

Alumni Happenings

'80--Harold L. Williams has been named acting athletic director at Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va. Williams is also president of the CIAA Track and Field Coaches Association.

'80--Francis John Fitzgerald is image specialist and manages all of Scitex Systems for People weekly magazine in New York. Besides doing People, the imaging department does an Australian version of the magazine called "Who Weekly."

'81--Arminda L. Ranson and Vassili Panayiotou were married June 15 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Arminda is administrative assistant at Omni Life Insurance in Nicosia. They will live in Nicosia.

'82--John Sours married Deborah Cole May 16. He is manager at Sours and Associates, Inc., in Hampton, Va.

'84--Addison Restein has a son, Joseph Addison Restein, born November 10, 1991.

'84--Robert L. McKinney III married Chrisanna Trollinger in September. McKinney is self-employed with McKinney Enterprises, Inc.

'84--Ray Charles Spencer and Traci Lee Edwards were married June 27. Spencer is employed by Crane Research and Engineering in Hampton, Va. The couple will be living in Hampton.

'86--Melvin Earl Campbell married Barbara Jean Capers May 9. He is employed by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol in Columbus County.

'86--Dr. Karen Lynn Harrell married Stewart Tosto May 16. Karen received her doctorate in pharmacy from the School of Pharmacy at Campbell University in Buies Creek. She is a clinical pharmacist at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

'86--Danny Lee Acree and Angela Wade were married August 15. He is employed at Champion International and they live in Roanoke Rapids.

'86--David Michael Mariniak and Deena Renee Covington were married February 29. David is a branch manager at ITT Financial Services, located in Hampton, Va., where they will live.

'86--Mary Lynne Epps and Charles Milton Hayes were married July 31. She is employed by Surry Furniture Co., Inc. and lives in Surry, Va.

'87--Robert Allen Anderson and Jennifer Marie Purdie were married September 19. Robert is employed by Progress Printing Company. The couple will live in Lynchburg, Va.

'87--Gregory Hill Granger married Lisa Newton August 15. Gregory is a paralegal at Jones, Blechman, Woltz and Kelly in Newport News. The couple will reside in Williamsburg.

'87--Tracy Lynn Whitley and Walter Mack Sykes Jr. were married July 11. Tracy works with her husband in his insurance office. They reside in Lasker, N.C.

'89--Dena Kay Cutchins married Nelson Gilbert Steele III May 9. She is employed at Schwel Furniture Company in Franklin, Va.

'89--Jennifer R. Stephens recently received a bachelor's degree in commerce from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia.

'90--Celeste Keller is patient accounts representative in GoldenCare at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Va.

'90--Frances Elizabeth Brooks and Axon Darren Sholar were married October 3. The couple will be residing in Montana.

'90--Sheri Leigh Thorpe and Loren Heath Tomlin were married May 16. Sheri is employed at American General Finance. The couple will reside in Waverly, Va.

'91--Stacey Rae Curry and Randall Wade Mooneyham were married August 22. Stacey is employed by American Safety Razor Company. The couple will reside in Staunton, Va.

1992 Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni for 1992 were announced at Chowan's Homecoming in November. Richard L. Thompson, class of 1961 and Carlyle R. Wimbish Jr., class of 1958, are this year's recipients.

Thompson, a native of Warren County, received his A.A. from Chowan in 1961 and continued his education at Elon College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In 1979, he received his doctorate of educational administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dedicated to education, Thompson accepted his first teaching position in 1964 as teacher and coach at Concord High School. Since those early years, Thompson has climbed the professional ladder of education in a steady, distinguished pace.

Throughout his career he has held positions as assistant principal, instructor, assistant to the dean, superintendent of Lexington City Schools and superintendent of Tupelo Public Schools in Mississippi.

In 1990, Thompson became state superintendent of education for the State of Mississippi. Two years later he accepted the position of director of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, located in Cullowhee, North Carolina. The center has grown to be nationally recognized for its work in education.

Thompson has also served as Adjunct Professor at UNC-Greensboro and as a certified consultant to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Involved in professional educational organizations in Mississippi and North Carolina, he has been in educational work on a national level as well.

He has served as presenter, representative, director, and delegate to these organizations and has, in recent years, served as a member of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the state board of Rehabilitation Services in Mississippi, Mississippi Children's Trust Fund Advisory Council, Mississippi Economic Council and the Governor's Commission on Workforce Excellence. He has also been the publisher of several articles concerning education.

Outside education, he is involved in civic, church and community activities such as Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement, Boy Scouts of America, The United Way, and Rotary International.

He is the father of two daughters, Tara Elizabeth and Whitney Diane.

Carlyle R. Wimbish from Portsmouth, Virginia received his A.A. from Chowan in the late 50's before moving on to Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he received his B.S. degree.

His professional life can be described as rich in diversity and entrepreneurial in spirit. In 34 years since leaving Chowan, he has held numerous positions involved in education. They range from public to private and from elementary to higher education.

Wimbish was the first director of alumni affairs at his alma mater. From Chowan, he became head master at Patrick Henry Academy in Virginia.

In 1971, Wimbish left work in education to pursue business at Halifax Wholesale, Inc. of South Boston. A wholesale grocery business with sales in excess of two million dollars annually, Wimbish served as president and general manager there. He opened a paint supply store while working at Halifax Wholesale and worked in real estate and insurance as well.

When Wimbish left Halifax Wholesale in 1986, he took his years of business and education experience and invested them into the college environment. Currently, he is director of the small business center at Piedmont Community College in Roxboro. His job involves providing technical and managerial assistance to small business owners and prospective owners.

Wimbish currently serves on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, offering prudent advice to the Alumni Association and the office for which he first served at Chowan.

He has been married to the former Jo Weatherford of South Boston, Virginia for 31 years. They have two sons, Carlyle R. Wimbish III and Robert E. Wimbish.



The 1992 Distinguished Alumni are pictured here with some of their family members. TOP--Richard L. Thompson, left, with daughter Tara and brother, Ed Thompson with Ed's wife, Ruby. BOTTOM--Carlyle R. Wimbish, with wife, Jo and their sons, Carlyle R. Wimbish III and Robert E. Wimbish.