# Howell speaks of challenges

"In harmony and trust amongst ourselves we can convey to society at large our sense of commitment to the needs of future student generations, our immediate region, and the nation as a whole, . . ." said Dr. John M. Howell at his formal installation as chancellor on Feb. 4. He said it was a challenging goal and "I pledge my wholehearted effort to this end and look forward to our forming a highly rewarding near and far future together."

The veteran academic administrator who has been associated with the University for 25 years took the oath of office before an audience of 1,600 which included Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., University of North Carolina President William C. Friday, and John R. Jordan, Jr., chairman of the UNC Board of Governors.

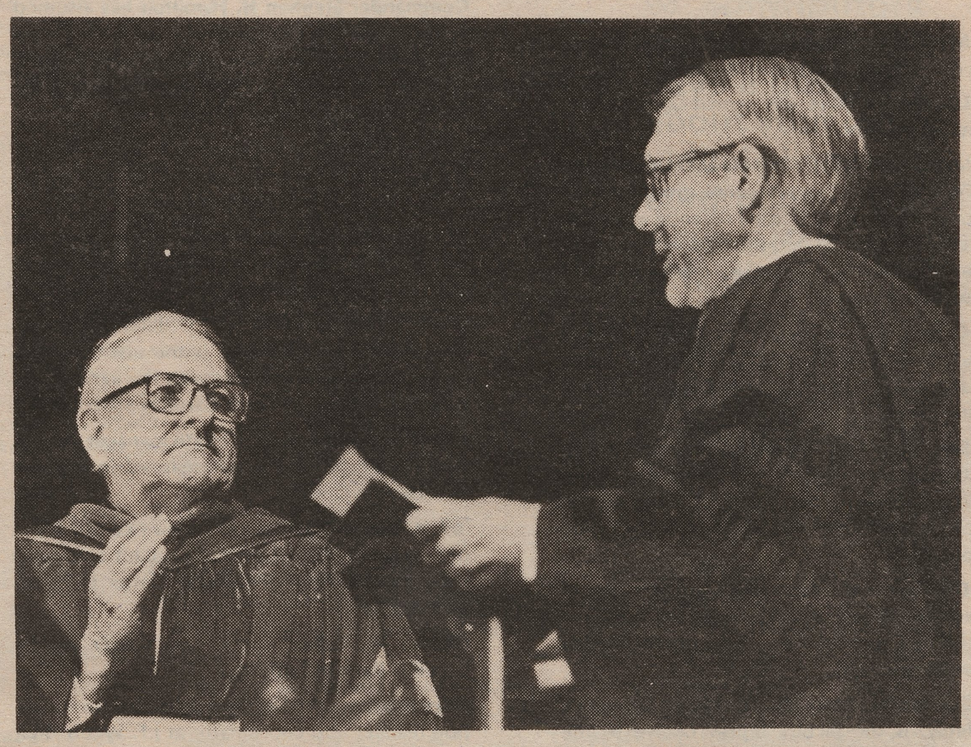
It is up to universities to reaffirm the belief in the values of college education as the nation deals with tight money policies, said Chancellor Howell. We must preserve the humane values that are the hallmark of our civilization as our rapidly-changing society deals with the technological age, he continued. "For what will it profit us to encode countless messages on one minute silicon chip, if we have nothing of human value to inscribe thereon?"

The Chancellor also addressed the need for the University to effectively deal with the demographics of college-age people as the present decade indicates a decline in high school students and the 1990's can expect to bring a reversal of that trend. He said, "The role of a chief executive officer in either period is limited to charting a general course, pointing out the hazards that are discernible from that office, and working with the University community as it marshals its vast and varied skills to devise the details of the plan of action."

He continued by pointing out some of the hazards in the years which lead to the year 2000. One of these hazards concerns the competitive and conflictive processes between elements within the overall higher education structure of the state. "Private and public universities are in competition for scarce financial support as well as for students; community colleges are emerging as formidable competitors within public higher education. When any part of this education family attacks another for financial gain, the family reputation is likely to suffer," said Dr. Howell.

Gov. Hunt spoke of Chancellor Howell as a gentleman and a scholar who was dedicated to the advancement of the mission and well-being of the University and eastern North Carolina. "He is loved and respected because of what he is," said the governor.

The chancellor's installation ended a two-day symposium sponsored by Phi Kappa Phi honor society on the theme, "Toward the New Millennium: Challenges and Dreams." Chancellor Howell, a founder of the annual Phi Kappa Phi event, requested his installation be scheduled as part of the symposium program.



*On February 4 in historic Wright Auditorium* **Judge Gerald Arnold,** *'68, of the North Carolina Court of Appeals, administered the oath of office to* **John M. Howell,** *who became the eighth chief administrative officer of the University. Two former leaders of the University who were present were John D. Messick and Leo W. Jenkins, as well as Gov. James B. Hunt, the president of the UNC system, the chairman of the UNC Board of governors, and dignitaries from state government and other institutions of higher learning.*

The ECU Report

## Comments by alumni president John Lennon at installation

Contrary to what I have led my family and those who work for and with me to believe, I have no supernatural ability to foresee the future. I would wonder if anyone can do more than make an educated speculation as to the course that education, or for that matter, any other basic institution in our society might take as we move into the new millennium.

Attempting to define the role of East Carolina University in the 21st century is difficult and it is impossible to determine the forces which will directly or indirectly cause it to move in one direction or the other. We can, however, predict with some degree of accuracy that these forces will be **many,** and they will be **significant.**

Because of the multitude of variables which we cannot predict, we must then focus on those constants which have historically been foundations of our progress. Again, they are many, but we can isolate certain predictable factors which will help stabilize the course of this great University and cause it to attain the same name recognition as is now enjoyed by a select few of the most respected American universities. I interpret alumni attitudes as reflecting the belief that the destiny of this University is manifested in this type of national recognition.

I feel confident in predicting that our leadership positions will be blessed with educators who are truly outstanding scholars. This is evidenced by the man who is being formally installed here today. One cannot overestimate the imporatance of this factor.

I am convinced, however, that one of the most constant and stabilizing factors which will serve to undergird this University as it moves toward and into the new millennium, is its **alumni family.** Few positions in life are as permanent as that of alumni status. Leadership changes, faculty members serve for varying periods of time, students come and go and become alumni; however, once you become an alumnus you are an alumnus forever; the title can never be shed.

As we move toward the prospects of increasing impersonalization due to the age of high technology, the alumni population will continue to provide the warmth and a sense of belonging and acceptance that one finds in the family environment. The alumni will be stalwarts of support for the University. If we can refer to students as the **life's blood** of the University, and faculty as its **heart,** we might, then, refer to the alumni as its **eyes and ears,** and in a sense its very **soul.** The alumni have evolved as a viable influence in the life of the University, and it can be reasonably predicted that alumni impact will grow steadily stronger. No group can be expected to be as caring, as concerned, and, yes, even as objective as the alumni of the University.

I pledge to you, Mr. Chancellor, and to those who might come after you, that the alumni of this University will keep a constant vigil. We will serve to enhance your efforts whenever we are given the opportunity.

Many of us have partaken of your wisdom and been beneficiaries of your warm, understanding teaching skills. We have known you longer than any other prior to assuming the chancellorship; we trust your integrity; we respect your ability; and feel not only comfortable but excited that you are formally assuming the leadership of our alma mater. We will be by your side — an army of 40,000 strong — as you labor over the issues of each new day, as you dream, as you build, and as you and your staff insure that this great University, which we love and proudly call alma mater, move toward the new millennium serving living humanity well.

*Your alumni wishes you Godspeed —*
*May the roads rise with you,*
*And the winds be always at your back*
*And may the Lord hold you in*
*the hollow of his mighty hand.*

## Sports Roundup

▶ First-year head basketball coach Charlie Harrison heard all the negatives about the Pirate basketball program and how it could not win in 1982-83.

But he didn't believe that. Now he's proven that it isn't true.

The Pirates ended the regular season 15-12, first winning season in three years at East Carolina. But perhaps more important than the winning mark was the change in attitude and playing style of the Pirates this season.

Stressing strong defensive play, the Pirates exhibited a never-say-die attitude with hustle unlke fans have seen in years at ECU basketball games. The results of the change are obvious.

Freshmen Johnny Edwards paced the Pirates from start to finish, but with strong help from Charles Green, Barry Wright and Tony Robinson. Edwards, expected to be named ECAC-South rookie of the year, was the team's leading scorer and rebounder, number two in the ECAC-South in both categories and third in the nation at the last reporting of all freshman scorers in the country.

▶ The Pirates were to enter the ECAC-South tournament in Richmond, VA, March 10-12. The winner got an automatic bid into the NCAA championship tournament.

All-America forward Mary Denkler paced the Lady Pirate basketball team to its sixth consecutive winning season. Finishing as the second all-time scorer in ECU history, the senior led ECU in scoring and rebounding throughout the season.

Injuries plaqued the fifth season for coach Cathy Andruzzi, losing two starters midway the year. Despite that, the Lady Pirates finished 14-12 for the year.

▶ In keeping with the typical rich tradition of East Carolina University baseball, last year's club, the school's 50th, gained a won-loss record of 34-14, recorded the 30th winning season in 31 years, earned an NCAA playoff berth by sweeping the inaugural ECAC-South conference championship in three games, defeated in-state rival North Carolina for its first NCAA playoff win in ten years, and had four players signed into the professional ranks.

No sooner than head coach Hal Baird could say, "for the first time since 1977 we have an identifiable route for participation in the NCAA tournament," did the third-seeded Pirates waltz through the ECAC-South tournament. But maintaining that title, says Baird, looms as an even larger challenge.

"It is always more difficult to defend a championship rather than to win one," says Baird, who had led the Pirates into two NCAA playoffs in three years and a 90-36 record. "We are looking forward to that challenge. Provided everyone has a good year, I don't think it is unrealistic."

▶ Many new faces will be seen on the sidelines for East Carolina University football this season, as all but two assistant coaches have changed.

Art Baker, formerly head coach at The Citadel and Furman, is now associate head coach and offensive coordinator, replacing Larry Beckish, who joined the Arizona club of the USFL as offensive coordinator.

Tom Throckmorton is the new defensive coordinator, coming from a similar position at VMI. He replaces Norm Parker, who moved to Michigan State University as linebacker coach.

Other additions include Rex Kipps, defensive line, formerly at Clemson; Charlie Elmquist, offensive line with tight ends, moved up from parttime coach at ECU; Phil Elmassian, defensive secondary, formerly with Ferrum Junior College; and Ken Matous, receiver coach, formerly with Wichita State.

The two returning staff members are Bob Sanders, outside linebackers, and John Zernhelt, offensive line.

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