

Department of Mathematics Announces Contest

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science invites freshmen and sophomores to begin spring semester with a challenge. The ninth annual Freshmen-Sophomore Mathematics Contest will be held on Saturday, January 20, 1990. Participants will take a test covering a wide variety of mathematics areas. The only specific content that will be assumed is the content of MAT 211. However, an excellent student could be successful even without any knowledge of Calculus. A copy of a previous year's exam is on reserve in the library.

Students who have 66 hours or less at the end of fall semester, 1989, are eligible. Prizes include a \$200 scholarship for first place and a \$100 scholarship for second place. The winners last year were Courtney Spooner, first place; Pirooska Racz, second place; Amy Allen, Ruby Edwards and Kerri Rawls, honorable mention.

Registration forms are available outside the office of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (room 213,

Harris). They can also be obtained from any faculty member of the department. These forms should be returned to the department by Friday, Dec. 1.

Early on Saturday, Oct. 21, ten Meredith students gathered in 106 Harris. After a quick continental breakfast, they settled down and participated in the eleventh annual Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest. For two and a half hours, they worked on eight mathematic problems. The preliminary report has just been received. Jenny Snow placed among the top half of the contestants. Jennifer Pittman, Cyndi Woelbl, Kerri Rawls and Courtney Spooner placed among the top three-quarters. Since the participants came from 44 top colleges and universities in the mid-Atlantic states, the Meredith students did very well. This is the second year Meredith has entered the contest. Last year only one Meredith student placed in the top three-quarters, so this is a great improvement.

Meredith Hosts Fifth Annual Fall Dance Gathering

by: Deanna Turlington

During the weekend of Nov. 11-12, the Meredith Dance Theater sponsored its fifth annual Fall Dance Gathering. The event is a series of informative movement and technique classes open to community dancers, Meredith dancers and students, along with High school dance students.

The classes were taught by master artist GLenna Batson, Glenda Mackie, Carol Richard, Melody Shaper and Meredith's own Annie Elliot in conjunction with the noted New York City dancer, Rachel Harms. As a recipient of various fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rachel Harms is a director, performer and choreographer in the Rachel Harms Dance Company.

A sample of classes offered at the workshop includes ballet and jazz techniques, mind and body awareness and

strength and training. The highlight of the gathering was the concluding informal choreographic showing in which participants and choreographers were invited to share their completed or unfinished works in a casual relaxed atmosphere. Participating in this session were Enloe High School dancers, the Raleigh Dance Association and three Meredith dancers-- Nancy Sills, Melissa Bryan and Amy Salter.

A total of 55 dancers participated in this year's gathering, while even more attended as spectators.

Alyson Colwell, a member of the Meredith dance faculty and coordinator of the 1989 Fall Dance Gathering commented, "The gathering, which used to be a one-day event until its third year, has grown in many ways." She added that increased interest and feedback from participants ensures the success of the occasion.

Health Education

We Get Questions...

eds. note: This is a first in a series of articles by Susan Schrag, Health Educator, which answers questions directed to personnel at the Health Center. Please direct your questions to them.

I understand that we can now have Pap smears done on campus. What is it, and why do I need one?

The Pap smear (invented by Dr. Papanicolaou) is done as a part of a complete pelvic examination. These exams should be begun by a woman in her late teens, or if she becomes sexually active before then, it should be performed at an earlier age. The clinician obtains a sample of the cells from the uterine cervix (the "neck" of the uterus) which is sent to a laboratory for analysis.

You can make an appointment at the Health Center to receive gynecological services on a fee for service basis. This clinic is offered on Wednesday afternoons.

My "Pap" came back as a "Class II," what does that mean?

As a young girl begins menarche, the cells in her cervix change. Sometimes, as the result of many factors including multiple sexual partners, exposure to infections including chlamydia, herpes, and HPV (human papilloma virus) these changes can become more pronounced. At that time, the "class" of the smear changes to reflect the kinds of cellular changes observed, e.g. Class II.

Usually, the only "treatment" for a Class II smear is retesting in a few weeks or months, or treatment of the underlying infection. Class IV and V smears usually reflect more serious changes in the cervical cells, or cancer. A Class I smear is absolutely normal.

Does any of this cause pain? It all seems very invasive and scary to me.

Sadly, many women are frightened of health exams and procedures and thus delay them. If you choose a health care practitioner that you are comfortable with and can talk to, it will be easier for you to relax during the procedure. When you relax (try deep breathing and a smile) the exams are not at all painful. And, if you keep reminding yourself how important the exam is, you can relieve many of the embarrassed feelings that can arise. Keep in mind: your body is yours to maintain in good health.