



Professor Joyce Elliott, former soap opera star, talks to two of her voice and diction students, from left, Jeanne Norfleet of Roxobel and Jill Wells of Forest City.

From 'Nurse Casey' to 'Dr.' Elliott

—During the height of her acting career in New York City, Joyce Elliott was "Nurse Casey" on the daytime soap opera "Search for Tomorrow."

Elliott also appeared often in "The Secret Storm," another daytime soap, as well as numerous commercials promoting products ranging from coffee to detergents.

Today, however, she has traded her acting career for that of a housewife and college professor. From the hustle of New York to the quiet atmosphere of tiny Sunbury, Elliott now teaches voice and diction at Chowan.

Elliott, who has been at Chowan since 1984, had decided acting was no longer for her 10 years before. "Ten years ago my life changed when I decided acting was not what I wanted anymore. I began to realize acting was a self-indulgent life. I had to stay at 114 pounds. My hair and nails had to be just right. It looks glamorous to the outsider, but you feel like you're just a commodity."

In 1974 she entered the doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she earned the Ed.D. in gerontology and theater.

While living in New York she became involved with the Social Action and Urban Involvement Committee of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church which worked with drug addicts, prison ministries, senior citizens and others. She also worked with Project FIND, an organization which sponsored coffeehouses "for old people who used to just sit around the bus station."

Elliott also worked with theater projects for older adults and later taught drama in New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. She moved to North Carolina in 1978 when she married Bedford Horton Brown "who had deep roots in the area."

Elliott has not given up acting completely. She continues to be involved in drama in the local community as well as on campus. She developed community theater for area senior citizens and youth and recently appeared in the Chowan Players' production of the Broadway play "You Can't Take It With You."

The difference today, however, is her priorities. "I still think of myself as an actress, but acting is no longer number one in my life.

Chowan College Scholarshare

Sidney Ruff is a Chowan College student from Florence, S.C. In addition to his studies and campus activities, Sidney also works parttime in the Thomas Cafeteria on campus.

Sidney is one of 360 Chowan students who work up to 20 hours a week to help pay for their college education. Without this financial aid, many of these students would not be able to remain in college.

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