

NewsJournal Local



In 1951, being home for Christmas in West Florida was a 'mighty good' feeling for J. Earle Bowden, 8B

Injured man returns donation 6B

Letters to the editor 8B

Pensacola, Florida

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Bruce Graner/News Journal

Pensacola News Journal Editor J. Earl Bowden is awarded a doctor of humane letters Saturday morning by UWF President James Robinson.

Bowden cited at UWF graduation

By Allison Averitte
News Journal

Pensacola News Journal Editor J. Earle Bowden received an honorary doctor of humane letters at the University of West Florida Saturday while masters' and bachelors' degrees were awarded to 621 graduates.

Bowden began his work at the Pensacola News Journal in September of 1953 as a sports writer and sports cartoonist. He was sports editor and worked on the news desk before being named editor and vice president in 1966.

UWF President James Robinson described Bowden as an "accomplished journalist, whose writings sound the trumpet for urban devel-

opment as well as awaken nostalgia for his native, pastoral West Florida of simpler days; civic leader..." and "friend of arts, letters and learning..."

The degree is not Bowden's first link with the university. He was twice president of the UWF Foundation and was selected a Foundation Fellow in 1982. The following year he became an adjunct professor of journalism for the Communication Arts Department.

Philip Momberger, associate professor of English, delivered a commencement address to the graduates and their friends and family who nearly filled the field house.

"Don't let learning end at high noon," Momberger told the graduates. He encouraged them to use

knowledge and power gained from their education for the "securing of human dignity."

Momberger had competition for the crowd's attention at one point in his speech. A woman thought to be a student who dropped out of UWF just weeks ago walked on the platform, took a seat and broke out in song. After being encouraged to leave, she sang and even danced a bit before a security officer led her out.

Nancy Roberts, who received her bachelor's degree from UWF in 1969 and her master's degree there in 1974, gave the graduates their last words of encouragement at the ceremony.

"The road to success is constant-

ly under construction," Roberts said.

That is evident in the student body at UWF, she said. Since she took classes at UWF in 1965, the average student age has dropped from 28 to 25. Then the student body was primarily male. Now the reverse is true. The principal major in 1965 was elementary education. This year it is computer science.

The ceremony also gave evidence of the dwindling number of education majors at UWF. Only 32 of those graduates who participated received undergraduate degrees in education. However, a large percentage of the students receiving masters' degrees were education majors.

When the beach was cheap, nobody wanted it