

CHOWAN TODAY

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Jerry F. Jackson inaugurated as Chowan's 20th president, challenges college to go four-year

The inauguration of Dr. Jerry F. Jackson on April 24 as Chowan College's 20th president was a splendid day of regal events.

Baroque trumpets from the balcony of McDowell Columns summoned the processional of faculty and delegates in full academic regalia. Guests luncheoned on the campus green beneath striped tents of yellow and white. An inaugural symposium with a panel of experts on 'educating for the 21st century' intrigued participants to discover new ways of reaching students.

In his inaugural response, President Jackson challenged the Boards of Trustees and Visitors, faculty and staff of the college, saying, "It is time for us to return to our full strength. Chowan was planted here as a four-

year college, and it is time for us to blossom once again into a four-year coeducational college."

A Four-Year Study Committee has been at work for months examining the issue of whether Chowan, a two-year liberal arts college, should become a four-year institution.

"The Baptists claimed this particular plot of Albemarle land for a college in 1848. A Baptist school was planted here, and it has been tended and grown well," stated the new president. "But, we see there is a need here for new crops, and new planting."

Crediting the former president of Campbell University, Leslie H. Campbell, for giving him his first job in higher education, Dr.

Jackson thanked the community and college 'family' for their support of his presidency. He remarked on Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, president emeritus of the college, who served for the past 32 years, saying, "No man in our time or in times past has ever done more for Chowan College than President Bruce Whitaker."

Dr. Thomas Corts, president of Samford University in Alabama delivered the keynote address during the convocation. His address, which was reprinted in *The Biblical Recorder*, was a stirring reflection on the times we are living, and the challenges we must face today.

"We are told each person influences 500 people for good or bad every year. Our Lord

... taught us we are helped one by one. This college will never be what (others) make it, as important as they may be. But, it may very well become what you intend it to be," Dr. Corts concluded.

Greetings from the state were delivered by the Hon. Howard Hunter, Jr., N.C. House of Representatives. Greetings were also brought by the Rev. Gene Lee Watterson, president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, William W. Hill, mayor of Murfreesboro, Benjamin B. Ussery, Jr. from the Board of Visitors, Thomas M. McCrary, from the Board of Trustees, Phyllis Dudley Dewar from the faculty, Janelle Langley Green from the alumni of the college, and James D. Hobbs, from the students.

Chowan commencement confers degrees to 150

Chowan College concluded its 142nd academic year with commencement services on Sunday, May 13.

During graduation exercises, which began on the campus green and were moved to Turner Auditorium because of rain, President Jerry F. Jackson conferred Associate degrees to 148 graduates. Two students were awarded three-year diplomas in commercial art. Eleven students graduated with honors. All graduates were honored at a breakfast in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Jackson graduation morning.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremonies, the 150 graduates rose to their feet in applause for Professor Earl Parker, who received the Excellence in Teaching award as voted by the faculty members of the college. Dr Parker was also honored on Awards Day with the dedication of the Chowan annual, *Chowanoka*.

B. Franklin Lowe, vice president for academic affairs, in presenting the award, stated, "Dr. Parker genuinely cares for students and is always available to give that extra bit of assistance and that word of encouragement. He exemplifies every aspect of college teaching and takes every opportunity to direct and challenge young minds."

The speaker for graduation exercises, Mr. Brady C. Jefcoat, a retired businessman from Raleigh, inspired the audience, saying people can overcome problems in life and succeed. Earlier that day, the baccalaureate speaker Dr. David M. Hughes, president of the Council on Christian Higher Education, challenged

the graduates to 'dream big' reminding them that people 'laughed at Thomas Edison'.

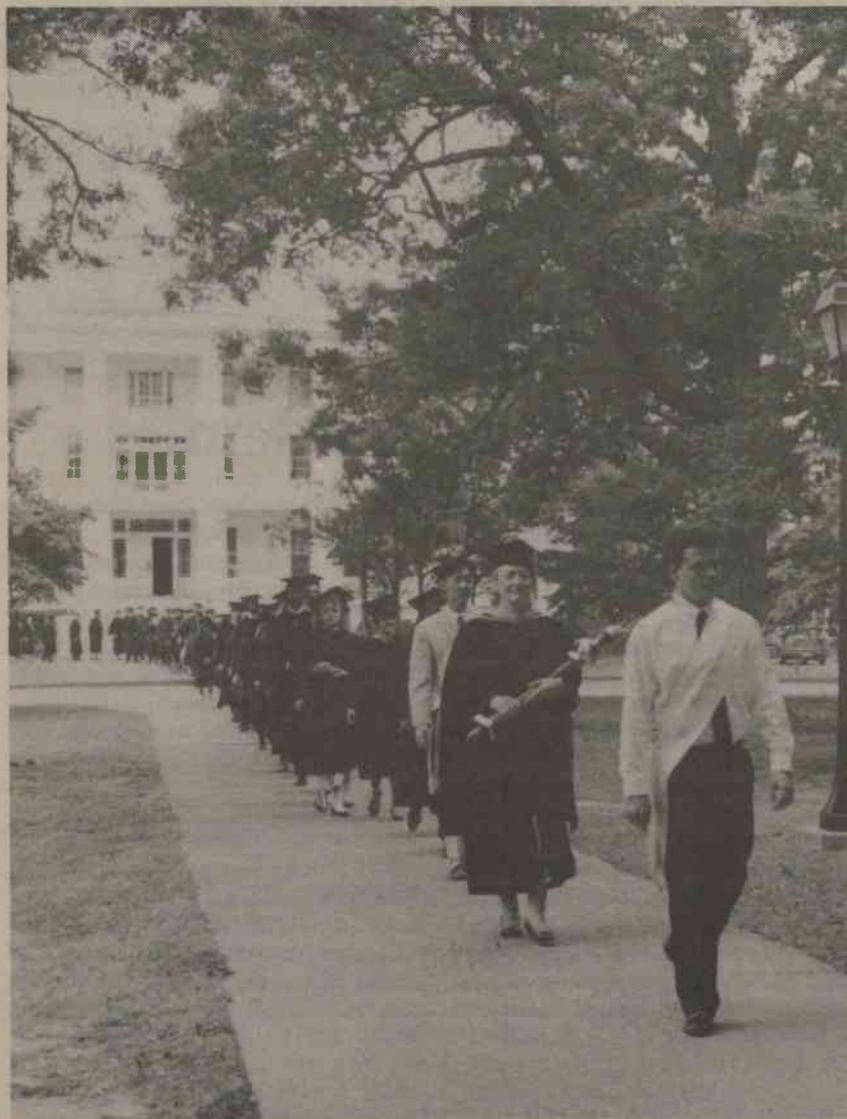
Graduation exercises brought to a conclusion a busy and successful academic year for Chowan College. It was a year in which the 20th president of the college was officially inaugurated, and the new Ella Cobb Camp president's home was dedicated. For the 32nd consecutive year, Chowan operated in the black. Over 80 percent of the college's graduates transferred to senior colleges and universities.

In addition to the liberal arts and sciences, Chowan students continued to excel in career education programs such as commercial art, computer information systems, accounting, business administration, photography, printing technology, and merchandise management, all of which lead to employment after graduation.

Mamie Frey, from Longwood, Florida, who graduated with an Associate degree in commercial art plans to transfer to a four-year institution in Florida to continue her study of commercial art.

As she was celebrating with friends in front of the Columns Building Sunday, she expressed the hope that she could use her talent and degree in art to get a job with the Disney corporation for the summer.

"I have really enjoyed Chowan because it is a small college, and I got so much attention. The Art Department has helped so much, and my teachers have given me recommendations for jobs," stated the graduate.



Student and faculty marshals lead the graduation processional on the Campus Green.