The CHERRY JOY HORDAY MCELHENEY OUTSTANDING GRADUATE IN BUSINESS AWARD is an annual award given to the outstanding graduating senior in the School of Business. This year the award is presented to Kelsey Schlake.

The DRS. VAUGHN and MILES OUTSTANDING BUSINESS STUDENT AWARD is an annual award to recognize a student in the School of Business who will graduate within the next two years, has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or greater, and made significant contributions in service and citizenship. The recipient of this award is Kinsey Modlin.

The OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN ECONOMICS AWARD is presented annually to a student who has completed a minimum of two economics courses at Chowan with the highest average and has maintained a GPA of 3.0 or greater, and made significant contributions in service and citizenship. The recipient this year is Brittany Bolton.

The ALPHA MU GAMMA FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARD is presented to recognize high achievement in the field of foreign languages and to stimulate a desire for linguistic attainment. This year’s recipient is Qadashma Johnson.

The award for the OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN IN ENGLISH is presented by the Department of Language and Literature. This year’s recipient is Alexius Brandveen.

The alpha major is given by the Department of Language and Literature to an outstanding graduating English major who is judged by the English faculty to be the very best. This year’s recipient is Beverly Kwakye.

The EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE AWARD is presented by Theatre@Chowan to an upper class student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership onstage or behind the scenes in Theatre@Chowan productions. This year’s recipient is Alexius Brandveen.

The OUTSTANDING GRADUATE IN GRAPHIC DESIGN is selected by the faculty of the Department of Visual Arts. This year’s recipient is Thinsala Wiggins.

The DOUG EUBANK AWARD is given to a rising sophomore, junior or senior majoring in art who has earned at least a “B” in all classes taken at Chowan, has an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, demonstrates a strong work ethic, produces high quality work in art classes, is active in departmental events and functions, and is a role model for fellow art students. This year’s recipient is Caleb Gotham.

CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

Academic Awards

The JOSEPH A. DOEBEL SCHOLARSHIP is awarded to a returning student or member of the Chowan community. The recipient this year is Baird Mooney.

The OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN ECONOMICS is an annual award given to the outstanding student in the School of Business. This year the award is presented to Caleb Gorham.

The DOUG EUBANK AWARD is given to a rising sophomore, junior or senior majoring in art who has earned at least a “B” in all classes taken at Chowan, has an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, demonstrates a strong work ethic, produces high quality work in art classes, is active in departmental events and functions, and is a role model for fellow art students. This year’s recipient is Caleb Gotham.

The ORDER OF THE SILVER FEATHER is an honorary service fraternity, the purpose of which is to give recognition to those students who have been especially outstanding in their service to the campus community and whose loyalty to Chowan University has been extremely noteworthy. Not more than six students are selected each year, these having been nominated by members of the faculty and staff. Those persons being inducted into the ORDER OF THE SILVER FEATHER are:

• Jordan Card
• Troy Dicks
• Jennifer Humphrey
• Kelsey Schlake
• Gerlisa Shipman

Academic Scholarships

The LAURIE R. HARDIN SCHOLARSHIP is awarded to a returning student or member of the Chowan community. The recipient this year is Baird Mooney.

The OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN ECONOMICS is an annual award given to the outstanding student in the School of Business. This year the award is presented to Caleb Gorham.

The DOUG EUBANK AWARD is given to a rising sophomore, junior or senior majoring in art who has earned at least a “B” in all classes taken at Chowan, has an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, demonstrates a strong work ethic, produces high quality work in art classes, is active in departmental events and functions, and is a role model for fellow art students. This year’s recipient is Caleb Gotham.

CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

University-wide Awards

The ORDER OF THE SILVER FEATHER is an honorary service fraternity, the purpose of which is to give recognition to those students who have been especially outstanding in their service to the campus community and whose loyalty to Chowan University has been extremely noteworthy. Not more than six students are selected each year, these having been nominated by members of the faculty and staff. Those persons being inducted into the ORDER OF THE SILVER FEATHER are:

• Jordan Card
• Troy Dicks
• Jennifer Humphrey
• Kelsey Schlake
• Gerlisa Shipman

The FAITH IN YOUR FUTURE AWARD is presented annually to a student who best exemplifies the university’s mission and vision by consistently demonstrating the ability to achieve his or her greatest potential in learning and service to the Chowan community. The recipient is Christina Thomas.

The MERIT AWARD is presented to a graduating senior judged to have achieved at a high academic level in spite of obstacles which would have deterred or defeated a less determined or devoted individual. The MERIT AWARD is presented to Victor Chilaka.

The ESTELLE THIGPEN SUPERIOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD is provided to recognize that student who has been an exemplary citizen within the university community throughout the year. This award is given for the contribution of time, effort and energy for the benefit of the student body. The SUPERIOR CITIZENSHIP AWARD is presented to Gerlisa Shipman.

The BEST ALL AROUND STUDENT must be a graduating senior who has achieved academically, excelled in extra-curricular activities, exhibited leadership ability among his or her fellow students, and sought to attain the ideals – academic and otherwise – for which the university stands. The BEST ALL AROUND STUDENT is Jennifer Humphrey.
Awards

Academic

The SENIOR MATHEMATICS AWARD is presented to the graduating senior with a major in mathematics who has the highest overall GPA. This year’s recipient is Peter Shumaker.

The JAMES MONROE CHAMBLES MUSIC AWARD is given annually to a music student who has shown outstanding achievement in music scholarship or performance and who has made a significant contribution to the music department, the University, and the community through such scholarship or performance. This year’s recipient is Vaughn Byrd.

The DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY HONOR AWARD is presented to a junior or senior religion major whom has performed academically, possesses good character, and participates in religious activities. This year’s recipient is Yvette Anthony.

The “ETHICS IN ACTION” AWARD is an annual award to recognize a student who has excelled in promoting ethical values on campus and in the community. The recipient is a student who has demonstrated a record of exemplary moral character, who has been an advocate through writing, speech, and deeds for ethical practices and actions. This year’s award is presented to Jennifer Humphrey.

The School of Education recognizes the Dr. CHARLES BENLEY OUTSTANDING TEACHER EDUCATION STUDENT AWARD. The criteria for selection includes scholarship as evidenced by GPA, personal attributes, educational dispositions, and professionalism. The outstanding student in Teacher Education is Jessica Harrell.

The SENIOR HISTORICAL STUDENT AWARD is awarded to a student who has demonstrated an exceptional record of achievement in the study of history. This year’s recipient is Dr. Cynthia Nicholson, Associate Professor of English, as the 2014-2015 Alpha Chi Teacher of the Year. The award is based on:

- superior grasp of subject matter
- outstanding presentation skills
- help outside the class-room

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Outstanding Student Athletes

The MOST OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARDS are made possible by the late Mrs. Dorothy H. Brown of Murfreesboro, a Chowan alumna and a devoted friend of the University.

This year’s recipient of the Most Outstanding Male Athlete Award is Evan Hart (baseball).

The recipient of the Most Outstanding Female Athlete Award is Alisha Mobley (basketball).
Chesnut began reworking her diary, Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi was an ardent supporter of racial segregation. He opposed civil and voting rights for African Americans. As a prosecutor in the 1930s, he sought the conviction and execution of three African-American sharecroppers despite being aware that their murder confessions had been extracted by torture. **

To avoid the label of racist, he positioned himself as a social and fiscal conservative. In his first Senate campaign, he reported, “I asked my father what I should say about the race problem. He said ‘nothing,’ and that is how Stennis campaigned, presenting himself as the candidate of economic growth and agricultural development. Once he reached the Senate, he explained his opposition to civil rights laws by invoking the idea: we are a greater people than our present. Racism in America is real. If you do not believe it, then welcome to Bubbleland! **

Yet, his racist views—**I suspect unconsciously—**led into his arguments. In one campaign speech, he pledged to oppose civil rights as all “red-blooded Southerners” would. In another, he promised that under his watch “the Southern Way of Life” would continue. Near the end of his first campaign, an advertisement promised white Mississippians that he was “entirely opposed to outside interference in Mississippi’s affairs.” **

I argue unconsciously because Stennis lived in a bubble, a bubble where white Southerners surmised that African American were content with the racial status quo and that civil rights was an issue invented by outside interlopers. In his bubble, Stennis believed his coded defense of white supremacy bore no resemblance to racism. **

Meanwhile, southern white supremacists positioned Stennis as a wise and honest statesman (“Mr. Integrity” became his Senate nickname) who did not mention race and who did not resort to divisive rhetoric. Within their bubble, Stennis and his followers failed to see that his coded racism was as potent as mindless hate and crude demagoguery. Seventy years after John C. Stennis began his political career, some news commentators and pundits blamed the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) racial incident at the University of Oklahoma on rap music—just an innocent group of white boys mimicking black musicians. A few days earlier, the United States Department of Justice’s Ferguson report had revealed systematic racial discrimination by the Ferguson police department and the court system against African Americans. One Ferguson official’s email wondered, “what black man holds a steady job for four years.” **

Yet, suggest to these individuals that their comments and actions are inherently racist and they will express outrage—genuine, sincere, “by God, how dare you” outrage. Genuine and sincere because they live in a bubble, a bubble where racism exists only in the imagination of white elitists and black extremists. By closing themselves off inside their bubble, these individuals, Bubblelanders, if you will, have latched onto a notion that sounds high-minded and anti-racist: they do not see color; they are, in fact, colorblind. Recently, for example, a television commentator remarked, after viewing the video of a white cop shooting an unarmed black man in South Carolina, “I didn’t see a black man killed by a white cop. I saw a man shoot another man in the back.” Such sentiments are echoed repeatedly by Bubblelanders, and any notion that does not reinforce their colorblind rhetoric is filtered out. Throughout their many probably mean well, Bubblelanders are unable to see colorblindness for what it is: a defensive strategy to avoid acknowledging a racist America. Convinced by their own rhetoric that we are a better nation when we do not see color, they are unable to comprehend that colorblindness negates the experiences, values, and cultures of people of color. Bubblelanders do not understand a higher idea: we are a greater people when we see color and it does not matter. Unfortunately, deafened by their own rhetoric, Bubblelanders continue to believe, no matter how unrealistic it might be and no matter how many black lives are extinguished; that colorblindness exists in song (“you can hang him from a tree”), that racism does not exist in America, even when they present evidence to the contrary. For instance, in March, one news personality claimed the SAE story was an isolated incident and the Ferguson report was “not a story of institutional racism” a few minutes prior to admitting “there are few companies in America” where “you won’t find any racist emails.” **

Bubblelands exist. Those who dwell in it, whether they be slaveowners, white supremacists, or racism deniers, historically and currently, blame outside agitators, whether they be abolitionists, civil rights workers, or contemporary progressive s, for America’s past racial conflicts and current disturbances. In 2006, a newspaper columnist blamed Steve’s Un clem Tom’s Cabin for starting the Civil War, or, as he wrote, “the tragedy of the utterly lost cause” (italics my emphasis). Bubblelanders have and continue to disguise their brand of racism, whether it is enslavement, ceded, or colorblind, as a means of protecting—take your pick—states’ rights, individual rights, way of life, traditional values, etc. 

Race complicated Chesnut’s world and, seventy years later, it complicated Stennis’ era, and seventy years later, it complicates our present. Racism in America is real. If you do not believe it, then welcome to Bubbleland!*

**Disclaimer: My wife is a Stennis of Mississippi.**

The Chowan University Student Research Conference Awards of Excellence honor students for outstanding presentations in each one of the conference’s eight divisions. By the quality of their participation, these students exemplify what is best in the intellectual and artistic life of Chowan University. The award is chosen by the organizers of the Chowan Academic Forum, along with input from faculty judges.

Jesselad Kahiinge received the Best Graduate Paper Presentation Award for “Integrating Multimodal Literacy Practices in Second Grade Science Instruction.” Sheryl Long served as her faculty sponsor.

Kristy Caldwell received the Best Mathematics and Natural/Behavioral Sciences Paper Presentation Award for “Selling Yourself: Self-Presentation among Social Networking Sites.” Rachel Phillips served as her faculty sponsor.

Sarah Smith won the award for Best Poster Presentation for “Prey choice in Dolom dis r. Heather McGuire served as her faculty sponsor.

The award is given each year to recognize excellence in academic advising. All students, faculty, and staff were invited to nominate an academic advisor. Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Availability to advisees, 
- Approachability,
- Monitoring of student progress toward academic and career goals, 
- Knowledge of institutional regulations, policies, and procedures, and 
- Ability to make appropriate referrals.

The Chowan University Student Research Conference Awards of Excellence were announced on Tuesday, April 22.

Jesselad Kahiinge received the Best Graduate Paper Presentation Award for “Integrating Multimodal Literacy Practices in Second Grade Science Instruction.” Sheryl Long served as her faculty sponsor.

Kristy Caldwell received the Best Mathematics and Natural/Behavioral Sciences Paper Presentation Award for “Selling Yourself: Self-Presentation among Social Networking Sites.” Rachel Phillips served as her faculty sponsor.

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