

## Development &amp; College Relations

From Gene Puckett's "Perspectives" column in the *Biblical Recorder* (Vol. 159, No. 13, April 3, 1993):

## Chowan, 'The Four-Year College'

MANY GOOD and exciting things are happening at the colleges and universities affiliated with the Baptist State Convention as the current academic year enters the countdown toward graduation in May.

Not the least of the positive things taking place is the progress being made at Chowan College in its four-year program development. Founded by the Chowan Baptist Association in 1848 as a female college, the school in Murfreesboro was a four-year institution until the late 1930s. It then became a two-year program and struggled for survival.

The arrival of Bruce E. Whitaker as president in 1957 became the turning point. From that date onward, Chowan began to prosper, buildings were constructed, the campus more fully developed and the school grew.

The arrival of Jerry Jackson to succeed President Whitaker in 1989 was another turning point. In the late 1980s, the administration and trustees studied and discussed the wisdom of returning to a four-year program. Competition was keen with community colleges in the area and there were no other four-year schools for approximately 60 miles.

In his inaugural address, President Jackson staked out the future of his administration—a four-year program. The trustees concurred and the process was soon set in motion. Today, there are more than 70 juniors on campus, the first time to have a third-year class in nearly 60 years. The first graduating class with baccalaureate degrees is scheduled for May 1994.

In the move to a four-year program, open admissions was discontinued and selective admissions was put into operation. That naturally produced some drop in enrollment during the transition. The school is targeting students in the 700-1100 SAT range and President Jackson clearly states that the admission rules will be flexible but that "we refuse to accept any student whom we think doesn't have a chance in graduating. That really isn't fair to the student."

With the assistance of grants and scholarships, the tuition at Chowan has remained highly competitive as a small private school, even when compared with some state-supported colleges.

The future looks good for Chowan as the college enters a new era of service and ministry primarily to Northeastern North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia, the target areas for most student recruitment.

However, the student enrollment now reflects 37 percent from Virginia, 40 percent from North Carolina plus students from 26 states and 16 foreign countries in all. Simultaneously, Chowan is focused locally, nationally and internationally. The signs are encouraging for tomorrow.

## Agricultural Celebration

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presented by William J. Griffin, county extension director, Bertie County;

"Strategy for Dealing with Anticipated Tax Changes" presented by C. Bradley Collins, area specialized associate agent, Farm Business Management, Tarboro, NC;

"Agriculture Credit" presented by Daisy G. Perry, vice president and city executive, Centura Bank, Windsor, NC;

"Weather Based Pest Management Systems" presented by Dr. Jack Bailey, professor of plant pathology, North Carolina State University;

"Agribusiness Forecast" presented by Charles L. Moore, extension specialist, North Carolina State University; and

"Stress Management on the Farm" presented by Lisa S. Newsome, director of Hertford County AQUOLA.

Each topic was presented twice during the afternoon. The eight topics and their presenters were selected with assistance from farm owners, farm producers, leaders in agribusiness and the local directors of the Cooperative Extension Centers.

Participants who wished to attend only two presentations opted for a free tour of Historic Murfreesboro. The following facilities were open for their pleasure: the farm exhibit, blacksmith shop, country store, Rea Museum and gift shop.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

The appreciation dinner began at 6:30 p.m. in Thomas Cafeteria. The keynote speaker was Dr. Durward F. Bateman, dean of the college of agriculture and life sciences at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Bateman has been the dean of the college of agriculture and life sciences at North Carolina State University since February 1986. He leads one of our nation's largest and most comprehensive colleges of its type. The college's program encompasses the activities of the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service, the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service and the Division of Academic Affairs with undergraduate and graduate programs in both agriculture and biological sciences.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Bateman received a B.S. degree in botany with honors from North Carolina State University in 1965. He received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant pathology from Cornell University in 1958 and 1960, respectively, where he joined the faculty in 1960. He taught at Cornell until 1979, when he came to North Carolina State University as associate dean of the college of agriculture and life sciences.

He has served as chairman of the Southern Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Association (1985), chairman of the Council of Administrative Heads of Agriculture for the Southern Region (1988) and is currently president of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists.

Dr. Bateman has authored more than 70 scientific papers, lectured in more than 30 universities throughout the world and participated in numerous international symposia dealing with host-parasite relationships.

## SPECIAL THANKS

"We could not have planned the event without the



By Jerry Hedgpeth

ABOVE: During Dr. Bateman's address, the college's guests hung on his every word as some finished their meal and others kicked back to relax and listen.



By Jerry Hedgpeth

RIGHT: Dr. Durward F. Bateman, dean of the college of agriculture and life sciences at N. C. State University, addresses the dinner on the importance of new agricultural technology.

time, consultation and technical support given us by the regional county extension directors and their staffs," said Clayton Lewis, Chowan College's director of corporate and foundation relations. "Bill Rogister from Northampton County, Johnny Parker from Southampton, Billy Griffin from Bertie, Zackie Harrell and Michael Hare from Gates and Deborah Howard from Hertford County were especially helpful in putting this event together.

"The consultation of Dell Cotton and Stephen Carroll from the Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association was also very beneficial to this endeavor, as well as the advice from local farmers and agribusinessmen J. Lewis Storey, Charles Revelle Jr. and Percy Bunch."

Chowan and the Cooperative Extension Agencies of the Roanoke-Chowan would like to thank the following for their strong support which has made this event possible:

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## Chowan Today

USPS 715-880 ISSN 1051-9580

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Published by Chowan College, a four-year senior college controlled by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and founded 1848. The college, located in Murfreesboro, North Carolina, returned to four-year status after an unanimous vote by the college's Board of Trustees on September 8, 1990.

Comments, suggestions and informational submissions from alumni, friends and parents are welcome. Please send them to Director of College Relations, PO Box 1848, Murfreesboro, N. C., 27855.

Published four times a year in March, June, September and December. Postmaster: Send 3575 to Chowan Today, Chowan College, PO Box 1848, Murfreesboro, N. C., 27855.

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