

The President's Report

Establishing new identity as a four-year institution

As the 1995-96 academic year begins, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in the Office of the President for this one year interim while the search for the continuing President is carried out. It is a privilege to join an able and committed faculty and a dedicated, competent administrative team. An interim presidency role can range from dealing with a major crisis to simply "staying the course." Fortunately, neither extreme is the case with Chowan and thus my commitment is to serve as an active leader, advocating those changes needed to continue the process of becoming a four-year baccalaureate institution and to prepare for the new administration.

Chowan has a long and distinctive heritage and a historical record as an outstanding two-year, associate degree institution. As a four-year, baccalaureate institution, we are entering a new and challenging arena which requires us to change and to confront the realities that face such colleges. To be successful in achieving our place in this arena, it is essential that we address such fundamentals as "knowing who we are" and to specify, as clearly as possible, "what we want to become." It is out of such self awareness and determination, and the planning it entails, that Chowan will define and establish its identity as a four-year baccalaureate college. Fortunately, planning has become a way of life within the institution thus the current documentation of that plan will provide the basis upon which we will move to this next level of planning and forecasting.

Concurrently, and as the main focus of this interim period, will be enrollment planning, its management and aggressive implementation of particular strategies to enlist new students and to assure the continuance of those already here. So the rally calls are "recruitment" and "re-recruitment" (retention)! To achieve our goals will continue to require a well trained, hard working and competent admissions staff — nothing short of exceptional people. I believe we have such persons and our presence in the marketplace of prospective college students will be competitive. Though there are many and various efforts and programs already in action by faculty and the administrative staff to assure the return of freshmen as they move on to their sophomore year and sophomores to their junior year, etc., it is imperative that we improve the percentage of continuing students in all classes, and thus we will be initiating a broader, even more intense program of re-recruitment. A key factor in every aspect of enrollment management—be it the recruiting of new students or the re-recruitment of continuing students—is making Chowan affordable. Thus, we must stay in the forefront of financial aid administration so as to achieve the enrollment goals needed while sustaining a sound fiscal operation; This is no small order and herein lies perhaps the greatest threat to the survival of small, independent colleges like Chowan.

Inherently imbedded in realizing our enrollment goals, rests the need to provide more options for academic study. It is here in the area of academic programs where we have much to do including the strengthening of existing programs as well as the addition of new ones. The requirements are obvious—qualified, properly degreed faculty, program resources, including those in the Library, career counseling and planning which embraces expected job opportunities and assistance for those wanting to go to professional and graduate schools. The presence and ready access of state-of-the-art technology is as fundamental to

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Has served several institutions

Dr. Herman Collier, Jr., named interim president

Dr. Herman E. Collier, Jr., a former college professor and president, has been named Interim President at Chowan College and assumed his position on August 1.

A native of Missouri, Dr. Collier will fill the office vacated by Dr. Jerry F. Jackson, who has resigned to become Vice President for University Relations at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama.

Mrs. Elaine E. Myers, chair of Chowan's Board of Trustees, said "Dr. Collier has agreed to serve as our interim president during the time the Presidential Search Committee is engaged with the task of finding and recommending to the Board of Trustees a candidate for the Presidency on a permanent basis." The process is expected to take six to twelve months.

"We have been very impressed with Dr. Collier's ability to quickly perceive our major needs," Mrs. Myers stated, "as well as his willingness and desire to continue to move the institution forward."

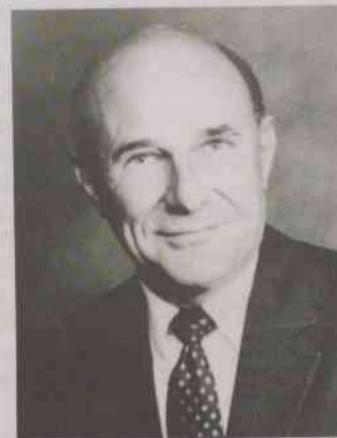
Dr. Collier said that his "view of an interim presidency should provide a focus on the immediate needs of the institution whereby the college might optimize efforts to reach established goals and objectives."

"Chowan has a unique opportunity," he continued, "to build upon a long history as a two-year college and to continue her progress, programs and mission in higher education as a senior institution."

Collier received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Randolph-Macon College and was awarded the M. S. in Inorganic Chemistry and the Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry by Lehigh University. He has completed additional studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

He has served as a professor and departmental chairman on the college level as well as a research chemist in private industry.

Collier served as president of Moravian College for 17 years and was the interim



Dr. Herman Collier

president of Salem Academy and College of Winston-Salem during the spring of 1991.

In July 1994 he was appointed interim president of North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount and completed his responsibilities there in the spring.

The recipient of five honorary degrees, Collier has received numerous recognitions to include the Medallion of Merit by the Moravian College Alumni Association. The trustees of Moravian College named the Herman E. Collier, Jr., Hall of Science in his honor and also the faculty development endowment.

Listed in "Who's Who in America" and "American Men and Women of Science," Collier has been active in the independent colleges' organizations of Pennsylvania. He was also a member of Task Force IV, Higher Education Master Plan for Pennsylvania and is a veteran of military service with the U. S. Navy.

Collier is married to the former Jerline L. Weston of Hopewell, VA, and they are the parents of three sons.

A member of Kitty Hawk United Methodist Church, the Colliers currently live in their retirement home at Point Harbor, but will live in the Ella Cobb Camp President's Home during the interim presidency.

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