

Chowan

A newsmagazine for alumni, parents and friends

Today

The Inauguration of President Stanley G. Lott Thursday, April 17, 1997

A full scope of festivities to celebrate the inauguration of President Stanley G. Lott will begin Sunday, April 13, 1997. Austine Evans, vice president for student enrollment, has been selected to chair the Inauguration Steering Committee.

Committee members include, Lisa Blockus, Randy Brantley, Jim Chamblee, Joe Colaric, Brenda Gordon, Frank Lowe, E. Vincent Tilson

and Ken Wolfskill. Representing trustees on the committee are, Lynette Bunch, Bob Spivey and Clement Yancy. Laura Allgood and Jeremy Funk will represent students.

Seven subcommittees have been formed to manage the variety of activities associated with the event. Mark your calendar now for a very special week in the history of Chowan College.

Chowan receives largest estate gift in the history of the institution

Miss Ruth Thomas, alumna from Class of 1912, leaves more than \$1 million

Chowan College has received more than \$1,000,000 through a bequest of the late Ruth M. Thomas of Cofield, an alumna who was a strong financial supporter for the college throughout her entire adult life.

The bequest is the largest gift in the history of Chowan College, according to E. Vincent Tilson, vice president for development.

"Through her deeds, influence, support and constant encouragement, Ruth Thomas enriched the lives of many young men and women at her alma mater," Tilson said. "She was not only a strong benefactor of Chowan College, but she made many significant contributions to her community and to her church and did so quite often with a quiet and dedicated spirit."

Through the distribution of the Ruth Thomas Estate, the college received \$108,000 in bequest funds, \$800,000 in cash through the distribution of a trust fund and \$156,000 in real estate.

"Throughout the years before her death, Ruth Thomas was a major benefactor of the college," said Tilson. "She contributed toward various campaign drives for library expansion and cafeteria construction and to establish scholarship funds for needy and worthy students. She also donated timber and farm lands to Chowan. Other members of her family have strongly supported the college, also."

The Thomas family has had a longtime association with Chowan.

Mary Green Mitchell Thomas was a graduate of Chowan Baptist Female Institute in the Class of 1876. Her two daughters were also graduates—Mary, Class of 1902, and Ruth, Class of 1917.

Thomas' father, R. P. Thomas, served several terms on the board of trustees from 1883 to 1916. He was chairman of the board

in 1889 when the name of the institution first included the word "college."

A brother and sister also served on the college's governing board. W. A. Thomas served two terms on the board of trustees in 1954-58 and 1960-64, and Mary Thomas served a one-year term in 1947.

"The Thomas family had an abiding faith in, and love for, this institution of Christian higher education," noted Tilson. "It is a genuine and everlasting source of satisfaction to all of us that she remembered Chowan College in her last will and testament. Her life and spirit will live through the college for many generations to come."

"The Thomas family had an abiding love for this institution."



**"Day for
Chowan"
Successful**

Leaders in the seventh annual Day for Chowan campaign, proclaimed victory at the Ella Cobb Camp President's Home Nov. 7. The goal of \$160,000 was surpassed as volunteers and their spouses applauded a total of \$176,093.32. Proudly displaying the results were, from left: Larry Joyner, event co-chair, and Laurie Bass, director of Chowan's annual fund and Day for Chowan, along with Tommie Hill, event co-chair, and President Stanley Lott.