

Chowan alumni prepare for ministry at Southeastern Seminary

Pictured on the campus of Southeastern Seminary are former Chowanians, left to right, front row, Roger Hensley, Marcia Taylor, and Keith Vaughan. Standing, left to right, are John Dekle, Paul Traywick, Tony Futrell, and Bob Ballance. Not pictured is Laura Early.



Numbered among the students enrolled at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, during 1987-88 were eight persons who began their preparations for ministry at Chowan College. These included Robert Carlton Ballance, Class of 1983; Jonathan Davis Dekle, Class of 1981; Felix Anthony Futrell, Class of 1982; Roger Eugene Hensley; Laura Gunter Early; Marcia Ellen Taylor, Class of 1984; Paul Robert Traywick, Class of 1976; and Stanley Keith Vaughan, Class of 1983. They represent the latest in a succession of former Chowanians who have chosen to pursue their theological education at Southeastern—the only Southern Baptist Convention institution which is located in North Carolina.

Ballance Serving As Pastor

Ballance, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Ballance, Sr., Shawboro, was a Pre-Religion major at Chowan. An honor student, he also served as President of Baptist Student Union, was elected to membership in Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, Phi Theta Kappa, the Order of the Silver Feather, and was recipient of the college's Merit Award. Ballance continued his baccalaureate studies at Mars Hill College, graduating with honors with the Class of 1985.

Ordained to the work of the gospel ministry in February, 1988,

the Reverend Mr. Ballance currently serves as pastor of Hobgood Baptist Church, Hobgood, North Carolina. His plans are to complete the M. Div. program during the academic year 1988-89 and—perhaps—pursue further graduate studies in theological education.

Second Year of Study

A native of Kinston, Jonathan Dekle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph G. Dekle. He transferred to Mars Hill College upon completion of an associate degree in music from Chowan. Currently in his second year of studies at Southeastern, Jon serves as Minister of Music for First Baptist Church, Morrisville (Raleigh Association). His wife and fellow-seminarian, the former Tina Jacobs, serves the same church as Minister of Youth.

Dual Roles

The Reverend Laura Early, a 3rd year student at Southeastern, fulfills the roles of wife and mother, while also serving as pastor of the Aulander and Colerain United Methodist Churches. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Josef Gunter, Durham, North Carolina, she is married to Bill Early, a Hertford County native. Mrs. Early attended Chowan in 1978-79, after two years of studies at Florida Southern College. She completed her baccalaureate degree at North Carolina State University.

Pastor of Burnell Church

Currently serving as pastor of Burnell Baptist Church (Johnston Association), the Reverend Tony Futrell is a native of Woodland. He received his baccalaureate degree from Campbell University, following two years of study at Chowan, 1980-82. His diligence, patience, and hard work earned him the coveted Merit Award from Chowan in 1982—an honor reserved for one who has attained, academically, in spite of odds or circumstances which might have deterred a less-determined individual. Mr. Futrell, who was already married and the father of five children at the time of his enrollment at Chowan, had graduated from high school in 1963!

Studied at Mars Hill

Hensley, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Hensley, Marion, attended Chowan College in 1980-81, prior to transferring to Mars Hill College for the completion of his baccalaureate degree in religion studies. He was active in the ministries of Baptist Student Union while at Chowan, and served as a summer youth minister with the Baptist Youth Corps program. Now completing his third year of studies at Southeastern, Hensley also serves as Associate Pastor, Pilot Baptist Church, Zebulon.

Taylor Nears Graduation

The daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R. Hargus Taylor, Chowan's Chaplain since 1963, Marcia Ellen Taylor

received an associate degree in liberal arts from Chowan College. She continued her baccalaureate studies at Meredith College, graduating with a B. S. in math education in 1986. Among her honors and recognitions while at Chowan were membership in Phi Theta Kappa, Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, Highest Scholastic Average (during each of her two years of study), Best All Around Student, and Order of the Silver Feather. She also served as a vice-president of Baptist Student Union and was the recipient of the annual Day Student Award.

Slated to graduate from Southeastern in July, 1988, Marcia will be married to a fellow-seminarian, Philip Edward Thompson, in early August. Thereafter, she will reside in Richmond, Virginia, where her husband will continue his studies at Union Theological Seminary.

Vaughan Serving Pauline Church

Stanley Keith Vaughan, a native of nearby Potecasi, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Vaughan. He earned his baccalaureate degree from Campbell University, following completion of an associate degree in pre-education from Chowan. Mr. Vaughan served as Minister of Music for Rich Square Baptist Church and as director for Chowan's BSU Choir during his student days.

Ordained to the work of the

gospel ministry by Rich Square Baptist Church in August, 1983, Keith has also served as Minister of Music, Princeton Baptist Church. He serves, currently, as Pastor, Pauline Baptist Church, Johnston Association.

Paul Traywick, son of the Rev. and Mrs. B. J. Traywick, Gainesville, Va., attended Chowan with the intention of pursuing a career in a science-related field. After earning the associate degree from Chowan and a baccalaureate degree in biology from Wake Forest University (1979), he taught sciences in Camden County High School, 1979-80; Randolph-Macon Academy, 1980-81; and Lee County (NC) Senior High School, 1985-86. He also served as Chowan's Assistant Director of Admissions, 1982-85.

Traywick enrolled in the M. Div. program at Southeastern in the fall of 1986. While pursuing his studies, he engaged in pastoral supply ministries and taught study courses in several local Baptist Churches.

These eight students, along with their counterparts who have enrolled in other seminaries or divinity schools, represent a growing roster of Chowan alumni who have prepared themselves for service in full-time Christian vocations. Their Alma Mater wishes them all Godspeed as they pursue the individual, personal call to Christian service.