Granville Native Receives Award

MURFREESBORO—A former Southern Baptist missionary and seminary professor, Mrs. Ruby (Daniel) Udvarnoki of Murfreesboro, received Chowan College's Distinguished Alumni Award during Homecoming activities Saturday October 5.

The award was presented during the alumni luncheon in the President’s Room of Thomas Cafeteria by Chowan’s president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker. He underscored her “dedication and loyalty to Chowan College.

“Her has proven her love for her Alma Mater through her service in leadership positions as well as her contagious enthusiasm for Chowan College,” Chowan’s president said adding, Mrs. Udvarnoki had also served her church and Lord well “through many years as a missionary, seminary professor and teacher.”

As wife to Dr. Bela Udvarnoki, professor emeritus of Chowan who served as chairman of the social science department from 1952-1963, Dr. Whitaker said she “describes perfectly the title, ‘helpmate,’ for this is what she has been to her husband since their marriage in 1947.”

President Whitaker noted, “The Distinguished Alumni Award is reserved for only a select few alumni for their contribution to Chowan college and benevolent causes involving religious, educational, and civic life. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Mrs. Ruby Daniel Udvarnoki.”

A native of Granville County and a graduate of Stem High School, Mrs. Udvarnoki received the B.A. degree from Chowan in 1929. She is also a 1935 graduate of the WMU Training School, Louisville, Ky., with a masters in religious education.

In October, 1935, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to work in Budapest in 1938. The Second World War forced her departure from Hungary in January, 1942. Until 1945 she served as dean of women and professor of missionary education in the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. For the next two years she served as professor of English in the Boys’ College in Iwo, Nigeria.

In 1947, she married Dr. Bela Udvarnoki, a past president of the Baptist Theological seminary in Budapest. He served as pastor of Gatesville Baptist Church from 1948-1952 before being named chairman of Chowan’s social science department.

Mrs. Udvarnoki was occupied in teaching from 1953 to 1966. She is active in the Murfreesboro Woman’s Club and teaches Sunday School at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. With her husband she visits Hungarian churches and conventions throughout the nation. She recently returned from a month’s visit to Hungary with Dr. Udvarnoki.