

New, Innovative Ideas Norm for Dean Lewis

The new and innovative has become the norm for Chowan College's dean of students, Robert Clayton Lewis, Tabor City, N.C. native and former school principal for 13 years.

As dean, he is responsible for student personnel services which include areas of discipline, student activities, counseling, admissions, student health, post office, student housing and financial aid. Serving under him are the following staff members, dean of men, dean of women, admissions director and associate, guidance counselor, campus security officer and associate, nine head residents, two nurses and director of postal services.

Lewis was named Chowan's first dean of students in August, 1968 and since then his creativity has made its mark on campus. Last year, he originated a fall Parent's Day and the popular Talk-In series, which bring together students, faculty and staff for discussions of current issues. Parent's Day activities included a program of entertainment featuring student and faculty talent, open house, dinner and football game.

To add color and excitement to the home football games, he has personally contacted and interested outstanding high school bands from Virginia and North Carolina to perform at halftime and play in the stands. Chowan does not have a marching band.

One of his more ambitious undertakings has been the sponsorship with Clifton Collins, director of guidance and counseling and financial aid, and other members of student personnel of a summer orientation program for students who are planning to enrol in the fall. The program will enter its third year this summer and has received the praise of both students and their parents, who are also in attendance.

A special feature is the careful planning to include activities for

parents while the young people are taking placement tests. This includes the viewing of a film-strip on college life, short messages from staff and faculty members, and a tour of historic Murfreesboro on college buses.

This approach has helped the parents feel more at ease in sending their children to college, Lewis reports, while at the same time preparing the students for what to expect as a freshman at Chowan.

Assisted by his wife, a public school teacher, Lewis has sponsored a number of socials, cookouts and informal get-togethers at his house for students.

Possibly the brightest innovation has been the talk-ins. Staff and faculty members have served as leaders with some 6-10 students at each table. This

semester, four have been scheduled.

The goal has been to discuss intelligently current issues while at the same time improving communications between the various groups on campus.

He is often called upon to speak at civic clubs and other organizations in the area. He also teaches a class in Western Civilization. Lewis is a graduate of Wake Forest University and East Carolina University, where he received his master's degree. Since coming to Chowan, he has taken courses in higher education at George Peabody College for Teachers to help keep abreast of his work in student personnel.

Lewis came to Chowan after three years' service as principal of North Stanley High School, New London, N. C.

Gene Williams Resigns To Accept New Post

Gene Williams Secretary of the Department of Social Ministries, and past president of the Chowan Alumni Association, has submitted his resignation effective as of January 31, 1971. On February 1, he will assume his new responsibilities as Pastor-Director of the Market Place Ministries in Alexandria, Virginia. In submitting his resignation to Dr. Richard M. Stephenson, Williams said, "There are times when words seem at best to be only weak symbols. For me this is one of those times. However, please allow me this means of expressing appreciation to you, to Bill Jenkins, to the General Board members, and to the staff for six years of challenging service and meaningful relationships."

For five years Williams served the Virginia Baptist General Board as the Secretary of the

Men's Department. When the reorganization of the General Board staff was recommended by the Committee of 24, Williams was asked by Dr. Stephenson to accept the position as Secretary of the newly formed Department of Social Ministries. Division of Ministries Director William H. Jenkins said, "This new ministry has rapidly and effectively made a place for itself as a resource to Virginia Baptist life largely due to the able direction provided by Mr. Williams."

The Market Place Ministries is located at the Landmark Shopping Center in Alexandria, and will include counseling and chaplaincy services, child care, as well as ecumenical ministries and worship. The pastoral ministry will be supported jointly by the Mount Vernon Baptist Association, the Virginia Baptist General Board and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Washington City Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church is providing the facilities in the Landmark Shopping Center which will house the operation. A board of managers composed of representatives from the United Presbyterian, Presbyterians U.S. (Southern), United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, and Southern Baptists, will give supervision, along with Williams, to the various ministries conducted in these facilities.

Dr. Richard M. Stephenson, Executive Secretary, and Jenkins, issued a statement in which they said they "join with Virginia Baptists in expressing appreciation to Gene Williams for his significant and meaningful ministry while serving on the staff of the General Board. We extend to him and to Gloria, Worth, Leslie, and Robbie, our best wishes as they take up their residence and assume this promising ministry in Northern Virginia."

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GREETING VISITORS—Dean Lewis personally conducts tours of the campus for visitors and prospective students. Taking time out from his office for this service causes the Dean to be one of the busiest men at Chowan.



READY FOR ORIENTATION—The Dean of Students is responsible for conducting orientation sessions of incoming students during the summer months. He is pictured here on his way to such a session, but stopping to chat with a prospective student's mother.



STUDENT WORK ON EXHIBIT—The creative works of Chowan students was recently displayed in the Chowan College Art Gallery, and many visitors viewed pieces of sculpture. The Art Gallery has proven to be a popular place since its opening, due mainly to the efforts of Prof. Craig Greene, who is in charge of the program.