

# Chowan

*A newsmagazine for alumni, parents and friends*

# Today

## Chowan embarks upon journey into 21st century

By DR. STANLEY G. LOTT, *President, Chowan College*

I am delighted that my tenure at Chowan has begun with the beginning of the 1996-97 academic year. The faculty, staff and administration are returning to their respective posts with a sense of renewal and anticipation.

This really marks the beginning of our collaborative efforts to take Chowan College into the 21st century. I am proud of what has been done at this institution through the years. I acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker and his 33 years of outstanding and progressive leadership; to Dr. Jerry Jackson for his six years of courageous and ground-breaking leadership; and to Dr. Herman E. Collier, Jr., who believed that an interim president should be more than a caretaker. All of us stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us and must provide strong shoulders for those who will follow.

The task that lies before us will not be easy. Our 148-year history guarantees us nothing. I am optimistic about the future, but that future is not assured. I have said previously that the question facing Chowan is not whether it will survive, but whether it will be significant. The importance of survival, of course, must not be minimized, but in the final analysis, our survival will be a by-product of our being significant.

Being significant means being worthwhile, of consequence, of having meaning. Being significant has to do with the impact that we have on the lives of our students. Being significant has to do with our determination to make a difference in the life of our community and our region. Being significant means that, collectively and individually, we conduct ourselves and our

business in a way that gives us a feeling of pride and worth. If we cannot be significant, perhaps we do not deserve to survive. If we achieve significance, we will not have to be concerned about survival.

One of the things that must be done is to create a new environment for our students. We cannot be reminded too often or too strongly that they are our reason for being. Even when we must say no to them, or discipline them, we must always convey to our students that they are important to us and that we care for them. As an institution that is centered on Christian principles, we can do no less.

The quality of campus life for our students is a critically important is-

sue and it is imperative that we create such an environment that students will want to complete their education at Chowan. The Chowan experience must become very special to our students!

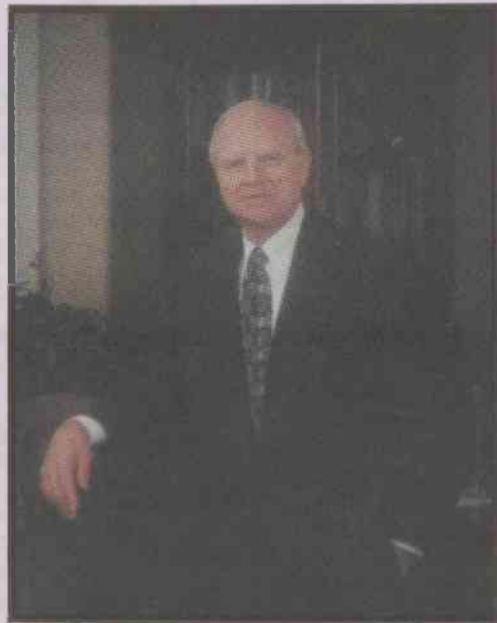
For too long, student life has been divided unnecessarily into two areas, curricular and extra-curricular, classroom and campus. We must find creative ways to transform this entire campus into a rich, educational environment. In this way, we can make the Chowan experience more special for our students and increase our opportunities to have a significant impact on their lives.

I strongly and enthusiastically endorse the curriculum transformation efforts that are currently underway. I believe that our technology initiative is being realized just in the nick of time and that we must do all that is necessary to maximize its impact on the work of this college. Beyond the computer software, hardware, and networking, it is important for every faculty member to become creative and intelligent users of this technology. It is important that, as soon as possible, we begin to integrate the technology into the learning process because we still have a window of opportunity to get out ahead of the crowd on this one. We cannot afford to lag behind.

Another need that must be addressed in the days ahead is that of changing the focus from teaching to learning and from passive to collaborative and interactive learning. The emergence of the computer technology as a powerful presence in the classroom should facilitate these changes. There is some interesting research on how much knowledge students retain from particular pedagogical approaches. We need to ensure that we are using the most effective approaches.

It is also imperative that we take pride in our heritage. We must not be embarrassed that we are church related. In fact, this is a part of identity that we should celebrate. We must continue to explore the meaning and implications of being a Christ-centered institution.

The work that must be done will require the combined efforts of all who love and labor for Chowan College. We must all work together to move this institution successfully into the 21st century. We cannot achieve the promising potential of Chowan College if we do not collaborate on common goals, some of which have already been established and others that will be developed along the way.



DR. STANLEY G. LOTT  
21st President of Chowan College

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## SGA president extends welcome to Class of 2000



LAURA ALLGOOD  
President,  
Student Government  
Association

(Following is the convocation address by Laura Allgood, president of the Student Government Association, presented on Sunday evening, August 25, in historic McDowell Columns auditorium.)

I want to welcome the administration, faculty, staff and the Class of 2000 to the beginning of the 1996-97 school term.

Many important events will occur during your years at Chowan College. Most of you will have the experience of voting in your first presidential election. You will see an increase in the minimum wage twice within the next year. The welfare system will experience a major transformation soon. Yet, each of these events are insignificant compared to the

remarkable experience you will have during your college years.

By now you have realized a number of things. First, this is a whole new experience. You've arrived on campus, you have talked with your roommate, and, you've started to get unpacked. You may be overwhelmed by being uprooted from your family, friends and familiar surroundings.

College is NOT just an opportunity to receive an education, but it is a growth experience. There are numerous opportunities available for growth on the campus of Chowan College. We have a number of clubs and organizations and active participation in

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