

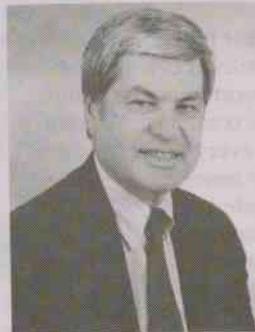
## Chowan College Accelerates Toward Excellence as a Four-Year School

A positive, progressive trend is evident on campus, providing momentum for Chowan College's return to senior college status.

College officials say progress encompasses all areas of the college. President Jerry Jackson noted, "Academics has been strengthened with the addition of 13 new four-year programs."

He said these include business administration, commercial art, studio art, art education, teacher education, English, liberal studies, mathematics, music education, printing production technology, religion, physical education and science.

doesn't belong to any one department. Eason expects the lab to become the "brain center of campus" and to significantly increase students' opportunity to have access to the latest computer equipment.



Jackson

Students in English classes are using the lab to write their term papers. Eason said business administration majors and English composition students are learning to use computers. Art students are using the Computer Lab, as well. Eason said that one goal is to link the Texie Camp Marks Computer Lab to the library. Students will then be able to access library resources

without leaving the computer center.

### Education

Education is the newest department at Chowan. Dr. Charles Bentley, chairman, said Chowan now offers teacher certification programs in seven areas. These include elementary education, K-6; art, music and physical education, K-12; and math, English and science, 9-12.

Vice President for Academic Affairs B. Franklin Lowe, Jr. said two additional bachelor programs will be added in the fall of 1993, sports management and applied science/health science.

"This year marks a milestone as the school returns to four-year status," said Dr. Jackson,



Lowe

noting Chowan added a junior class this fall and the first senior class in 55 years will be added next fall. In the spring of 1994, Chowan will graduate its first four-year class since 1937

Dr. Lowe said the college has some 65

juniors and their enthusiasm is creating excitement across campus during Chowan's transition to four-year status.

He said the juniors are "eagerly looking forward to being part of the first graduating class in years."

### Computer Lab

Under-girding the academic program is an increase in computer services to students. The new Texie Camp Marks Computer Lab features 50 new computers according to Department of Business Professor Andrea Eason.

Four foundations, Camp-Younts, Ruth Camp Campbell Charitable Trust, Camp, and Fletcher, contributed \$140,000 to establish the Computer Lab. It is named for Texie Camp Marks, a long-time supporter and member of the Board of Visitors from Boykins, VA.

"We are very excited to offer the students the new Computer Lab," stated Eason, who is responsible for academic computer services. She said it is a campus-wide resource and

### Retention

Staff member Austine Evans said one of the most important indicators of the future health of Chowan is the increase of retention of students. Evans is director of retention, the freshman year experience, and academic advisement.

She explained retention as the persistence of students to remain at Chowan during a semester, from one semester to the next, from one year to the next, and ultimately all four years. "Close to three-fourths of the 1991 fall freshmen persisted to the second year," said Evans. "The percentage of students who have withdrawn this year is down from last year and previous years. The more capable students are returning at a higher rate. This is a very good sign for the future."

Keeping students is a by-product of improving campus conditions and meeting needs of students. "Retention is the concern of the entire campus," said Evans. "All departments are represented on a 25-member Retention Management team that meets monthly. A five-member steering committee meets weekly."

She said when polled, students give favorable marks to factors like campus safety, improved residence hall life, opportunity to express opinions on rules and policies affecting them, and availability of organizations and activities.

"Students in general are pleased with the care and attention they receive from their professors," Evans said.

College 101, a course for first-time freshmen, contributes to students staying at Chowan. The course helps them adjust to college, have a better understanding of the

learning process and acquire academic "survival skills."

Increased tutoring opportunities by Academic Support Services (headed by Mrs. Janet Rogers), also helps. "Chowan is moving in the right direction. Based on my studies of retention, enrollment should increase over the next several years," Evans said. The college has had an increase in applications for the following spring and fall semesters.



Evans

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Eason

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