

For Quarter of Century service

Convocation honors President Whitaker

On the 25th anniversary celebration of his service as Chowan College's president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker was praised for leading Chowan "from an era of primarily regional influence to a time of national recognition."

North Carolina Baptist State Convention leaders and officials from 10 colleges and universities were among the 2,000 people who gathered on Feb. 22 in Helms Center to honor Dr. Whitaker.

Dr. T. Robert Mullinax, executive secretary of the state convention's Council on Christian Higher Education, described Whitaker as a modest man who probably thought that the college trustees, church leaders and educators across the state were overdoing the silver anniversary celebration.

"One of strongest and best"

"Chowan College is one of the strongest and best two-year institutions in the nation," Mullinax said.

He described some of the growth that had brought Chowan national recognition. He said that 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.

Early in his administration, Whitaker formulated a plan to upgrade the college. Twelve major buildings have been added, including the \$2.75 million Jesse Helms Center, the gymnasium-physical education facility where the convocation was held.

"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.

During his response, Dr. Whitaker expressed his "genuine appreciation and sincere gratitude" to those who had served the college across the past 25 years as well as throughout the school's 134-year history.

In recognition of his 25 years of leadership, Whitaker was presented a silver service by Rev. J. Felix Arnold, chairman, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, which sponsored the special convocation.



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 Chowanian

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The Whitaker Years at Chowan

The death of President F. O. Mixon occurred at a time when the institution appeared to be on the verge of making that significant measure of progress and advancement which had eluded earlier administrations. It has been the glory of the succeeding Whitaker Administration to lead Chowan College from a position of relative obscurity in the educational world to one of national prominence and esteem among two-year colleges and schools. Such a status has been attained through dedicated commitment to the essentials of an excellent educational program, coupled with an exhibition of solid administrative expertise on the part of Chowan's current chief administrative officer.

In his first "Annual Report to the Board of Trustees," President Whitaker outlined the "minimum needs" of Chowan College for the immediate future as: a competent and dedicated faculty; a student body capable of doing college-level work and committed to the purposes of the institution; and adequate physical facilities and equipment with which to pursue the educational goals and purposes of the college. He, then, suggested measures for fulfilling these needs. The intervening years have been characterized by un-

paralleled success at attaining these initial needs, while striving to expand educational horizons in the light of changing needs and goals.

Attention to the provision of a competent and dedicated faculty/staff has issued in a three-fold increase in the number of teaching faculty members, together with the addition of key staff personnel required to maintain the expanding programs/interests of the college community. Retention of such a faculty/staff has been enhanced through periodic review of salary and fringe benefit schedules, resulting in nearly a 600 increase in average salary/fringe benefits for faculty personnel. Moreover, incentive for continued study and professional growth has been a hallmark of the current administration.

Designing and enlarging curricular programming to meet changing student needs has eventuated in a dramatic increase in enrollment (293 in 1957; 1,161, in 1981). Periodic self-study and review—in pursuance of the college's continuing retention of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools—has witnessed repeated scrutiny of appropriate standards for admission and continued residence, in keeping with the institution's goals and purposes. Basic-

ly student-related expenditures have accounted for the swelling of the institutional operating budget throughout the years from less than \$300,000 in fiscal 1957-58 to nearly \$8,000,000 in fiscal 1981-82.

Total assets of the physical plant have grown from less than three-quarters of a million dollars to nearly \$15,000,000, with much of this growth related to the construction of 12 major campus facilities. Sound and conservative fiscal management has resulted in operation "in the black" during each successive year, beginning with fiscal 1958-59. Proper equipping of each new educational facility is ably illustrated by the college library, whose collection has grown from less than 10,000 volumes (1957) to over 70,000 volumes (1981), exclusive of bound periodicals, microfilmed materials, and items in the Government Depository.

When these attainments noted above are combined with substantial, annual financial support from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and with a growing general endowment (market value: \$6,700 in 1957; \$2,100,000 in 1981), the outlook for Chowan's future appears bright—for the remaining Whitaker years and beyond.