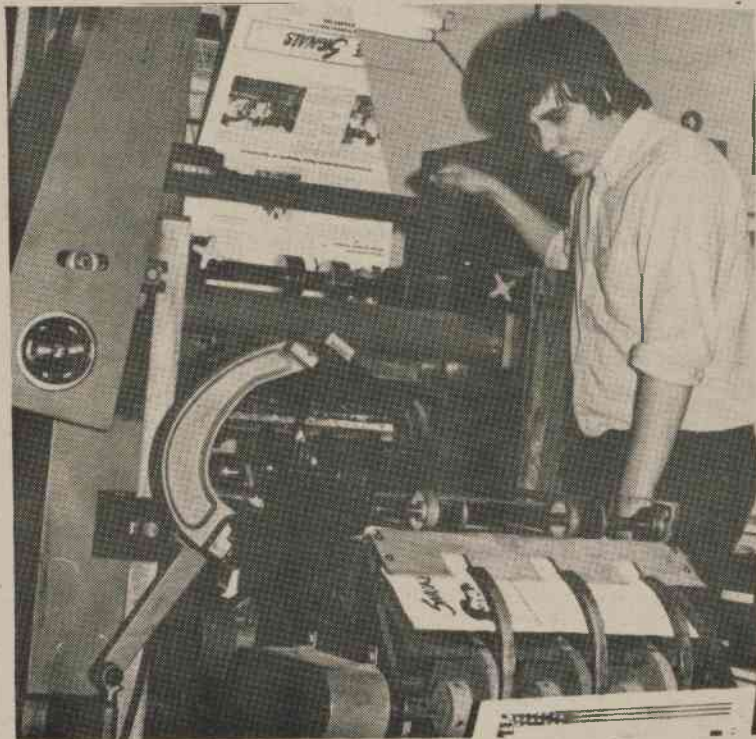
## 200 Students Enrolled

The some 200 students enrolled in the three programs have cause for optimism as they celebrate Graphic Communications Week, Gatewood noted.

The printing technology program offers instruction for 125 students in three areas: typography, process camera operation, and press operation. Gatewood said the program receives strong support from the printing industry newspapers and manufacturers.

Gatewood estimated the replacement value of the equipment donated by the printing industry is \$750,000. The School has just received a donation of a \$150,000 ultra high speed computer system to set type, he added.

Gatewood said that printing technology graduates have the opportunity of selecting among a number of job offers. "The number of employment requests far ex-



Graphic Communications majors learn the operation of a three-unit web offset newspaper press in their preparation for employment or transfer to a senior institution.

ceeds the number of graduates who choose to enter the printing industry immediately following graduation."

Gatewood said that during their two years at Chowan, the students receive training in all phases of printing including color separation and color printing, increasing their value to the industry.

But he pointed out that the printing program is offered in conjunction with the liberal arts program. "For every hour of printing technology the student has an hour of liberal arts. This is a drawing card for employers who like the students to be well-rounded with exposure to the liberal arts," Gatewood declared.

## Graduates Widespread

He said Chowan's graduates are serving "almost everywhere" with newspapers and print shops and the printing industry in general. He said many are serving as production managers and press room

and composing room foremen. These include Thomas Nelson, vice-president of Owen G. Dunn, Inc., New Bern; Donald Oakley, production superintendent, Roxboro Courier-Times; Tim Jones, production manager, Greenville Daily Reflector; Keith Young, press room foreman, Kernersville News; James Nelms, operation manager, Richmond (Va.) newspapers, Inc.; and John Powell, commercial printing manager for The Herald Printing House, Ahoskie.

Another graduate, Ken Wilson, is publisher for the Waynesville Mountaineer and Thomas Richardson is general manager of the Bedford, Va. Bulletin. John Rider is the owner and publisher of the Douglas, Wy. Budget. Among graduates who own printing companies are Frank Edwards in Rocky Mount; Richard Paden in Alexandria, Va.; and Vernon Hall in Neosha, Mo.



The School of Graphic Communications uses some of the most modern equipment available in its educational program. Student shown is operating a data storage and editing terminal for newspaper typesetting.

## High School Teachers

Other graduates are serving with educational institutions. Fletcher Noe is printing instructor at Carteret High School in Morehead City.

Frank Granger at Central Piedmont Community College and Harold Brown at the North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton direct the departments of printing.

Gatewood said the news writing and advertising program was started in 1978 in response to requests from newspaper executives comprising the Chowan Graphic Arts Foundation, Inc., with Don Hall, publisher of the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald then serving as president.

The demand for graduates is "tremendous" according to Gatewood. Chowan's graduates are serving as reporters and editors with a number of papers in Virginia and the Carolinas. Mike Barnhardt is editor of the Benson Review while Robin Minton Stockett is reporter-photographer for the Oxford Public Ledger, to name a few.

Four former students who chose to continue their studies are serving on university newspaper staffs. Harry Pickett of Shallotte is sports editor at Appalachian State University. Dean Lowman of Hildebran is reporter and columnist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Greg Bassett and Angela Elder are reporters at the University of Maryland.

## Photography Program

The 50 students enrolled in the photography program, begun in 1972, receive instruction in black and white photography as

freshmen and advance to color, both negative and slides, as sophomores. Areas covered include news photography, photojournalism, and studio work including portraiture and advertising.

Two graduates received 1981 first place photography awards in competition sponsored by the North Carolina Press Association. They are Joe Swift, Elizabeth City Daily Advance, and Charles Gupton, formerly of the Hamlet News and now a Raleigh freelance photographer.

Another graduate, Hugh Lewis, transferred to Rochester Technical Institute and now owns his own studio in Charlotte. Steve Deal, who completed the printing technology program, is chief photographer for the Atlanta Constitution.

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A two-color offset press is one of the most recent installations in the graphic communications school.

