

Parker boat christened for Chowan's environmental research



Linwood Parker '66 and Emily Deaver, assistant professor of science, evaluate the logistics of boat christening.

With a prayer of dedication, the crown jewel of the new environmental studies program was launched from Shoup's Landing on the scenic Chowan River November 1. Chowan alumnus, Linwood Parker '66, recently supported the department of science with a donation of time and labor for the production of a custom-crafted, 18' center-console, commercial power boat. Parker, owner of Parker Marine Enterprises, Inc., of Beaufort, North Carolina was in Murfreesboro during Homecoming weekend for the christening of the vessel.

Equipped with the latest electronic equipment, including a global positioning system unit and depthfinder, sampling equipment such as plankton nets, trawls, bottom dredges for sediment samples and meters will be used from the boat to study and compare different aquatic ecosystems.

Chowan's new environmental biology major was added this fall within the department of science. The college's unique location allows for easy access to numerous aquatic habitats including the Meherrin and Chowan Rivers, Dismal Swamp, Currituck and Albemarle Sound, as well as, estuarine and coastal environments along the Outer Banks.

Assistant professor of biology, Emily Deaver, notes, "Although some studies can be conducted from shore, a boat is needed to access numerous study sites on local rivers

and effectively sample and study the larger bodies of water. The addition of the boat to the program allows for studies in freshwater, estuarine and saltwater ecosystems including nearshore and deepwater habitats."

With current global emphasis on wetlands and environmental quality, students will be uniquely equipped with "hands-on" experience for a variety of positions, including careers in teaching, research and government, and will be well-prepared for admission to professional and graduate schools.

Prayer of Dedication

by E. Vincent Tilson
Vice President for Development

Father, we present this vessel now to the waters of your creation with the sense of deep reverence which we feel when we read in Genesis that "God called the dry land earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas."

We present this vessel to the waters of your creation ever grateful both for the generosity of Linwood Parker and for the men and women whose skilled hands, whose alert minds and whose altogether careful craftsmanship in the proud name of Parker Marine shaped this boat to foot flawlessly and safely even as the ark of Noah "floated on the face of the waters."

Know, love and honor the sincerity of each of us this morning as we, in behalf of all who will ever board this boat, pray your providence upon every person while they use this vessel. In the midst of the breeze upon the faces of those who teach and those who learn using this equipment, may there be the sweet protective presence of the Lord of whom the disciples marveled saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey him?"

So it is that as we launch and christen this vessel this morning, we do so, God, pledging before you our wisest stewardship of this resource. We pledge before you its operation in the safest possible manner so as to honor the sanctity of human life as those who use this research vessel explore, protect and promote the magnificent natural world of your creating.

Accept our prayer and plea in the spirit of Christ our Lord who "about the fourth watch of the night came to his disciples, walking on the sea." Amen.



Linwood Parker '66 takes the helm of the new environmental research vessel. Accompanying him are Garth Faile, science department chair, Johnnye Lott, Chowan student Christina Smith and President Stan Lott. (l-r)



Virginia Day for Chowan welcomed 37 volunteers from the Southampton and Franklin areas, who were instrumental in raising \$3, 215.00 in pledges and gifts. Pictured above are (l-r) Stan Lott, Chowan's president, and Charlie Greiner, senior vice president and general manager, Fine Paper Division, Union Camp Corporation.



Sharing experiences before speaking to the Day for Chowan gathering are (l-r) Allison Murray '98, graphics design major from Charlotte, NC, Tony Farmer '99, graphics major from Lynchburg, VA, and Bonny Alphonso '99, graphics major from Greensboro, NC.