

# Bill Sowell in 29th year as professor

Bill Sowell, in his 29th year as professor in the Department of Graphic Communications, has helped to launch the careers of hundreds of printing technology students.

For the past 21 years, he has teamed with Herman Gatewood, departmental chairman, to help shape the Graphic Communications program into one of the finest of its kind in the nation, as acclaimed by printing industry and newspaper authorities.

#### Long Term of Service

Sowell has served longer at Chowan than any other full-time faculty member. Only Daisy Lou Mixon, now a part-time religion professor, has served longer.

Sowell graduated from Pageland High School in South Carolina in 1947. He said he "had no idea what I wanted to do" so he joined the Coast Guard. Of his four and one-half years of service in the Coast Guard, he commented, "I enjoyed it very much. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world, especially



WILLIAM B. SOWELL  
joined Chowan faculty in 1954

deal of self satisfaction from helping these young people." He said he could double his salary in the printing industry but would miss the opportunity of working with and helping young people.

*"I love my work and wouldn't want to do anything else. I thoroughly enjoy what I am doing."*

the experiences of traveling to many different places and meeting different kinds of people."

After his release from the Coast Guard, Sowell decided to pursue an interest in printing he developed while serving as a printer's devil at Pageland High School. He wanted to attend a small community college and his principal recommended Chowan and its graphic arts program established in 1951 by John McSweeney. Sowell attended from 1953 to 1955 and was the first Chowan student to receive the graphics arts diploma. Up to that time the college had been offering one-year linotype and teletype certificates.

During his sophomore year, McSweeney asked Sowell to serve in a student teaching position. After his graduation, Sowell accepted a full-time job. He continued his education during the summers and in 1969 received the B.S. in industrial and technical education at East Carolina University, where he has also taken graduate work.

Although he has taught for 29 years, Sowell said he continues to look forward eagerly to each day spent among his students. "I love my work and wouldn't want to do anything else I thoroughly enjoy what I'm doing I receive a great

#### Early Classes

Sowell enjoys getting to work early and preparing for his students. It's a good thing since he has taught an eight o'clock class every semester during his 29 years at Chowan.

The printing professor said it's very rewarding to watch the progress of his former students as they get established in the printing and newspaper industry. A number have started their own businesses, he pointed out.

He mentioned Bob Crusco of Newark, Del., who started his business. Another example is Frank Edwards, who owns and operates a thriving plant and expanding business in Rocky Mount.

"Many students come to Chowan with the dream of owning their own printing company. It's satisfying to share in their dreams," Sowell allowed.

He said opportunities in printing are almost unlimited. "We can't begin to supply all of the openings offered our graduates." He said he has numerous job offers to choose from. He also said "more and more are going on and getting the baccalaureate degree. Many are preparing for supervisory positions."

Sowell said Chowan's graphic

communications program has kept pace with the progress of the college itself. He remembers that when he came to Chowan as a student in 1953, the campus consisted of McDowell Columns, four small cottages, and the old gym, now renovated and used for the student center.

The original graphic arts facility was cinder block building, 40x70. There were only 153 students enrolled in 1953 and 20-25 were in printing, he recalls. The facility, named for McSweeney, underwent several additions over the years.

Chowan now boasts of 24 facilities valued at over \$13 million. Today Chowan's printing and photography students number 200 and have access to a new \$550,000 Graphics Communications Center opened in September 1983.

#### "Dynamic Field"

Sowell said the printing technology students have chosen a dynamic field that is noted for its innovations and progress.

"It's growing by leaps and bounds and computers are playing a big part in it." Sowell said Chowan has kept pace with the progress. "The printing industry has donated much equipment which enables us to prepare our students to use the equipment, presses and computers and employ the technology that is currently being used. Our students train on the very latest equipment used within the industry. This gives our students an advantage," he announced.

Chowan's printing students are provided instruction and ex-

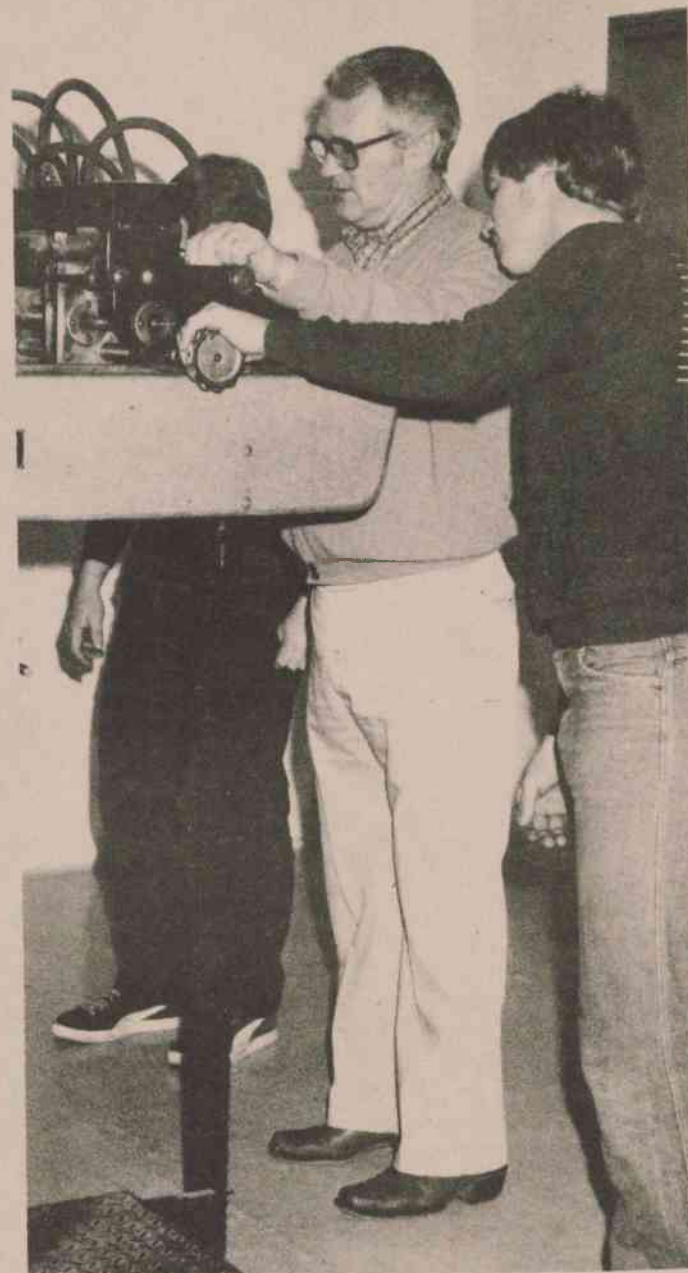
## Grad receives Manning grant

Kathleen Suzanne Scott, a graduate of 1983, has received the Golden Anniversary Florence Manning Scholarship Award, as the second place winner in recent competition. As recipient of the grant, Scott has received a check from the headquarters of the National Honorary Secretarial Society.

While a student at Chowan, Miss Scott served as President of Alpha Pi Epsilon and also secretary of Phi Theta Kappa.

During summer periods, she worked with the Government Summer Work Program and for the Clerk of the Circuit Court in her home county.

Scott, who is also a member of "Who's Who in American Junior Colleges", has expressed an interest in becoming a legal secretary.



Professor Sowell instructs a student in the correct way to set up the feeder of an offset press.

perience on one and two color sheet-fed and web offset presses, and a three unit King web offset press used by many newspapers.

While his work with students consumes much of his time and energy, Sowell has many other interests. He loves to golf, fish, hunt and watch sports, and is one of the Braves' athletic teams most avid fans.

For the past five years, the rugged, good-looking Sowell has served as Chowan's golf coach. He is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner. He is active in community and church affairs. Sowell served on the Murfreesboro Rescue Squad for 10 years and is a lifetime honorary member. He served as a scoutmaster for many years. He has served 12 years as the Sunday School superintendent at the Murfreesboro United Methodist Church. He is a member and former president of the Murfreesboro Exchange Club.

Sowell has been named to "Who's Who in Education in the South" and "Outstanding Young Men in the South."

Like Sowell, his family has strong Chowan ties. He married one of his former students, the former June Tucker of Moyock.

Two of his three children are Chowan graduates. Barry recently graduated from Auburn University in hospital administration. Wanda is a merchandising management major at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. Rick, 13, is in the eighth grade and enjoys helping Chowan's football team as a ball boy.

Bill Sowell looks younger than his 53 years. Many of his former students have kept in touch with him, and he looks forward to their visits and other contacts.

## THE CHOWANIAN USPS 715-880

Chowan College, Murfreesboro, North Carolina, a standard junior college controlled by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and founded in 1848. Printed, designed and edited by the students and faculty of the School of Graphic Communications at Chowan College. Send changes of address notices to The Chowanian, Chowan College, Murfreesboro, North Carolina 27855.

Published six times a year in February, May-June, July, September, October, and December.

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT  
MURFREESBORO, N. C. 27855