

# Smith explains why Baptists support educational institutions

Chowan College students, faculty and staff learned at spring convocation on Jan. 19 there are three major reasons their college is supported by North Carolina Baptists.

The speaker, Dr. Roy Smith, is general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He was introduced by Chowan President Bruce E. Whitaker. Dean B. Franklin Lowe, Jr. presided and students Patrick Rudolph offered the prayer and Cecil Davis the scripture lesson.

In his address, Dr. Smith asked the following question:

"Why do Baptists support Chowan and the other colleges as they do? Why should they support the institutions of Christian Higher Education? In these remarks I am referring to 'Baptists' as a group rather than individual Baptists who support colleges for all kinds of reasons.

## NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS SUPPORT COLLEGES BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

"The Baptist State Convention was organized in 1830. Shortly thereafter a college was established at Wake Forest. In 1848, eighteen years after the Convention was organized, the Chowan Association, at the urging of the moderator, Godwin Cotton Moore, voted to sponsor a 'school of higher learning' which is known today as Chowan College. Across the state institutes, high schools, colleges for men, and colleges for women were organized. A majority of Baptists believed then, as Baptists believe now, that a literate membership and trained leadership is imperative for our kind of church governance. Congregational government, freedom and autonomy of the individual believer and each church, necessitates a literate and informed membership as well as trained leadership.

"Now every one acquainted with the early beginnings of Baptists in North Carolina knows that every Baptist did not share this view in those early days of our convention. As a matter of fact, Christian Higher Education became the focal point that divided Baptists into those who were pro-convention, pro-missions and pro-education from those who were anti-convention, anti-missions and anti-education.

"Moral values were generally accepted and taken for granted in 1848. There was not the questioning of every value then as there is today. The need in 1848 was education. Chowan College and the other Baptist schools offered this to young men and women of character."

"Baptists then and Baptists now, view excellence in education as a priority worthy of their loyalty and support. They believe that a world such as ours demands men and women who are trained to think critically; to decide wisely and to

act responsibly. So, Baptists support colleges because of their commitment to education.

## NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS SUPPORT COLLEGES BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN VALUES

"Education, per se, is not the primary value of Chowan as I see it. Excellence in education from a Christian perspective is the great contribution which is needed from Chowan and all of our Baptist schools.

"Many other quality institutions offer 'Excellence in Education.' These schools are by law secular in nature. Society as a whole has been permeated by secularism and materialism. It appears that even in Higher Education we have reached the 'Secular City' Harvey Cox wrote about. I happen to be an avid sports fan. However, recent events at major universities across America indicate that 'traditional moral values' are subservient to success and winning in sports even at the cost of individuals involved and the reputation of the school.

"Our Baptist schools offer a viable alternative to a state system of education which cannot and will not enunciate moral and spiritual values. Education from a Christian perspective or 'Christian Higher Education' as we refer to it, is the unique contribution our Baptist schools can make, not only to the Baptist denomination, but for the 'Common Good' and the Kingdom of God. I think it is not an over statement to say that it is the 'Christian' in Christian Higher Education which elicits the greatest emotional and financial

support from North Carolina Baptists. They believe that the Christian heritage which you conserve and the Christian values which you enunciate are as much a part of world missions as the work of a Seminar in Africa or a Bible School in American pioneer missions.

"So, North Carolina Baptists supports colleges because of their commitment to Christian values.

## NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS SUPPORT COLLEGES BECAUSE OF THE 'PRODUCT YOU TURN OUT'

"The bottom line of any endeavor is the product generated. The graduates of Baptist colleges in church vocations, in government, in the market places of society, are the greatest reason for continuing support. There is no way to measure the positive impact our Baptist colleges have had on our state, the nation and the world, as young men and women have moved from these institutions of learning to responsible leadership positions in every segment of society. These graduates are not only responsible, contributing citizens, they are goodwill ambassadors for Baptist Schools.

"So, North Carolina Baptists support Baptist Colleges because of who you are, what you do, and because of the people you send into every community in North Carolina and throughout the world.

"I salute you for a job well done, and pledge my continuing support and advocacy that your resources may increasingly match the opportunities and responsibilities you face."



Convocation speaker

Dr. Roy Smith, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is flanked by President Bruce E. Whitaker, left, and Dr. B. Franklin Lowe, Jr., Dean of the College, who appeared with Smith on the Spring Convocation program in Helms Center.

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## State lawmakers told of tuition gap increase

North Carolina legislators and other area citizens who attended a December dinner meeting hosted by Chowan College were told that the tuition gap between independent colleges and their public counterparts has increased to \$2,846 — up \$389 from 1985.

The 1986 session of the North Carolina General Assembly approved a \$50 increase for the Legislative Tuition Grant, but rising costs and increased state support for the public university system led to the eleventh annual increase in the tuition gap.

A plea for increased state funding for North Carolina students attending the state's 38 independent colleges and universities was made by John T. Henley, president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Henley told his audience in the President's Room of Thomas Cafeteria that the average tuition at North Carolina's independent colleges increased in 1986 by \$474 to \$4,969. He said in-state tuition and fees at the public universities for 1986 is \$823."

"We are deeply concerned that the ever-rising tuition gap is increasingly denying North Carolina students meaningful access to higher education," said Henley.

"Students are having to make their decisions on which college to attend based on cost, not necessarily on the program that best meets their educational needs."

The General Assembly has supported programs to assist these students since 1971. This year, each North Carolina resident attending an in-state independent college or university will receive a \$1,000 tuition reduction through the Legislative Tuition Grant program. An additional \$7.1 million in state aid (appropriated at the rate of \$300 per student) is available through the State Contractual Scholarship Fund for North Carolina independent college students who demonstrate financial need.

By comparison, the state subsidy for residents attending public universities is \$5,814.

Henley called for public policy changes that would bring the state's tuition gap back to the 1980 level \$1,509 instead of the current \$2,846. By doing so, "we could assure meaningful access for North Carolina students," he said.

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