

To aid students

Whitakers' sons honor parents with scholarship

President and Mrs. Bruce E. Whitaker have been honored with the establishment of a scholarship for academic excellence. The scholarship is initially funded by a \$10,000 contribution from the couple's two sons, Barry Eugene and Garry Bruce Whitaker. Barry is joined in making the gift by his wife, Becky Goff Whitaker. Garry is single.

Since 1957, Dr. Whitaker has served as president and Mrs. Esther Whitaker is Professor of Religion at Chowan. Under Dr. Whitaker's leadership the past 30 years, the college has grown in all areas. The enrollment has climbed from under 300 to 950. More than \$20 million has been added to the college's assets and 13 major buildings have been added.

Among Top 18 Presidents

Whitaker has recently been selected one of the 18 most effective college presidents in the nation in a study designed by Dr. James L. Fisher, president emeritus of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education in Washington, D. C.

Both Barry, who was four when his parents moved to Murfreesboro, and Garry, who was born in Murfreesboro, were "raised on the Chowan campus", noted Dean of the College B. Franklin Lowe, Jr.

Lowe said they were "ever present on the campus. Both attended most of the athletic and other events and had numerous friends among the student body, faculty and staff. When they were older, they worked in maintenance and the cafeteria during the summers."

Barry said through the scholarship he and his brother wanted to thank the college "for all it has done for us during our years of growing up". Barry added, "if it had not been for Chowan, I would not be where I am today. The college has helped me in many different ways."

"Honor Mom and Dad"

He said another reason is "to honor Mom and Dad. I admire my father not only as a college president but as a business person. I admire everything he has done to help Chowan grow and prosper."

Barry Whitaker said he and Garry also wanted to recognize the contribution of their mother, "both as professor of religion and for the help and support she has given behind the scenes to our father."

Barry, a Campbell University graduate, is vice-president of the southwest region of the Financial Services Division of Central Fidelity Bank, Abingdon, Va. His wife, Becky, is a customer service representative with the same bank.

Garry Whitaker is a lawyer practicing in Winston-Salem. He graduated from Wake Forest Law School in 1983.

"Most Appreciative"

Garry stated that he is "most appreciative of having had the opportunity of growing up on a college campus in a small town of eastern North Carolina. Through school and community activities, especially scouting, I had a great deal of exposure to Bertie and Hertford counties as well as Murfreesboro."

Continued Garry Whitaker, "I am very proud of the leadership which my parents have provided Chowan College, Murfreesboro and Hertford County."

Director of Development Bobby Cross encouraged other individuals and groups who are interested in thanking and honoring Bruce and Esther Whitaker to contribute to the scholarship fund.

"Additional gifts to the scholarship will enable the college to help more students with potential for academic excellence and at the same time further honor Dr. and Mrs. Whitaker," Cross noted.



The Whitaker family

The Whitakers are pictured as a family when the announcement was made of a \$10,000 scholarship for academic excellence. From left, Garry Bruce Whitaker, Dr. and Mrs. Whitaker, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Eugene Whitaker.



Anniversary observance

The Town of Murfreesboro's 200th Anniversary dinner was held in Thomas Cafeteria on January 6, the day that the General Assembly chartered the Town of Murfreesboro in 1787. Mayor Billy Hill presided. Others at the head table are, from left Mrs. Hill, Dr. Thomas Parramore of Raleigh, who was the main speaker E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., author of a bicentennial publication, "200 Years on the Meherrin River" and Pete Whitley, President of the Murfreesboro Historical Association. Dr. Parramore chronicled how floods had influenced the town's growth and history. Nearly 400 persons attended the celebration dinner to launch a year of bicentennial events.