

College receives largest commitment in history

Building on a family tradition of service to and support of Chowan College, alumna Susan Parker Kerr of Indian Lake Estates, Fla., has made the single largest individual commitment in the history of the college. It is for the Mission Excellence campaign.

The previous largest donation was \$500,000 from an anonymous donor toward the new gymnasium, the Jesse Helms Center.

For Endowment, Student Aid

The campaign will provide additional student aid/scholarships, endowment for teaching and administration, program development, and the renovation of facilities.

Stated President Bruce E. Whitaker, "Susan Parker Kerr has demonstrated through this gift by will her continued interest and support of Chowan, a college she and family members have supported for many years. The Parker family has been instrumental in advancing the college to its present position as one of the nation's finest private, two-year colleges."

Continued Dr. Whitaker, "We appreciate her generous gift and desire to continue the growth of Chowan, on many different levels, to which her parents and other relatives have made such an important contribution."

To Serve as Challenge

Campaign chairman Robert B. Spivey of Windsor and honorary chairperson Mrs. Robert R. (Texie Camp) Marks of Boykins, Va., said the bequest will serve as a challenge gift to encourage other donations which would enable Chowan to complete the minimum \$4 million campaign in the fall. They were joined in thanking Mrs. Kerr by members of the campaign committee and Director of Development E. Vincent Tilson.

The Parker family has strong ties to Chowan. Mrs. Kerr's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Sewell Parker of Indian Lake Estates, Fla., graduated from Chowan, then a four-year women's college, in 1929.

Instrumental in Reopening

Her father, the late Elwood W. Parker, supported the college over his lifetime. He was co-owner with Edwin P. Brown, Sr., of Riverside Manufacturing Company, Murfreesboro, which later merged with Georgia-Pacific Corporation.

Parker played a key role in the reopening of the college in 1949, after it had been closed during World War II. Whitaker said Parker supported the reopening by both word and deed. At church and civic meetings, he ex-

pressed confidence that the college could and would resume operations, and then both gave and solicited gifts over a wide area to provide momentum. Mrs. P. D. Sewell, his wife's mother and a Chowan trustee, also worked in the campaign to reopen the college.

His own daughter, Susan, was one of the first area students to benefit from the college's reopening. She was a student under two presidents, Dr. B. D. Bunn, who served from 1949 to 1951, and Dr. F. O. Mixon, president until his death in 1956. Susan studied under Dr. Mixon's wife, Mrs. Daisy Lou Mixon, now professor emeritus of religion.

Residence Hall Named for Father

Elwood Parker made a \$100,000 gift to the campaign to construct the new science-engineering facility. Parker Hall, residence hall for 280 men, was named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Parker in 1972. He died on Feb. 15, 1985 at the age of 92.

After graduating from Chowan, Susan transferred to Guilford College. She expressed pleasure with the progress Chowan has made under Dr. Whitaker, president since 1957. She said she was pleased to be able to make a major gift that would help the students and the continued progress of the college.

Vincent Tilson named Director of Development

E. Vincent Tilson, acting Director of Development, has been named Director of Development, effective June 1, according to President Bruce E. Whitaker.

The Chowan alumni program, under Tilson's direction, has experienced dramatic growth, Dr. Whitaker declared. In 1987-88, the Alumni Loyalty Fund surpassed \$50,000 for the first time in the college's history. Gifts to the Alumni Fund have increased over the past five years from 350 to 900 annually.

Alumni phonathon pledges and gifts have more than quadrupled over the last five years. The average attendance at alumni events has doubled.

Provided Leadership

As acting director, Tilson provided leadership for the overall development program to include directing the Alumni Fund, Annual Fund, Parents Fund and the current \$4 million capital campaign. The \$131,000 given to the Annual

Giving Fund in the 1987-88 year is the second largest total ever, Whitaker noted.

Commented Dr. Whitaker, "Mr. Tilson brings to this position a strong commitment to serve the total interests of the college through our Development Program. It is a source of satisfaction to me that we were able to identify a strong qualified individual from within the college community to assume this demanding and important position."



E. VINCENT TILSON

... Named Director of Development

graduated cum laude with honors in English. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in religious education.

At UNC-Wilmington, Tilson was a Dean's List student. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the United Christian Campus Ministry and the Government and Politics Association.

Tilson studied at Southern Seminary where he served as Student Government Association vice president.

Active in Community

Currently serving as vice president of the Murfreesboro Rotary Club, Tilson visited England in 1985 as a member of a Rotary Group Study Exchange Team. He was presented as a Paul Harris Sustaining Fellow to Rotary International by the campus Rotaract chapter.

Tilson is married to the former Olivia (Libby) Cuttino of Beaufort, S. C. She holds the Bachelor of Music from Converse College and Master of Church Music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a former minister of youth and current organist at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. She teaches piano at home.

The Tilsons have one daughter, Olivia Hayes, two months. Tilson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Tilson, Jr., of Wilmington. He is a member of the Murfreesboro Baptist Church, where he is a deacon and teaches the young married Sunday School class.

Tilson's grandmother, Bessie Hayes Orrell, graduated in 1909 from what was then the Chowan Female Institute as did his great grandmother, Venie S. Speight, in 1876.

Joined Staff in 1981

A Wilmington native, Tilson began his service at Chowan in 1981 as associate director of development. He was named acting director in February, 1988, after the director of development since 1970, Bobby S. Cross, was confined to his bed due to illness. Cross died on May 11, 1988.

Tilson holds the B.A. degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he

our mission and purpose and come to see their gifts more as investments helping young people successfully begin their college educations.

"Alumni recognize the strength and direction faculty members brought to their lives and how their overall experience at Chowan benefited them. It's gratifying to see more and more alumni each year give to the Alumni Loyalty Fund to at least in part acknowledge the difference Chowan has made in their lives."

Gifts "Vitaly Important"

President Bruce E. Whitaker noted that surpassing both the Annual Giving Fund and Alumni Loyalty Fund goals was a major reason the college operated in the black for the 30th straight year.

"Gifts are vitaly important to Chowan and have always made a difference here," stated Whitaker. "I've seen firsthand the good such generous support brings about on campus. This support of our alumni and friends is crucial if Chowan is to remain one of the nation's top two-year colleges."

Goals exceeded in two annual drives

Chowan College exceeded its Annual Giving Fund for 1987-88 while setting a college record with gifts to the Alumni Loyalty Fund. The \$131,000 given to the Annual Giving Fund in the 1987-88 fiscal year is the second largest annual giving year in the history of the college.

"We've had a strong year," commented Director of Development E. Vincent Tilson, "under challenging circumstances. Obviously Chowan enjoys the support of many loyal alumni and friends who think well of what we're about here and who want to share in our efforts."

Increases Noted for Past Five Years

The Alumni Loyalty fund surpassed \$50,000 for the first time ever. Gifts to the Alumni Fund have increased over the past five years from \$20,000 to over \$50,000 annually.

Donors to the Alumni Loyalty Fund have grown in this same time period from 350 to over 900 annually.

Tilson added, "People feel good about Chowan. The college's trustees, advisors, and other good friends like our financial accountability, believe in