

SMOKE SIGNALS

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The new Trading Post Bookstore offers a wide variety of products and supplies. Aldeen Gatewood, manager, sells balloons for all occasions to Chowan students.

Chowan open doors for 144th year, many campus changes being noted

As the school opened its doors for the 144th year, the student body numbered 738 with 458 freshmen, a decline in enrollment from the previous years.

One of the reasons for the decrease in the number of students enrolled at Chowan is the smaller amount of high school graduates in the class of 1991. Demographically, there is a smaller pool of applicants from which to draw freshmen. This trend is expected to continue through the early nineties.

In preparation for becoming a four year college, Chowan took steps to improve the quality of students at Chowan. For the first

time ever, Chowan refused admittance to 158 applicants. SAT scores were required for the first time, and in anticipation of joining the Division III athletic ranks, Chowan is doing away with athletic scholarships because Division III schools are not allowed to give out athletic scholarships.

Fewer students is not the only change that has met the Chowan Braves this year. The Lakeside Student Center has been renamed in their honor. It is now dubbed the Braves' Den. The Thomas Cafeteria has new tables and chairs and brighter colors to improve the atmosphere and make the cafeteria more serviceable. The bookstore

has also been changed. It is now located in the back of the Columns Building.

Another change that most returning students will not notice is the addition of a freshman year experience course called "College 101". The class' purpose is to provide first time college students with practical information about adjusting to college and succeeding in a higher education environment.

Most of the changes Chowan has experienced and is continuing to go through are preparations for next year's junior class and Chowan's rebirth as a four year college.

New faculty members join Chowan at beginning of semester

Dr. Charles P. Bentley has joined the faculty of Chowan as chairman of the college's new department of education. He comes to Chowan from



Dr. Bentley

Wilkesboro, N.C. where for the past ten years he was director of the Regional Education Center and member of the State Superintendent's Administrative Team for the state of North Carolina.

Dr. Bentley assumed responsibilities for the department of education at Chowan in early August. Education is one of the four-year degrees Chowan will offer beginning in the fall of 1992.

Dr. Bentley has a wide range of experience in education including fifteen years as associate superintendent for instruction and personnel for the 12,000 pupil school

system in Wilkes County, N.C. He served for three years as principal of the junior high in Kernersville, N.C. and five years as a teacher at the elementary level in Winston-Salem N.C. He also has ten years of experience as adjunct professor in curriculum and school administration at Appalachian State University Graduate School.

A graduate of Mars Hill College with an associate of arts degree, he holds a bachelor's degree in social studies and English from Wake Forest University; and a master's of education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a graduate teaching certificate in social studies and school administration. He also received the educational specialist degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He earned the doctorate in education in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

He is a member of the First Baptist Church of North

Wilkesboro where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and on the personnel and financial committees of the church.

The new professor of English in the department of language and literature at Chowan is Dr. Richard R. Gay who joined the faculty at the beginning of the fall semester.



Dr. Richard R. Gay

Dr. Gay received the doctoral degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He holds the bachelor's and master's degrees in English from the University of Richmond in Virginia. He completed his doctoral thesis on "The Deianean Tradition in Six English Tragedies".

His previous teaching experi-

ence includes ten years of teaching secondary English in the Virginia Public schools; six semesters of teaching English undergraduate courses at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and English lab assistant at the University of Richmond.

Dr. Gay is the author of journal articles, one of which recently appeared in Notes on Mississippi Writers, entitled "Arthurian Tragedy in Faulkner's Absalom, Absalom!". He also published a paper at the Southeastern Medieval Association in 1990. He is a member of the Modern Language Association, the National Council for Teacher Education and the Southeastern Medieval Association.

His teaching specialties are in the areas of British literature through the 18th century, rhetoric and composition, and supervision of English education majors. He is married and resides in Waverly, Virginia.

Edwin Dean Gilbert has joined the faculty of Chowan as chairperson of the department of graphic communications, announced Dr.



Edwin Dean Gilbert

B. Franklin Lowe, vice president for academic affairs. Gilbert will supervise all of the instruction, printing and photography programs, and production work in the Krueger School of Graphic Communications at Chowan.

Gilbert comes to Chowan from Charlotte, where he was employed with Ringier America, Inc. a graphic arts firm specializing in electronic prepress production. He designed a training program for production employees and management staff while at Ringier and initiated training programs at printing plants in Georgia and Illinois.

He received the bachelor of science degree in industrial and technical education from Appalachian State University with a concentration in drafting and graphic arts. He also received the master's degree in higher education with a concentration in administration from Appalachian.

Gilbert's teaching experience includes positions at Anson Technical College in Ansonville, N.C. and at Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, Florida, where he instructed printing courses, served as in-plant printing manager for the college, and taught graphic arts courses. At Anson Technical College, he served as chairman of the graphic arts department.

As the director of new and expanding industries at Central Piedmont Community College for six years, he marketed North Carolina's economic development package to Mecklenburg County's prospective new industries.

20th president says Chowan "diamond in rough"

By Jessica Kiser
Feature Editor

"I saw potential, a diamond in the rough," confesses Dr. Jerry Francis Jackson, when asked why he took the position as Chowan's 20th president.

In 1989, Dr. Jackson was serving as vice president for development at the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Virginia. In that position he had been successful in raising over \$30 million. That success is one of the main reasons he gives for his own selection as president of Chowan College. He believes the Presidential Selection Committee was looking for a successful fund raiser, and Dr. Jackson's record proves that they found one.

Dr. Jackson admits that his goal all along was to become a college president. He took the job at Chowan because of that goal and because he was open to move to North Carolina.

Stepping into the position of college president was not easy. His predecessor, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, had been the president of Chowan College for 32 years. "People who have worked for an earlier regime are comfortable. They understand everything about it and feel secure. Any time you have new leadership, there have got to be new ideas. This creates problems for them. On the other side you have certain groups that are ready for change. This mainly includes the recent or younger faculty."

Dr. Jackson claims that he has tried to balance the two out, but he

is open about the fact that he leans toward change.

Some of the changes he has started at Chowan include the transition to a four year college. In his inauguration speech, Dr. Jackson said, "They planted a Baptist school. It has been tended well; it has grown well; and it draws us in to this occasion today. But we see that the need is here for new crops, new planting, new tending."

He still believes what he said. "I was trying to say, 'Hey, it is time for this to be a four year institution. It is time for your hand to be put to the plow'" he clarifies.

Dr. Jackson has certainly put his hand to the plow, and he is not finished yet. His five-year goals for Chowan College include building a new student center that will house, among other things, a new cafeteria, a movie theater, a bowling alley, and a new bookstore. He would also like to buy the old high school building that backs up to the Chowan campus. He sees the museum it could house, the auditorium for the music and drama programs at Chowan, a gymnasium for intramurals, and the extra classrooms. He would also like to build a retirement home on or connected to the campus. He believes it would be a plus for the community in the way of jobs and "a good fund raising prospect".

He believes that in five years Chowan College will be a good, four-year, private college that appeals to students with SAT scores of 700-1000, although Chowan will still help those that fall below that level. He wants Chowan to remain a caring college that wants to see

its students and graduates to succeed.

This is lot of foresight for a man who freely admits that when he graduated from high school, "I thought everything centered around a ball . . . baseball and football . . ."

"My father saw the importance of college and had ingrained into my head that I had to go to college. I knew I was not ready to go to a big school like Carolina," admits Dr. Jackson. So, he attended Mars Hill College for two years. There he was influenced by Evelyn Underwood. She was a tough teacher but he learned a lot from her. The least of these lessons was not self-confidence. "She made me believe that I could," he admits.

At the end of his sophomore year, he had an associate's degree and a wife. He met Carolyn G. Laughlin at Mars Hill College, and nine months later they were married. They both transferred to Southern Illinois University because of money. Mrs. Jackson already had a scholarship to study there and soon after they arrived, Dr. Jackson did too. With fifty dollars income a piece from student jobs and fifty dollars from his father, they began to work towards their bachelor's degrees. Dr. Jackson does admit that getting an education was cheaper then. He and his wife paid \$19.50 a quarter for their education.

During the next seven years, Dr. Jackson went to school. Mrs. Jackson worked on her education, too, but at one point she did hold a full-time job in order for Dr. Jackson to continue in his education. He finished his doctorate work

one year before his wife did.

In 1963, the Jacksons had one child, and Dr. Jackson began his career as an educator. He got his start at Campbell University serving as an assistant professor of political science and history.

The Jacksons were lucky that they had some friends who would swap babysitting services. Although Dr. Jackson admits that his family did suffer some from drawing the education process out so long, they did make it. Dr. Jackson

says church had a lot to do with that.

"Had it not been for my wife I would not have graduated. I say that in jest, but there is a lot of truth to that statement," confides Dr. Jackson.

Besides the required quarter of chemistry that his chemistry major wife coached him through, the support she has given him in whatever he has done is a point of strength he continually refers to. "My wife and I are both independ-

ent. She does her thing, and I do my thing. I support her professionally, and she supports me professionally. We recognize the other's independence."

When asked what the key is to his marriage, Dr. Jackson has a simple, one word response, "Respect".

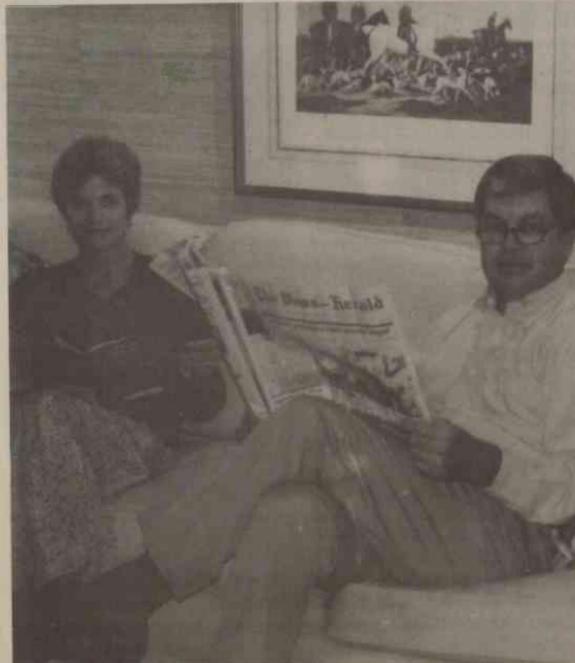
Although he does not recommend the same path that he and his wife took, he admits that he and his wife are "one of the lucky ones".

Their story of Dr. Jackson does not stop there. When asked how long he planned to be at Chowan, Dr. Jackson commented that he plans to stay at Chowan for five to seven years. He has nothing on the horizon, and he does not have his eye on another institution. An underlying goal for the future, that he is toying with, is becoming a consultant for a fund-raising firm or starting his own firm.

Although Dr. Jackson is gone the last three days of the week, he tries to be available when he is on campus. He is willing to help students with problems they may be having. They must go through the proper channels. That means that they should start with their resident directors or deans and bring it to him if it can't be resolved by them.

He is willing to have breakfast or lunch with a group of ten students or less. The students must initiate the meeting and schedule it with Dean Byrd.

Dr. Jackson also walks to work in the mornings and tries to attend as many student functions as possible. He invites the student body to take advantage of these chances to communicate with him.



President Jackson and wife, Carolyn.