Alumni, students, faculty, and staff flocked to campus to renew friendships and catch the Chowan spirit again.

**Homecoming**

*noun*

*a return, usually on a special occasion, to a place formerly frequented or regarded as home.*

“Homecoming 2018 honored the 170th anniversary of Chowan University’s founding.”

Get to know Chowan University's new President and First Family.

The story behind the Edie Farris Prayer Room proves that God works in mysterious ways.

Dr. White reflects on an August 2018 trip to South Korea and Vietnam.

Students share what it means to them to serve others before themselves.

New weapons to assist students in the battle against rising costs—and for success.
alumni & friends in every issue

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I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE the many reasons my family and I returned to serve this great university. To do that, I need to provide background regarding our first visit to Murfreesboro and Chowan University. When Rachel and I arrived on campus our first reaction was less than optimistic. Many of the buildings were old and tired, in need of much repair, and nowhere near the spectacular and beautiful campus we enjoy today.

Dr. White invited me to interview for the Chair of the Sport Studies and Physical Education department. I met with amazing faculty and staff who had served much, if not all, of their professional lives at Chowan. At the time, the university was in bad financial shape and Dr. Moore told me that he loved this institution so much that if the school were to close, he would be the last person to turn off the lights. I knew Chowan University must be a special place to have such devoted professionals.

That day, I spent time with Coach Garrison who, like Dr. Moore, is a true American success story. He did not spend time walking me through his success as a coach, but rather the impact the school had not only on his players, but on him as well. Though Coach could have easily impressed me with his resume, his legacy resides in his players. I have been fortunate to meet dozens of them, who credit both Chowan and Coach for their personal and professional success.

As we left to return to Shelby, North Carolina, I remember telling Rachel that I could not foresee making the move to Chowan University. God had other plans! When I resigned, the Provost from former employer summoned me to his office to tell me what a foolish mistake he thought I was making. He went so far as to say that coming to Chowan University would ruin my career! Today, I am proud to be the 23rd president of this amazing university. God must have a sense of humor!

Two weeks later, in 2004, we arrived on campus and even lived in Simons Hall for 6+ months. We loved our six years here, where Rachel worked in the library and I served as a professor and Associate Provost. I have been asked, “If you loved it so much, why did you leave?” Good question!

Through many discussions with Dr. Moore and Dr. White, it became clear that I had a desire to advance my career and, both Dr. White and Dr. Moore were instrumental in my family’s move to Urbana, Ohio, where I accepted a position as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Urbana University. I would occasionally call each for advice and sometimes to vent frustration. They were always available to give me honest feedback and perspective. I am truly thankful for their guidance!

After eight years away from Chowan University, we return to work alongside a very dedicated and talented staff, faculty, and administration. It is also an opportunity to celebrate in the excellence of our students and faculty.

One of my favorite quotes regarding excellence comes from Ronnie Oldham who stated, “Excellence is the Result of Caring more than others think is Wise, Risking more than others think is Safe, Dreaming more than others think is Practical, and Expecting more than others think is Possible.” My first impression of Chowan University was that her staff, faculty, and administration was committed to the ideal of excellence, and that has not changed. Chowan University has overcome obstacles that would have closed many colleges and universities.
Last year, Chowan began preparations to transition leadership from Dr. White, who is now our Chancellor, to me, your 23rd President. The process has involved careful planning and mentoring. At times, I am a slow learner with a hard head! I do benefit from that mentoring. I am committed to working side-by-side with Dr. White and the Board of Trustees to serve Chowan University and her students, staff, faculty, and administration. I could not be more honored! In fact, I could not write a better script than the remarkable opportunity extended to the Senior Team and me, where Dr. White and Donnie Clary are available to assist, to provide historical perspective, and to share in their combined 70+ years of wisdom and expertise in higher education.

Since June 1st, I have enjoyed meeting with over 100 faculty and staff to learn of their goals, suggestions, strategies, and concerns. On many occasions, these meetings result in opportunities to demonstrate excellence. For example, we are now refining our current Financial Aid practice, developing new and improved methods to highlight areas of financial assistance that not only encourage students’ persistence and hard work, but also celebrate those achievements by overtly illustrating award amounts in the financial aid packages.

Over the past year, Chowan has implemented several innovative ways to assist students. One is NetPartner, which puts aspects of the financial aid process online for a significant time savings. A new emergency notification system, CUHawk Alert, alerts the campus of emergency situations through email, text, and voicemail. This crucial piece of technology was put to the test with the advance of Hurricane Florence, and proved to make Chowan University even safer and give family members of students and staff a greater sense of comfort.

Our admission counselors do an outstanding job recruiting students. We are also focusing our efforts on retention, persistence, and graduation rates, examining current practices and programs as part of the thorough process of developing, implementing, and analyzing alternative means to connect with our students and improve their experience. We’ve implemented the Gateways to Completion academic review program to comprehensively review and implement different instructional strategies with the goal of improving students’ experiences, retention, persistence, and graduation rates.

We also initiated the Hawk Flight Book Program, Finish Program, First and Second Year Experience Programs, and several new programs of study, which you will read more about in these pages. These programs are excellent examples of how we respond to the needs of our students and empower them to achieve their goals. These are indeed opportunities for excellence.

Our students demonstrate excellence through academic achievement, athletic competition, and community service. They earn scholarships, win academic and industry competitions, conduct and publish scholarly research, bring home championships, and serve both locally and abroad through Chowan-sponsored activities and on their own.

Throughout my professional experiences, I have been blessed to work with many accomplished and excellent students and staff members in many different educational settings. Chowan’s students come to us from diverse backgrounds and all with unique characteristics and needs. I believe we are at Chowan to address others before self and to serve all who seek admittance, guidance, knowledge, acceptance, sustenance, and spirituality. Each day I say two prayers: 1) Lord, please allow me to make a difference in someone’s life today, and 2) please give me the wisdom and courage to be my best for Chowan University.

These are all reasons we returned. We are blessed to work with amazing people who have faith in the future, and our students, the potential success stories! Together we can achieve excellence. GO HAWKS!

DR. KIRK E. PETERSON
President, Chowan University
Alumni, students, faculty, and staff flocked to campus to renew friendships and catch the Chowan spirit again as we celebrated the 170th anniversary of the founding of Chowan University with a weeklong slate of events that included a reception for the Half Century Circle, the annual Blue and White Party, the Distinguished Alumni Reception and Dinner, and of course, the Homecoming Football Game.
HALF-CENTURY CIRCLE

The Half Century Circle is a new tradition honoring classes that graduated fifty years ago (this year, classes of 1967 and 1968). Each member received a commemorative medallion during a reception at the Camp President’s Home.

FOOTBALL GAME

Whether from the stands, the box, the game viewing terrace, or the “grassy knoll” all Brave Hawks love to cheer on the team.

HOMECOMING KING & QUEEN

Dr. and Mrs. Peterson crowned Homecoming King, George Kattan, and Queen, Shakendra Peay, during halftime.
BLUE & WHITE CELEBRATION
A huge tailgate party under the bigtop in front of the Hawks Nest gives everyone a place to meet up, eat delicious food, and catch up with old friends.

ALUMNI WALLS
Graduates are invited to sign their names, post pictures, and share favorite memories from their time at Chowan on the alumni walls.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS
Each year we honor individuals for exceptional personal demeanor and professional achievements representing the highest standards of the Chowan University alumni body.

BLUE & WHITE CELEBRATION
RICHARD THOMAS VANN, JR., OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TX, was born in Franklin, VA, but raised in Murfreesboro, NC. He attended Murfreesboro Elementary and High School. He graduated from Chowan University in 1968. After graduation from Mars Hill University in 1969, he joined the U.S. Air Force. In the evenings Tommy attended Washington Bible College and served as a mission pastor at Groveton Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. In 1971, he received licensure to the gospel ministry by Meherrin Baptist Church.

Following discharge from the Air Force, Tommy attended Denver Seminary in Colorado, earning the Master of Arts degree in New Testament, followed by ordination at Meherrin Baptist Church. From 1975 to ’82, he served on the faculty and as Administrative Vice President of Colorado Baptist College (now Colorado Christian University). In 1981, he earned the Master of Education degree from Wayne State University. Tommy also served in the Army National Guard from 1980 to ’82 until called to active duty status in the Army where he served as a chaplain. He held multiple positions both active and reserve in the U.S. Army.

In 2000, Tommy graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and received the Doctor of Philosophy degree in foundations of education from the University of South Carolina. In 2003, he received a third master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Upon retirement from the Army with the rank of Colonel in 2004, Tommy was appointed Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received the Master of Theology degree in the New Testament in 2010. The same year, he joined the faculty at Dallas Baptist University as Professor of Christian Ministry and Director of the Chaplaincy Program. In 2017, Tommy received his second doctorate in Ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Throughout his college, seminary, military, and university teaching career Tommy served as an interim pastor of Baptist churches. Since 2014 he has conducted worship services and ministry at Dallas Life, a large interdenominational homeless center. He serves on the Board of Directors of DFW Interfaith Chaplaincy, the Board of Visitors of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and on the Global Advance Council of the International Mission Board, SBC. On Sundays, he provides pastoral ministry to senior citizens at The Villas Fellowship in North Richland Hills, Texas.
ORIGINALLY FROM HAVELOCK, NC, DWIGHT A.

Downie was a three-sport athlete at Havelock High School where he first learned about the field of graphic arts that led him to Chowan College through some of his teammates. Dwight enrolled in the Associate in Printing Technology program at Chowan in the fall of 1983. He also held a federal work-study position and was involved in moving the Graphics Department to the brand new Horner Graphic Communications building. His class was the first to take courses in the new state-of-the-art facility. Dwight flourished in the student-focused small environment with close-knit students and faculty.

Dwight completed his degree at Chowan in 1984 and continued his education at Appalachian State University (ASU) in Boone, NC, earning his Bachelor of Science in 1987. He began his professional career as a printing estimator/production manager with a small commercial printing company in Northern Virginia.

In August 1991, Dwight was hired as the Program Chair of the Graphic Arts & Imaging Technology Department and Printing Department Head at Lenoir Community College in Kinston, NC. He was co-leader of a system-wide curriculum improvement project of the NC Community College System which led to the conversion of the quarter system to the semester system in the mid-’90s. Dwight served on numerous state-level committees with the NC Department of Public Instruction, the NC Community College System, and public and private universities across the state.

Dwight maintained his relationship with Chowan over the years through his work with faculty to provide transfer pathways for Lenoir graduates. He is well-known throughout the state and in the printing/graphics industry and continues to measure his success by the success of his students. Dwight is entering his 28th year at Lenoir Community College.
BORN AND RAISED IN KENYA, EAST AFRICA, DEBRA,
Maingi graduated from Chowan University in 2012 with a
Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She served as the program
director of the International Students Club for two years
and the vice president her senior year under the leadership
of advisor Jill Awuni. Debra helped direct the club’s annual
multicultural fashion show, volunteer events at PAWS, and
planned a coat drive for the local elementary school to help
students prepare for winter.

Debra was a Leadership Scholar recipient and served on
multiple mission trips. She was a facilitator with the women’s
Bible study in both Belk and Simons Residence Halls, which
sparked her passion for mentoring and leading, and allowed
her to remain connected with her religious background.

Debra maintained a relationship with the University
as an Alumni Council member and an avid supporter of
the Annual Fund. Within the Council, she helped host a
roundtable discussion for aspiring business managers for the
School of Business and has served as guest speaker for the
International Student Club Spring Conference in Fort Caswell,
NC. In 2014, Chowan University added Debra to the Gallery of
Distinguished Alumni.

Debra is Branch Manager for Wells Fargo Bank in
Winston-Salem, NC. She has been with the company
for five years and previously served as an outbound sales
specialist, personal banker, and service manager for the
Fortune 500 company. In her position, she manages, coaches,
interviews, and trains current and future team members. She
is responsible for assisting with team member development
to increase engagement and morale. Debra was recently
promoted to a higher-level branch manager role. Outside
of her profession, Debra enjoys working with the Alumni
Council, involvement in the church her father pastors, reading,
traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.
BRINSON PAUL, A 1952 GRADUATE OF THEN
Chowan Junior College, played varsity baseball and basketball, managed the bookstore and soda shop, and was editor of the yearbook. He also worked at the local Western Auto Store and the Murfreesboro Newspaper to help pay for his education. Following graduation, he began his career in Norfolk, VA, with the Virginian Railroad and worked there until entering the Army in December 1952, where he served as Discharge and Reenlistment Sergeant for the Headquarters Commandant Regiment.

Upon separation from the Army in 1954, he began his 37-year career with the Insurance Division of General Motors in Raleigh, NC. He held various positions in eight cities throughout America. He retired in 1992 as Director of Field Operations for the United States while assigned to the General Motors home office in Detroit, Michigan. Upon retirement, he and his wife Lorene moved to Murfreesboro. Even before all the boxes were unpacked, Bob Hill enlisted Brinson to help him with the “Community Service Program” and the Murfreesboro Historical Association.

When the potential opportunity to acquire the “Jefcoat Collection” became known, Brinson agreed to spearhead this project – which became a nearly full-time job for over fourteen years. He worked to raise the money to purchase the Murfreesboro High School property, renovate the buildings to museum standards, bring the collection from Raleigh, and establish the collection as a museum. With a cadre of over 100 volunteers, Brinson brought life to what is now the largest museum collection on display in North Carolina.

The Jefcoat Museum has brought thousands of visitors to Murfreesboro including people from each inhabited continent on the globe. In retirement, Brinson has served Chowan as a member of both the Board of Trustees and the Board of Visitors on which he currently serves. He is active in promoting sports and enrollment at Chowan.

Brinson is an energetic member of the Murfreesboro Baptist Church. He has served on several committees and has been a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher. He spearheaded the formation of an outreach garden for community members who needed help to secure food. The group used their background in gardening and farming to teach the needy how to grow their own food. Brinson enjoys giving food from his own annual gardens to family and friends.
LINDA AND I ARE THRILLED to be in our sixteenth year at Chowan University, albeit in somewhat different roles. Developing the role of Chowan’s first chancellor is a challenge which intrigues me. Looking back I can see the Lord’s hand in our lives — fifty-three years of a happy marriage with two grown sons, thirty-two years of university presidency at two Baptist institutions, significant growth at both institutions in terms of enrollment, endowment, academic quality, campus expansion, athletic enhancement, management efficiency — with every year operated “in the black.” I have been blessed with wonderful staff and trustee support over the years. It is only through trust and teamwork that this could have occurred.

But with most things in life, a time comes for a change of pace — a time to focus on Chowan’s long-term future and the financial support which will be needed. As Chancellor my role will be threefold: working as a team with the President, leading major development efforts, and representing the institution throughout the region. It is time to leave the day-to-day operations to a younger man.

Having said the above, I am thrilled with the selection of Dr. Kirk Peterson as the new president. We work together well. When I look at him I think I see much of what I was like thirty years ago. I first met him in 2001 when he was recruited as a faculty member at Gardner-Webb University. He quickly established himself as a rising star as a professor. We reconnected at Chowan University in 2004 when he was employed as chair of the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education. Once again he rose rapidly through the ranks to the position of Associate Provost. Following several other experiences in Ohio he is now ready for the challenges of the presidency.

We have worked well together in the past, and we will work well together in the future. To Dr. Peterson and his family, Welcome Home!

DR. M. CHRISTOPHER WHITE
Chancellor, Chowan University
“It’s always been about the students.”

–DR. KIRK E. PETERSON
23rd President of Chowan University
“CHOWAN JUST FEELS LIKE HOME,” SAYS DR. KIRK E. PETERSON. HE TURNS TO HIS WIFE, RACHEL, WHO AGREES WITH A GRIN. THEY TAKE IT IN TURNS AS THEY EXPLAIN THEIR EXPERIENCE OF FINDING FAMILY AT CHOWAN. SHE DESCRIBES THE PEOPLE, THE SMALL TOWN FEEL, THE SAFE AND CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY. HE DESCRIBES THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND MEMORIES OF CLASSES AND STUDENTS. “EVERYONE CARES ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE,” MRS. PETERSON SUMMARIZES. “IT TRULY DID BECOME OUR HOME.” THIS SENSE OF HOME AND FAMILY IS JUST ONE OF THE REASONS THE PETERSONS ARE SO HAPPY TO BE BACK ON CAMPUS.

Dr. and Mrs. Peterson are no strangers to Chowan University, having served here from 2004 to 2010, yet they still found themselves on new territory. With their initial arrival just after Dr. White became President, they were present for some of Chowan’s darkest days, and they were present for the birth of the renaissance. But in the years of their absence, the seeds, some of which they were instrumental in planting, took root and unfurled in ways few could have predicted or even imagined. And despite all that change, both note that the spirit which undergirds the university remains unchanged, just as it has for the last one hundred seventy years.

While Dr. and Mrs. Peterson settled into their new roles, sons Caleb, Cody, and Justin spent the summer getting reacquainted with their new, yet familiar, setting. Even oldest son Caleb, though he returned to Ohio for college in August, got in on the action, working with the grounds crew on campus despite the sweltering North Carolina heat. One of Dr. Peterson’s initial priorities was setting aside time to get
to know faculty and staff, giving every university employee
the opportunity for a one-on-one meeting with their new
president. The meetings established a strong initial rapport,
as each individual felt their concerns and ideas had been heard
and considered.

Once classes resumed for the fall semester, the Petersons
turned to forging equally strong bonds with students. This is
an arena where both Dr. and Mrs. Peterson truly shine. The
Petersons were fond of hosting students in their home when
they served at Chowan previously, and are keen to do the same
in their new capacity. To date, a number of student groups have
joined them for meals and fellowships in the President’s home.
“I tell them this is their house,” Dr. Peterson says. “After all,
they’re the ones paying for it.”

The best way to describe the student response to the new
first family would be something along the lines of smitten. Dr.
and Mrs. Peterson are a visible and active presence on campus,
showing up at student events and meetings, making time to
converse, listen, and encourage. “It’s always been about the
students,” Dr. Peterson says.

Dr. Peterson advises students to pursue excellence in all
things. “Don’t be afraid to be great at something,” he tells them.
He believes in striving for and achieving greatness, and often
reminds them that the path to excellence involves caring more
than you, or others, think you should. “And don’t be afraid to
try new things,” Mrs. Peterson adds. “It’s so important to be
open to new experiences.”
GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW FIRST FAMILY (clockwise from top left): Dr. and Mrs. Peterson, with sons Caleb, Cody, and Justin, don their “Cho-bans” for a photo at the front gate; the family gather for a portrait on the third-floor balcony of Columns; as an homage to Dr. Peterson’s history of competitive swimming and swim coaching, the family goes poolside at Chowan’s Brown Aquatic Center.
Dr. Peterson says he is enthusiastic about working alongside Dr. White and other members of senior staff. He acknowledges the value of their combined wisdom and experience and says he has benefitted from Dr. White’s mentorship and guidance since the days when he was a newly-minted professor at Gardner-Webb University. In fact, it was largely through Dr. White’s influence and that of Provost Danny Moore that he turned toward the pursuit of a Vice Presidency at Urbana University. That role ultimately led to his rise as interim president, then president, of the struggling institution. Dr. Peterson is particularly proud of being instrumental in orchestrating the merger that eventually kept the school from outright closure.

Dr. Peterson’s approach to leadership is akin to that of a gifted coach. Considering his background and experience, it’s not hard to see why. Dr. Peterson was an All-American swimmer in college. He holds multiple degrees in sports psychology and taught in Sports Science and Physical Education at both Chowan and Gardner-Webb. Even a cursory interaction with him makes one thing very clear: Dr. Peterson is, at heart, a competitor in pursuit of a single end goal. This is a man who loves to win and brings every ounce of his highly competitive nature to bear on the presidency.

That competitive spirit and Chowan University’s ability to adapt, transform, and persevere, may just be a natural fit. Dr. Peterson says the Chowan family’s “roll-up-your-sleeves mentality” is a big part of what brought he and his family back to Chowan. “No one person is bigger than any one job,” he says. “That really speaks to the heart of the institution.”

Part of Dr. Peterson’s vision for Chowan is to continue the effort to recruit and retain students as well as growing and improving the physical plant. He has a desire to work with the faculty to bring in innovative academic programs and work closely with the students to gauge their feelings and listen to their needs.

The institution and all its various parts—students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and supporters—are proving themselves ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work once again. This time everyone is counting on the new administration’s guidance as we continue to serve, nurture, educate, and love the greatest of all our constituents according to Dr. Peterson—our students.

“No one person is bigger than any one job. That speaks to the heart of the institution.”

–DR. KIRK E. PETERSON
23rd President of Chowan University
Edie Farris went to bed one night, just as she did any other night. She was sleeping peacefully until suddenly she was awakened by her dream. She had a profound insight that Chowan University needed a place of peace and prayer. Her dream instilled in her a sense of urgency. This gift had been laid upon her heart with divine direction. So, she got up, went to her computer, and drafted an email explaining her idea.

JOB 33:14-16 | For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds.
EDIE FARRIS, WHO GRADUATED FROM Chowan with an English degree in 1953, is no stranger to Chowan and certainly not to charitable giving. She and her late husband, Phil, have given in many ways throughout the years. They contributed to campus improvements, landscaping, residence halls, scholarship endowments, the library, special projects, generous gifts in kind, and more. When Edie sees a need, she generously shares her resources with the school she loves. So, it’s no surprise that Edie would choose Chowan yet again, this time with a special gift in memory of Phil, who passed away in 2016.

Over the years, she has demonstrated her love for Chowan by investing in many ways. But her inspiration via dream and the middle of the night email it prompted were unusual by any standards. As Edie returned to consciousness that night, before she was even fully awake, words filled her mind. “Praise and

GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD  |  “My hope and prayer is that God will bless this special place and use it to bring Chowan students closer to him and to Jesus,” shared Edie. The intent is to provide a quiet place to reflect, to meditate, and to worship individually. The focal point of the room is a 100-year-old stained glass window from London flanked by kneeling benches and pews.

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glory are in his sanctuary....sing unto the Lord, all you people
of the land, sing unto the Lord the glory due unto His name,”
continued to run through her thoughts.

The words were from a song by gospel group Magnify out
of the Charlotte, NC area. The words are significant as they
echo scriptures from Psalms and Chronicles. She also recalled
the hymn “Glory and Praise to Our God.” As she gathered
her thoughts, Edie understood, “Chowan needs a quiet room,
similar to those in hospitals, with a stained-glass window and
pews where students can sit and kneel and pray and worship as
each feels led.”

Dreams have fascinated people since the beginning
of time. In ancient Egypt, those who had vivid dreams
were considered blessed. In fact, many
Egyptians believed dreams to be divine
revelation. Psychoanalysts, Freud and Jung
believed dreams provided insights into
the inner workings of the mind. Freud’s
theory fundamentally affirmed that
while our conscious minds slumber, our
unconscious minds could provide insight
into our deepest selves.

While the significance of the dream
has been and will remain debatable, it
is agreed that a dream’s intense neurological activity allows
the brain to consolidate and conserve memories and process
information during sleep.

Not only did Edie receive a divine message that evening,
she also felt the call to fund the project. She met with
John Tayloe, Vice President for Development, and Dr. M.
Christopher White, 22nd President of Chowan University and
current Chancellor, to discuss her thoughts. As the three spoke
of Edie’s vision, Dr. White said, “What I think you are really
talking about is a prayer room.” And that she was.

“My hope and prayer is that God will bless this special

place and use it to bring Chowan students closer to him and
to Jesus,” shares Edie. The intent is for the space to provide
a quiet place to reflect, a place to meditate and worship
individually.

From a single dream laid upon Edie’s heart, the Farris
Prayer Room was born. The room’s focal point is a 100-year-
old stained glass window from London, flanked by a kneeling
bench and pews. Each element of the decor was hand-picked by
campus decorator Liz Brown to bring Edie’s vision to life.

On one wall hangs a tapestry with a Quaker saying
that embodies the purpose of the space: “Silence is a natural
demand born of a need for God, felt by young and old, in all
the world’s religions. In silence we may share worship together,
sharing our search for life, sharing our quest for peace, sharing God’s gift of love.”

Dr. White says that the purpose is for
the prayer room to be a Christian prayer
room. “However,” he adds, “it is open to
all. All people. All faiths. And we hope
that it will become a part of our life here
and that anyone that feels the need for
quiet contemplation will do that.”

This sanctuary is located in the
bottom floor of Whitaker library. “It
radiates an old world feel, yet is new,” remarks John M. Tayloe,
Vice President of Development. The prayer room is open to
the entire Chowan community and welcomes quiet prayer,
meditation, and reflection.

“So with all the busyness going on with almost everyone
these days, we all need occasional silence. Silence today is
harder and harder to find,” remarks Edie.

“As one church says, ‘We’re so overwhelmed with the noise
and pace of contemporary life that the faint inner voice of the
Spirit cannot be heard.’ So this will be a place to reflect, pray,
and focus on God.”

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GLORY AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD  |  The words, from a song by gospel group Magnify, echo scriptures from
the Psalms and Chronicles. I CHRONICLES 16:29  |  Give unto the Lord the glory due his name: bring an offering, and
come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of the holiness. PSALMS 29:2  |  Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his
name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. PSALMS 96:8  |  Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an
offering, and come into his courts.
CHOWAN DEDICATES TWO HOUSES

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2018, Chowan University dedicated the Jesse E. Vaughan Chancellor’s Cottage and the Felton University House, named in honor of Jesse E. Vaughan and Ray and Judy Felton, respectively, for their generosity in support of the campus.

Chair of the Board of Trustees W. Frank Rose Jr., President Kirk E. Peterson, and Chancellor M. Christopher White welcomed the Vaughan and Felton families, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and friends to the dedication of both facilities. Following a brief program, attendees were invited to tour both the Vaughan Chancellor’s Cottage and the Felton University House.

Dr. White stated, “For 170 years prominent members of this area have prayed for guidance and stepped up with action – often in the face of great obstacles. These actions have propelled this institution into greatness.” Generous supporters like Vaughan and Felton are the backbone of Chowan’s continued success. As a private university, Chowan has relied upon the generosity of those who believe in the viability of the institution since 1848.

President Kirk E. Peterson said, “I am privileged, once again, to be a part of this growing university that is fully embraced by its community members. These two buildings, at the forefront of our campus, now bear the names of two generous trustees who have supported Chowan in many ways over the years. It is an honor to work with such upstanding individuals. The generosity of Jesse and Ray not only enhances the campus aesthetics; it also strengthens our community.”

As Dr. White introduced Vaughan and Felton, he noted many similarities between the two. Both are successful local businessmen who built their businesses from nothing. Both are dedicated Christians who value family. They are so-called self-made men with business practices defined by virtue, honesty, hard work, and fairness. Although, Felton humbly added that he owed all of his success to God.
Vaughan and Felton are generous with their resources, sharing their own blessings with the community they love and cherish.

The Jesse E. Vaughan Chancellor’s Cottage was made possible by Jesse Edward “Tink” Vaughan, longtime supporter and Trustee of Chowan University. Vaughan is a resident of Murfreesboro, NC, and a retired farmer. He has established both athletic and Christian Service Association scholarships and recently gifted the Vaughan Fountain. Vaughan is known in the community not only for his service to Chowan but also his work with the Jefcoat Museum.

The Felton University House was named in honor of Ray and Judy Felton of Eure, NC. Ray Felton, also a Trustee, is heavily involved at Chowan. He owns and operates Metal Tech in Murfreesboro, NC. Ray and Judy are past recipients of the Chowan University Community Service Award and the North Carolina Baptist Heritage Award. The Feltons are major supporters of the annual Hertford-Gates Relay for Life and Ray has served as a NC ambassador for the American Cancer Society. The Office of the Chancellor, along with University Relations, is located in the Felton University House.

Rose remarked, “As a member of the Board of Trustees for many years, I am especially appreciative when board members step up and make significant contributions to the University.” He continued, “Thanks to both of you for placing your resources where your heart is. Chowan University is on the way to greatness, and you are leading the way. These properties are tangible examples of Chowan’s growth in the past few years.”

Vice President for Development John M. Tayloe added, “Both families have revolutionized how we conduct business and have given us beautiful areas to welcome the public.” For years to come, these facilities will welcome special guests to Chowan, host meetings and dinners, and provide office space.

“On behalf of Chowan University, I extend my gratitude to Jesse and Ray. The Jesse E. Vaughan Chancellor’s Cottage and the Felton University House will be forever appreciated and cherished,” said President Peterson.
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Jesse E. Vaughan surrounded by family and dear friends; Ray Felton greets guests prior to the dedication ceremony; Chair of the Board of Trustees Frank Rose thanks both the Vaughan and Felton families for their generous gifts in support of Chowan University.
WITH A NEW ROLE COMES NEW ADVENTURES. DR. WHITE REFLECTS ON HIS AUGUST 2018 JOURNEY TO KOREA AND VIETNAM, WHERE HE PREACHED, LEARNED, AND REPRESENTED CHOWAN UNIVERSITY ON A GLOBAL LEVEL.
WE HAVE KNOWN DR. SEUNG LEE for about twenty-five years, and this was the fifth trip to Korea which he sponsored. He owns Seoul Cyber University, South Korea’s first on-line university, with a current enrollment of around 10,000 students. On an earlier trip, the school had one large, impressive building. Now there is another larger and even more impressive building, as well as a smaller building. The entire school is outfitted with the very best in furnishings and equipment.

We visited the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) and did some shopping, including purchase of five celadon pottery pieces for the Chancellor’s Cottage, and a visit to the recently opened first Pottery Barn store in Korea. This store has a special connection to Murfreesboro, because Robbie Wise, son of Murfreesboro natives Keith and Mikki Wise, is a high-ranking official with Pottery Barn. The layout and presentation of the store were spectacular, and we took numerous photos for the Wises.

The highlight of our trip was preaching at Haebang Presbyterian Church, which was probably the main reason Dr. Lee wanted us to make the trip. The pastor and his wife are Dr. Young-Kuk Park and Song Park. Years ago, Dr. Lee sent them to study at the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. We became friends and had several meals together. His English was halting and, at the time, we did not see strong potential for leadership in him. Apparently, we did not look hard enough.

Dr. Park has been the pastor of Haebang Church for several years. The hesitant, halting divinity school student I remembered is no more. He has developed into a dynamic leader who was respected and loved by the people. The facility

VISIBLE GROWTH:
The hesitant, halting divinity school student has developed into a dynamic leader, respected and loved by the people.

"THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR TRIP WAS PREACHING AT HAEBANG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH."
is very impressive, and the program is just as impressive. With over 1,300 members, there are four worship services each Sunday. The sanctuary was modern in style and had an organ, given by Dr. Lee, and a grand piano. The service was very traditional and effective. Dr. Park translated my sermon as we traded speaking line by line. The audience chuckled when they were supposed to, so we presume they understood just fine.

The music was spectacular—organ, piano, small orchestra, and well-trained choir of over fifty singers. Amazingly, I knew the words to every song—even the choir special. Processing in to the verses of Holy, Holy, Holy was an uplifting experience. I chose to sing with each hymn—one English voice with over 400 Korean voices. Following the sermon, the church celebrated the Lord’s Supper.

Our visit to Da Nang, Vietnam was truly a Third World experience—tremendous poverty with pockets of enormous wealth. The government has invested in the airport, military buildings, and allowances for hotels, but the residences of most of the people reflect hard times. Our trip saw both the poor streets of Da Nang and the incredible luxury of the Intercontinental Hotel, which was spectacular in every respect.

The hotel consists of a number of buildings, with rooms for visitors in various lodges that were literally built into the mountainside. Travel from rooms to the restaurants, beaches, etc. is by buggy and cable car. We have never been to a more beautiful place. Without exception, the Vietnamese people we met were friendly and courteous. We could easily have taken several we met home with us to enroll them in college.

"I CHOSE TO SING EACH HYMN—ONE ENGLISH VOICE WITH OVER 400 KOREAN VOICES."
CAPITALIZING ON A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

IT’S BEEN ALMOST A FULL YEAR since Danny Davis, of Shelby, NC, joined Chowan University as Vice President for Business and Finance, taking over for Donnie Clary, who transitioned to Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs at the same time. In these new roles, Clary and Davis work together in a variety of ways, with Clary’s many years of business and finance experience available to benefit Davis as needed. This dynamic mirrors the mentor relationship between President Peterson and Chancellor White, and will help ensure the University’s financial health into the future.

Clary has served alongside Dr. White for over 30 years, and Dr. White attributes much of Chowan’s growth and success to their team effort. Clary holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina and a master’s in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University. Most recently, Clary won the 2016-2017 Chowan University Staff Employee of the Year Award. Davis stated, “Assuming a senior leadership role following in the footsteps of an exceptional administrator like Donnie Clary is a difficult proposition. However, I believe my experiences and professional projection of collegial and collaborative teamwork supported by an excellent team enable me to embrace the challenges of this opportunity, and to continue Chowan’s advancement in growth and reputation.”

Davis’s more than 25 years of experience in higher education includes seven years as Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Springfield College in Massachusetts. Before that, he served as Vice President for Technology and Planning at Mt. Saint Mary College, CIO at Sungard Higher Education, and Associate Vice President of Technology Services at Gardner-Webb University. Davis earned his bachelor’s degree and Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Gardner-Webb University in 2003 and 2007, respectively. Davis and his wife of almost 40 years, Jo, are welcome additions to the Chowan and Mufreesboro communities.
CHOWAN UNIVERSITY NAMED THOMAS “Tommy” Edwin Forbes as the new Chair of the Board of Visitors. Tommy is a Chowan graduate who has a long and faithful history of love and service to the school.

John M. Tayloe, Vice President for Development, said, “Tommy is a native, a local businessman, and has long been invested in the well-being of Chowan. He is an asset to the University, as well as the community. I am pleased to see him take on this new role and I look forward to continued success under his leadership.”

Tommy graduated from Chowan College (now Chowan University) in 1974 and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1976 where he studied journalism and mass communication. He maintained a career with Nationwide Insurance until his recent retirement.

Tommy has served Chowan University in many capacities over the years. He is a long-standing member of the Board of Visitors and past president of the Braves Club (now known as the Brave Hawks Club- an athletic fundraising organization). He earned the title of Distinguished Alumni at Chowan University in 2015.

He serves as public announcer at Chowan University men’s basketball home games and Southampton Academy home football games. Tommy was honored for his work with the North Carolina State Jaycees. He is a member of the Murfreesboro American George Lodge, and a Shriner in the Roanoke-Chowan Shrine Club. He is also a member of Murfreesboro Baptist Church and the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce.
Servant leaders promote the wellbeing of others through acts of empathy, compassion and love. In a world filled with so much anger, hate, and war, the servant leadership subverts the pyramid of power that so many strive to climb, placing the leader at the bottom of the hierarchy and allowing the leader not only to give back, but to serve others - just as Jesus Christ did. These leaders are ultimately able to unlock a higher level of engagement and success amongst their “followers”. The servant leader isn’t recognized through his or her own work, but rather through the work of their people and the strength of their relational impact.

“Servant leadership subverts the pyramid of power so many strive to climb.”

COURTNEY O’KEAFFE
I have always enjoyed serving others and the community where I live. I think being a leader is beyond guiding others to the right direction. The way I practice servant leadership is by being a follower in the first place. To be a good leader, I must be part of the group or the organization that I am leading. The best way to lead is by being an example to your followers. If you want to change the behavior of a group of people and lead them to the right direction, you yourself must be confident about that direction.

GEORGE KATTAN
When I first got to know Rev. Mari Wiles on a mission trip she said one of her many great sayings: “The little we have, we share.” That sat with me so well. I grew up with the bare necessities and occasionally a little more, but I made sure I always shared with whoever had less, or even more, than myself. I see so many branches of my growth connected to her roots. She is my example of a servant leader.

I grew up with the bare necessities, but I always made sure to share.

AMBER CUNNINGHAM
Chowan’s chapter of Rotaract has given me and others many opportunities to practice servant leadership. We volunteer at PAWS of Hertford County Animal Shelter, organize events for Relay for Life, and help with other various fundraising events and service projects. One person that I have really looked up to at Chowan is Dr. Corina Wack. Not only does she challenge students in the classroom, but she challenges us to stretch our limits of being selfless through Rotaract.

Not only does Dr. Wack challenge students in the classroom, but she challenges us to stretch our limits of being selfless.

DAVID CROSS
EMBRACING HAPPENSTANCE

TIM HAYES MAY CREDIT PROVIDENCE FOR HIS CURRENT POSITION IN CHOWAN’S DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BUT GETTING HERE WASN’T A STROLL DOWN GILDED BRICKS. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF HIS DOCTORATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, TIM ACCEPTED A FIVE-YEAR INSTRUCTOR POSITION AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY AND BEGAN LOOKING FOR THE POSITION AND SCHOOL THAT WOULD BECOME HIS HOME.

“I’ve always been a teacher first and this is a school that’s very much about teaching.”
“You get a PhD from UNC, you kind of expect to get a tenure-track job,” he says. “It’s expected of you. It almost feels like the universe owes you that.”

But by year six at Auburn, he was starting to have doubts. Tim knew that as an instructor he would never see students beyond their freshman year. He would never see them grow as students, as writers. He would never—entirely fabricated examples—have a student camped out in a corner of his office to pick his brain on the paper she’s writing for his class or be the one to witness that ‘ah-ha’ moment after spending the better part of two years trying to convince a student that she isn’t actually “bad at essays.” Tim would never play an advisory role in a student’s academic life.

“Every year, people were graduating with PhDs behind me that had cooler, hipper, newer, fresher topics, that weren’t withering on the vine as an instructor somewhere,” he recalls. “How long do you chase the rabbit?” He found himself beginning to consider alternatives. “Maybe I should be an education consultant. Maybe I should do something else. Maybe I should go back and get an EdD and go that path.”

Instead, his path led him to Chowan and the environment he’d been searching for. “I went to a school about the same size as an undergrad, knew my professors well, and valued knowing my professors well. My perception of friends that went to state schools is you’re really just a name on a roll. I came back for my sophomore year and my chemistry professor recognized me.” He pauses, raises his eyebrows. “The point of getting a PhD in English is to have a job like this.”

In the classroom, Tim strives to bolster student confidence during the journey to becoming more self-assured readers and writers. Though it isn’t always a path free of obstacles, he finds the process greatly rewarding. “It’s three freshman writing classes every semester. It can get hard at times, getting sixty-odd papers and a lot of them sound the same—there’s some repetition in this job. But I enjoy it because of what they get from it.”

He is also a strong advocate of independent thought, encouraging students to form their own opinions of not only the assigned literature, but of issues that have the potential to affect them. Tim endeavors to instill a more global perspective, challenging students to think beyond themselves. “I think it’s easier to be isolated now. And just only feed your own ideas, your own concepts of the world—books challenge those if you let them.”

While his interest in academic issues is long-standing, Tim’s involvement in the Hertford County Literacy Coalition began with an unrelated email and idle curiosity. At the beginning of his second year at Chowan, a campus-wide call went out for people who could decorate three Little Free Libraries built by a local Eagle Scout for local medical facilities. Though a lack of artistic ability meant that he was unlikely to be of use to the project, he kept the email.

“I decided to Google “Hertford County literacy”—you know how Google likes to guess? There’s nothing to guess. There was no Hertford County literacy council or coalition or anything.” Tim was surprised to find no literacy program in place to cover the greater Murfreesboro area. Now with a more vested interest, he met with Katherine Parker of the Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center’s literacy initiative to learn more about what they were doing for the community and if there was a way to connect those efforts to Chowan. Recognizing that the needs of the area were greater than he thought, the idea to implement a literacy council was born.

Advised to start by simply talking to people, that’s just what the newly-minted Hertford County Literacy Coalition did. “We wanted to meet with folks interested in literacy: teachers, administrators, whoever we could get to the meetings. It was about getting buy-in, certainly, but it was also about figuring out what was going on already and what needed to happen next.” This led to the official launch meeting in May of 2016.

The following year was devoted primarily to developing the organization’s mission and vision, along with their first book giveaway. One of the Coalition’s primary goals is book distribution as evidence suggests that the majority of children in the area do not have books at home.
To get books into the hands of these students, the group held public giveaways at local elementary schools with help from Murfreesboro’s own local bookstore, The Cultivator. Tim also worked to get Chowan students involved with tutoring and reading days at the elementary schools to further encourage their younger counterparts.

The Coalition plans to continue their efforts during the coming school year. They hope to sponsor Free Book Friday, a monthly giveaway at area elementary schools, and continue enlisting Chowan students as volunteers to keep children excited about reading. They are also creating additional Little Free Libraries throughout the community to make books more readily available to adults, as well as students over the summer holidays.

“What I like about the democracy of the Little Free Library,” he says, “is that whoever wants to put whatever in there, somebody might come along and read it.” These tiny libraries also help to get books into the hands of those that lack a means of transportation. Though it isn’t currently feasible, the Coalition has dreams of a Bookmobile that would make books of all reading levels available to our local communities. One of the group’s more short-term goals is to attain non-profit status so that they can more effectively serve the area and work to make literacy a priority in eastern North Carolina.

“I think reading makes you more conscious of the world, more conscious of others. There’s also a notion of learning empathy from reading books and that’s something I’ve always strongly believed in.”
Chowan students take advantage of some fantastic opportunities that send them across the state, all over the country, and even around the world.

- **Carrie Blowe** was accepted to East Carolina University's accelerated nursing program. She will start January and complete her BSN by December 2019. The Biology major, under the direction of Biology faculty members, also presented research at the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium (SNCURCS) at Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC: Blowe, C.A. (Biology) Effects of agricultural runoff on the immune function of bluegill, Paper presentation., Faculty mentor: Corina L. Wack.

- **Robert Castello** completed an internship with US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish Hatchery, Edenton, NC.

- **Jamie Calcagno** completed an internship with NC State College of Veterinary Medicine in Raleigh, NC. She worked in Dr. Thakur’s Lab as an undergraduate research assistant, helping graduate students and PhD scientists with the NARMS project. They tested salmonella resistance and how salmonella is transferred from livestock to crops.
• **Kiana Alston** completed an internship with Dr. Kirby Ransom Dentistry in Henderson, NC.

• **Kristiana Neal** completed an internship with Community Smiles Dental Practice in Chapel Hill, NC.

• **Erika Wilson** completed an internship with OrthoCarolina Sports Medicine Center in Charlotte, NC.

• **Sarah Hull** worked at the Kerr Lake State Recreation Area, which is part of the NC State Parks system.

• **Isaiah Sanders**, a junior from Charlotte, NC and student-athlete, completed a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (NSF REU) summer internship at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at Gloucester Point, VA, and completed a research project on the genetic makeup of the speckled trout. Isaiah worked with Dr. Jan McDowell who studies population genetics, conservation genetics, systematics, molecular ecology and evolutionary biology of marine and estuarine fishes.

• **Kiarra Thomas** completed an internship with General Booth Veterinary Hospital in Virginia Beach, VA.

• **Jordan Pettaway** completed an internship with Indivior, an addiction treatment center in Richmond, VA.

• **David Cross** served as a Bible Study Leader for Passport Missions Camp at Averett University, VA.

• **Gabrielle Rodgers** interned with Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA, where she was the lead supervisor in the Ireland theatres.

• **Charles Blackburn**, IDS major, under the direction of Biology faculty members, presented research at the 70th Anniversary Meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society in Rehoboth Beach, DE, and the 2017 Albemarle-Pamlico Ecosystem Symposium at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC: Blackburn, C. T. Below ground biomass of marshes in Currituck Sound, North Carolina, Poster Presentation, Faculty mentor: James K. Dame.
• **Shelby Regina Griffis** completed an internship with the Jacksonville Fire Department’s First Responder Unit in Jacksonville FL.

• **Rochelle Jones** served with Student.go at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, KY.

• **Sean Timmons** was the Program Director for Centrifuge Camp in North Greenville, SC.

• **Amber Cunningham** interned with the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington DC.

• **George Kattan**, mathematics major, under the direction of Biology faculty members, presented research at the Alpha Chi National Convention in Portland, OR: Kattan, George D. (Mathematics) Northern lights. Poster Presentation, Faculty sponsors: James K. Dame and Brian C. Duffy.

• **Carrie Blowe**, biology major, under the direction of Biology faculty members, presented research at the Alpha Chi National Convention in Portland, OR: Blowe, C.A. (Biology) Effects of agricultural runoff on the immune function of bluegill, Poster presentation, Faculty mentor: Corina L. Wack.

• **Tyler Richards**, IDS major, under the direction of Biology faculty members, presented research at the 2018 North Landing River/Albemarle Sound Estuarine Symposium at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA, and at the 70th Anniversary Meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society in Rehoboth Beach, DE: Richards, T. L. (IDS) Above ground biomass of marshes in Currituck Sound, Poster Presentation, Faculty mentor: James K. Dame.

• In June, **Campus Ministry** sent a team of 14 to Portland, Maine, to serve with Preble Street, an organization that works with people experiencing homelessness. Students learned about homelessness, hunger, and poverty. This experience equipped students with new perspectives and concepts.

• Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends spent time learning and touring England and Scotland in May on the **Study Abroad** trip. The group visited London, Salisbury, Stonehenge, Bath, Bristol, the Cotswolds, Stratford Upon Avon, Liverpool, the Lake District, Edinburgh, York, Leeds, Cambridge, and more.

• **L’elah Laing** completed an internship at a dental office in the Bahamas this summer.

• **Zoe Beale** started Masters Program in London inspired by the Study Abroad trip to England and Scotland and an internship in museum work she completed this summer.
C U R R E N T L Y, T H E C O S T O F Higher Education is just that. Higher than it’s ever been in history and higher than many students and families can reasonably afford. And yet, there’s no overstating the value of a four-year degree, which continues to rise right alongside its price tag. Students cobble together a number of different solutions to manage the costs, but it isn’t always enough. To that end, Chowan University launched several new weapons this year that will assist in the battle against rising costs—and for student success.

Hawk Flight Book Program

Increasingly, students across the country are throwing up their hands in despair and opting to forge ahead with outdated editions or without textbooks at all. But, both affordable and convenient, the Hawk Flight Book Program harnesses the purchasing power of the University to reduce the cost of course materials to individual students. The flat rate per semester offers a cost-savings of approximately 50 percent, covers all textbooks and computer access codes, and is extended to all students automatically upon enrollment. This helps students and parents by lowering the costs of textbooks while also making them a budgeted expense. In addition, Chowan University advisors are poised to help evaluate student course loads each semester to determine whether or not the textbook program will indeed save money. If it would make more financial sense to rent or purchase textbooks on their own, Chowan makes it easy for students to opt out.
Chowan University Vice President for Business and Finance Danny Davis says the response so far has been overwhelmingly positive, especially from parents. “The program represents a $1.4 million risk on the part of the University,” he says. “We believe it’s worth it to demonstrate our commitment to our students.”

Chowan University has also taken pains to make sure the Hawk Flight Book Program is simplified and streamlined, eliminating hassle for students and parents. Course materials for participating students are prepackaged and ready for students to pick up at check-in. As a result, students should have 100 percent of their course materials in hand on day one. Returning books will be equally as easy. Students will simply hand them in when they take their final exam or turn in their final project.

“We believe all Chowan students should have access to textbooks,” says Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Danny Moore. “The days of students not having textbooks because they can’t afford them are in the past.”

First- and Second-Year Experience Programs

The University has launched two new courses to reduce the stress of college life for first-year students with the expectation of promoting success through their college careers. “One of the major goals of these experiences is community building,” says Dr. Mollie Madden, Academic Advising Coordinator. “It can be difficult for students to find community when they first make the transition to college, so this is designed to give them one right from the beginning.”

The First-Year Experience program combines a formal course each semester (CU 101 and CU 102) with activities and events students will participate in with their peers.

In a transition away from the formal organization of the previous Experience to focus on more fluid planning, the Second-Year Experience will
better prepare students for their third year. The Second-Year Experience program emphasizes the celebration of achievements; acquaints second-year students with faculty and administration; and explores how to make informed decisions, such as choosing a major or planning for life after graduation.

**Programs of Study**

For most students, choosing a major is akin to deciding which of your functioning limbs to keep. Choosing a single subject can feel like having to abandon the rest. Beginning with the 2018-19 academic catalog, Chowan introduced two new majors that will allow students to study the subjects that truly interest them.

The Integrative Studies program is intended for students with varied interests or even students who want to combine existing programs into one focus designed for their own professional goals. Where a double major also allows students to study two disciplines concurrently, Integrative Studies combines those two focuses into one cohesive unit under the guidance of advisors from both programs. This program will also play a role in phasing out the Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

The General Studies concentration requires study in three of the four offered areas: Management, Technology, and the Environment; Social Interaction, Diversity, and the Individual; Culture and the Arts; and Society, Traditions, and the Nation. This degree gives students a broad--yet structured--foundation with which to move on to further education or a career.

Chowan now boasts a Pre-Art Therapy minor that echoes the recommendations of the American Association of Art Therapy. Art Therapy is a mental health service that utilizes the creative process in its methods with clients. The minor combines selected studio art and psychology courses into a framework for graduate-level study.

While well-known for the teacher education program, one often overlooked facet is that Chowan also offers a minor in education. Students under the education minor will take both professional studies and specialty or content courses usually reserved for department majors. In addition to the education core, the minor also expects students to enroll in the same psychology courses required for the bachelor’s degree. Both the Education and Pre-Art Therapy minors are open to all students pursuing a bachelor's degree.

**The Finish Program**

In an effort to save students time and money while in pursuit of their bachelor's degree, Chowan launched the Finish Program. This program hopes to simplify the path from college freshman to college graduate without the increasing pitstops of additional semesters and tuition. Advisors and students will work closely together to map out a clear, educational plan of at least fifteen credits per semester over four years. This outline will ensure that students graduate within four years. All Chowan students are eligible to participate in the Finish Program at no additional cost.

With these offerings, Chowan University takes “faith in your future” to new heights. A new inclusive-access book program, a clear roadmap to success, student-centered courses, and additional degree options are sure to help our Hawks soar.

More information about these new programs can be found at www.chowan.edu.
OUR EXPERIENCES DEFINE US. GOOD OR BAD, WE ARE WHO WE ARE BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH. WE DON’T ALWAYS KNOW THE EXACT MOMENT, PLACE, OR PERSON WHO TRANSFORMS US. IT CAN BE THE SMALLEST, MOST INSIGNIFICANT INCIDENT THAT INFLUENCES OUR ENTIRE LIFE, CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE, BUILDS US UP, OR BREAKS US DOWN. ONLY A FEW ARE ABLE TO POINPOINT WHERE TO ATTRIBUTE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THEIR SPIRIT.
“CHOWAN TRANSFORMED MY LIFE,” SAYS Maurice Fluitt. “It was a place that reconnected me with God. This was really the catalyst for my personal evolution to the person I am today.”

He always had a passion for learning and curiosity. To his teachers, he was known as a student of promise. He excelled academically beginning in grade school and continued throughout graduate school. But, sadly academic ability is only part of the challenge for students. Educational finances often present additional obstacles. Although his parents had aspirations for him to become a doctor, they didn’t know how the expense would be met.

Maurice first heard of Chowan University through a letter he received in the mail. Although he knew little about the school, he took a chance and applied. He was invited to interview for a leadership scholarship. He visited campus with his mom and grandmother not knowing if Chowan was the place for him. However, as he walked back to his car with his family, his grandmother said, “this is the school for you.” This reinforced how he began to feel throughout the day. With his mom’s assurance too, he knew Chowan would soon become a second home.

“Chowan provided a place for me to explore natural gifts and talents, such as research and serving people. It was and still is a place that has connected me to some amazing role models, mentors, and advisors that took time to sow into my curiosity and love for learning,” Maurice affirms.

He remembers it well, “During welcome week, in one of our meetings with Randy Harrell,” he recalls, “I heard these words, ‘For most of you, this is an opportunity to start over. To become something new. To be something you were not in high school.’ For some reason, I took those words to heart.” In high school, Maurice admits, he struggled with self-confidence and identity issues, like many adolescents. He allowed these fears to hold him back until Chowan, where he was provided an opportunity to start over. He connected with people like Mari Wiles, Minister to the University, and Pastor Anthony Rawlings, fellow student, who helped him redefine his worldview. As he continued to grow mentally, emotionally and spiritually, something spectacular happened, the lens he had previously viewed life through shifted to the “lens of love, of service to all, and of the power of God’s Word. Not only did Chowan connect me with amazing people and lifelong friends, but it provided exciting and challenging opportunities,” he shared.

Once on campus, Maurice grasped the many opportunities to get involved. He worked as a Resident Assistant and Director in Dunn Hall, served as Class President, led the Gospel Choir as president, and served on mission teams. “These experiences pulled something out of me that could not be taught in a classroom or laboratory bench, but only through experiencing life outside of my comfort zone. These experiences have transformed my life for the better,” he stated. Maurice was also active in the Science Club, Campus Programming Board, and Chowan Winds.

“Chowan gave me the opportunity to connect with people like Dr. Wethington, who identified my growing interest in research and provided opportunities, whether in a class conducting independent research or participating in competitive NSF summer research experiences (REU), to over.
nurture and develop foundational skills that put me ahead of many of my colleagues in graduate school and as a postdoctoral fellow. It was and still is a place that has motivated and encouraged me to excel in life," Maurice recalls.

As a first-generation college student, finishing college with a terminal degree (Ph.D.) was a great victory, a milestone not only for himself but for his entire family. This was the type of achievement that is shared with an entire support system because when one person succeeds, the entire network is accomplished.

“When I successfully defended my dissertation in April 2016, it was one of the greatest feelings ever. And when I walked across the stage on May 14, 2016, in the presence of our commencement speaker, President Barack Obama, to receive my Ph.D. in Genetics and Human Genetics, it was one of the greatest gifts I could give my parents and grandparents who could not give me the gift of education or the finances to pursue my dreams, but taught me the value of hard work and dedication, and showed me what it meant to be faithful with the gifts and talents that had been given to me. The ability to finish, in spite of all of the odds stacked against me, was both a challenge and a triumph. To me, finishing and finishing strong was a major triumph.”

Dr. Maurice Fluitt graduated from Chowan University in 2009 earning a Bachelor of Science in biology and then received the Ph.D. in human genetics from Howard University in 2016 where his research elucidated biomarkers of obesity and type 2 diabetes in African Americans.

“I was blessed to receive various scholarships and other financial support to cover my undergraduate expenses. I was even more blessed to receive a Teaching Assistantship and an NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Fellowship to pursue my graduate studies at Howard,” remarked Maurice.

Maurice recently completed an NIH-TL1 Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Georgetown Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (GHUCCTS) Translational Biomedical Sciences Program at Georgetown University Medical Center where his research aimed to assess the use of urinary exosomal microRNAs as early markers of diabetic kidney disease. He currently serves as an American Diabetes Association Post-Doctoral Minority Fellow where his research aims to identify the therapeutic and biomarker potential of microRNA-451 in diabetic kidney disease.

“What I enjoy most about my work now is that it adds to the current understanding of diabetic kidney disease. What’s even more exciting is the potential of this work to serve as a targeted therapeutic intervention to prevent or slow disease progression, which would reduce the number of cases of end-stage renal failure. For me, this work is somewhat personal. My father passed away from complications due to end-stage renal failure in December 2003. My interest in understanding the genetics of diabetes and its complications stemmed from there,” shared Maurice.

Maurice remains connected to Chowan through his involvement on the Alumni Council where he has been a member since 2013. “I enjoy connecting and reconnecting with Chowan Alum and planning to move our growing Alumni base forward.”

"THESE EXPERIENCES TRANSFORMED MY LIFE."
FOOTBALL
BREAKING RECORDS

FOOTBALL CAPPED OFF A SPECIAL SEASON WITH a 47-27 victory against Shaw on November 8, to give the Hawks their third winning season in the past four years. Tyrell Freeman and Bryce Witt became the first duo to ever rush for 100+ yards in a single contest. Freeman finished with 195 yards and two touchdowns. Witt tallied 128 yards on the ground and became the first quarterback for Chowan to rush for three touchdowns. Witt also broke the single season passing touchdown record on his first touchdown pass of the contest and finished with 27 passing touchdowns and 228 yards passing.

Quarterback Bryce Witt threw for a school record 439 yards against McKendree on September 22, with three touchdown passes on 23-33 passing. Witt also posted two rushing touchdowns that game, earning his first BOXTOROW National Player of the Week honor and only the second in Chowan history.

On October 6, the Hawks dominated from the first play on their way to a 42-23 victory over CIAA Northern Division powerhouse Bowie State at home. The win against Bowie State snapped a four game losing streak to the Bulldogs.

The Chowan Football team gutted out a 45-38 victory on the road to Virginia State on October 27. Bryce Witt posted a career-high 136 yards on the ground, while Tyrell Freeman came up just short with 99 yards rushing.

Freeman went on to break the single season rushing record on November 3, to lead the Chowan Football team to their third straight win defeating Lincoln. Coach Tim Place dyed his hair pink for the contest as the Chowan community donated over $500 for breast cancer research.
JOIN THE BRAVE HAWKS CLUB

The Brave Hawks Club is the fundraising organization for the Department of Athletics at Chowan University. Your continued support ensures the success we have recently experienced will continue well into the future.

Contact Ashley Wells Spradlin | aewells0806@chowan.edu | 252.398.1239
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Dr. and Mrs. White greet guests as they arrive; the Rose family, staunch supporters and friends of Chowan; current and former faculty and staff enjoy mingling before the program; Hope Williams, President of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities was one of several guest speakers for the evening; Mrs. White shows family members their photos in Dr. White’s new book; the evening included an elegant dinner, program, and dance; the crowd rises to its feet as Dr. White takes the podium.
Clockwise from top left:
Guests pose for pictures in front of the photo backdrop; delicious appetizers ready for the evening to begin; Dr. White signs copies of his book, which each guest received as a thank you for attending; alumni reunite with donors and friends.
At chowan.edu/classacts you can post an update, share a photo, and be part of the news at Chowan University - especially if it’s your reunion year. For Brave Hawks who have joined the Chowanian society - that’s 50+ years since graduation - every year is a reunion year!

1950s

1960s
Margaret Johnson Odom Atkinson ’60 died peacefully in her home in Severn on May 31, 2018 at the age of 76.
Tommy Talley ’66 retired from the real estate and building industry after 40 years.

1970s
Drew W. Pollock ’70 of Kinston, NC, passed away on June 25, 2018.
Kay Fish Toombs ’71 of Prince George, Va. passed away on Monday, April 30, 2018 at the age of 67.

2000s
Joseph “Chris” Pratt ’02 received his Masters degree in Ministry from Clarks Summit University and Baptist Bible Seminary. He has been called to serve as lead pastor of Vision Baptist in Raleigh, NC.
Jacob Lynch ’08 was named teacher of the year 2017/2018 at Jones Magnet Middle School in Hampton, Virginia. He is the SSPE Teacher.
Chris Linthicum ’09 was named Parkwood High School’s (Parkwood, NC) new wrestling coach.

2010s
Robin Stevenson ’10 received a Masters degree in Criminal Justice from University of Massachusetts Lowell.
Adrian Ferns ’14 plays football in the China Indoor Football League for Shenzhen Naja.
Kimberly Kimbrough ’14 received a Masters in Business Administration degree from Strayer University.
Gerlisa Shipman ’15 serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the New Schools for Chicago- Westside and

REMEMBERING
BOB F. HILL, SR.

Bob Freeman Hill, Sr., age 95, passed away on August 5, 2018, at East Pavillion in Franklin, Virginia. Bob was a former member of the Board of Trustees and Trustee Emeritus at Chowan University. He served five terms, the last of which ended in 1991. During his five terms, Bob was one of six men who fought to reopen Chowan College after WWII. Bob’s son, Lloyd Hill, is following in his footsteps as a current member of the Board of Trustees.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from North Carolina State College, where he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and the R.O.T.C. After graduation, Bob served as an ensign in the Navy during WWII. After the war, he was involved in experimental flight operations, then returned to St. Simmons Island, GA as an instructor until he was released from service as a Lieutenant Senior Grade.

Bob returned to Murfreesboro, married, and began operating, along with his father, a business known as Moonlight Manufacturing Company. This business later grew into a construction firm involving building contracting under the name, Hill Enterprises. His brother, Hiram, later joined them. His two sons, upon graduation from college, also, joined the family business. In later years, the company evolved into a building supply firm, and in 1978, was sold to Lowe’s.

Bob felt strongly about serving in the community and at church. He was President of the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and Historical Association. He served as Trustee and Chairman of the Board of the Roanoke Chowan Hospital and as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Chowan University. Bob served two terms as Hertford County Commissioner and on various other committees to help promote Murfreesboro and local county industries.
was accepted into North Park University School of Business and Non-Profit Management. She started graduate school this fall, studying Nonprofit Administration and is a member of the Associate Board for Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership (BUILD) Inc.

Oleksandr (Sasha) Kirsanov ’15 finished a Masters degree in biomedical sciences at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine and was accepted into the PhD program in biomedical sciences with a concentration in Anatomy and Cell Biology, also at ECU Brody School of Medicine.

Dristi Bhandari ’16 just successfully defended her Masters thesis at UNC Greensboro.

Zack Cooper ’17 completed his first year of law school at The University of Mississippi School of Law.

Regi Jones ’17 served with student.go at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, KY over the summer and currently serves as a YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) in New Orleans, LA, through the Presbyterian Church’s (USA) service Corp.

Taykia Delbridge ’17, just returned from serving as a summer missionary in Tokyo, Japan.

Narda-Gaye Mowatt ’17 recently completed a year of service in the AmeriCorps VISTA program. She worked...
in impoverished communities in South Carolina to combat poverty, and is now working as a Dental Care VISTA at a free clinic in Rhode Island. Her office just expanded its services to offer dental care to uninsured and low income residents.

Kemper Sutton ’18 was accepted to the master’s program in the Horticulture Department at Virginia Tech. He began his studies this fall (2018) and will be supported by a research assistantship.

Richard Whitted ’18 is currently in Dallas, Texas training with the Secret Service. He will soon make his way back to Washington, D.C.

Bailey Lipscomb ’18 was hired as a Sheriff’s Deputy with Dare County Sheriff’s Office.

Evelyn Walker ’18 served in D.C. with the Christ House hospital for people experiencing homelessness.

Charles Blackburn ’18 started employment at Pace Analytical in Huntersville, NC working as an Environmental Field Technician.

Mackenzie Imamura and Michael Dowling ’18 were married on August 4th in Valdosta, GA. Both are former soccer players. They currently reside in Montevallo, Alabama.

Lawrence Wood Myers went to his heavenly home on October 29th after a long-extended illness. Lawrence was a 1954 graduate of Chowan University and one of its great supporters. In 2015, he helped establish the Early-Myers House Development House on campus. He also served on Chowan’s Alumni Board and on the Board of Visitors for many years. He is survived by the love of his life, Elaine Early Myers, a Chowan University Trustee, and daughter, Paige Myers of Fuquay Varina, NC. Lawrence Wood and Elaine recently celebrated 55 years of marriage.

Lawrence Wood was a native of Bertie County, a graduate of Mars Hill High School, Chowan University and attended Barton College until he entered the United States Army and later the North Carolina National Guard Reserves. He joined his father and brother in the family business, A.W. Myers Building Supply in Ahoskie, in the 1960’s. Lawrence Wood always had an entrepreneurial spirit as he and his wife founded Pinewood Manor Rest Home and grew it into a 100-bed long-term care facility. Later, he established a One Hour Photo business in Ahoskie and Roanoke-Chowan Travel, a charter travel service.

A dedicated Christian, he was active in Earlys Baptist Church since his marriage and served in many leadership capacities namely as a teacher of the Adult Sunday School Class for years and as a member of the choir. He also served many times as deacon and deacon chair. Lawrence Wood loved watching all sports, but his favorite was ACC basketball. He also enjoyed special family times at Nags Head, on the Chowan River, and at the Brinkley Red House.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Archie Wayne Myers Sr. and Lena Myers Myers and by his two older siblings, Archie Wayne Myers Jr. and Janice Myers Wynns.
QUESTION

WHY CHOOSE

CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

TO HELP TRANSFORM LIVES

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HONOR ROLL OF INVESTORS 2018

The Honor Roll of Investors lists gifts to the University received between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018.

We are deeply grateful to the following alumni & friends who are helping us transform the lives of students of promise.

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If you made a gift to Chowan University between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018 and your name is not listed here, please contact the Office of Development at 252-398-1233. Your gift is important and we want to make sure it is properly acknowledged.
A SECOND BUILDING in the White’s Crossing student housing complex now bears a name in honor of Juanita Pond, of Smithfield, Virginia. Juanita and her husband, Charles, a 1962 graduate, have faithfully served and supported Chowan University in many ways through the years. Juanita, a career educator, is an alumnae of Old Dominion University and served Oakland Elementary School for thirty years. Through successful business ownerships that include Nansemond Cold Storage, Inc. in Suffolk, Virginia and Taylor Freezers, Inc. in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Ponds have been able to share their blessings with Chowan, their church and community. The Ponds are active members of Windsor Christian Church in Windsor, Virginia and faithfully support the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts and the Suffolk Foundation.
THE HALF CENTURY CIRCLE: New members of the Half Century Circle (this year, classes of 1967 and 1968) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation with a reception at the Camp President’s Home before the Blue and White Party at Homecoming. Each member received a commemorative medallion to mark the occasion.