

New Capstone Course to be Offered Next Semester

by Tracey Rawls

The Power of Literacy is a new capstone course that deals with "social and intellectual implications of literacy."

The course is only open to second semester juniors and seniors. However, it is never too soon for freshmen and sophomores to plan ahead. A little known fact about capstone courses: they can meet some general education requirements.

The course will be taught by Dr. John Creagh, a Speech professor at Meredith, and Dr. Beth Weir, an Education professor at Meredith. The professors make a great team because both have special interests that bring the goals of better interpretation, communication and reading together. Creagh specializes in the performance of non-dramatic literature (i.e. stories, poems, and speeches that are not intended to be performed dramatically). He has adapted several novels and short stories to the stage. Dr. Weir specializes in teaching educators how to teach children to read. In this class she will be teaching adults how to read better.

The Power of Literacy, like all capstone courses, is not a content course. The student will not be required to learn the literacy rates of 15 countries; however, Creagh said the student is taught, "to think on a more sophisticated level." The course is designed to "develop skills of interpretation and communication" and to produce "better and more sophisticated readers," Creagh said.

Capstone courses are designed to pull information from all a student's courses together. The Power of Literacy is ideal because one part of the semester involves each student reading a challenging, classic text from her chosen major. The class will be divided into small groups of six to eight students. Each student must communicate her interpretation of the text to the other students. The key is communication. For example, the English major might explain The Faerie Queene to a Biology major. In turn, the Biology major may explain genetics. The group comes up with a theme or topic, drawn from all the texts, to represent the group. Creagh said "The point is to use your major and learn something that is not in your major."

The course also requires a "values in action" project. The student takes what she learned in the classroom out into the real world. The student must take on some small project like reading to the blind or working with literacy programs in prisons.



SCHOOL SPIRIT!!! Seniors support their team.

Leadership Focus

by Julia Dixon, Leadership Intern

The members of the Meredith Recreation Association have been busy all semester with a variety of activities from aerobics to horseback riding. While all of these activities are vital to MRA, their biggest event is well under way, Cornhuskin'! Cornhuskin', as well as MRA's other events will be geared toward keeping the student body active and informed. MRA's primary goal for the year is to give the students an outlet to have fun. In order to achieve this goal, MRA plans to utilize the Herald and other forms of publicity to keep the students informed of these opportunities for enjoyment.

MRA sponsors a variety of events throughout the year to keep everyone active and fit. One such activity is aerobics which is held twice a week in Weatherspoon Gymnasium. Aerobics are led by qualified instructors and are held on Tuesday evenings from 8:30-9:30 pm and on Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 pm. The cost to participate in aerobics is \$.25 per session.

A second activity MRA sponsors is Explorers. Kitty Pate, the President of MRA, is very excited about the trips the Explorers group will be taking throughout the year. Explorers has already made a trip to the Ice House in Cary to go ice skating. This Saturday, October 26, Explorers is going horseback riding. The cost for horseback riding is \$8.00 per student. These trips are open to all students. If you are interested in participating in this or any event you may contact the Explorers Chair, Liza Clement, at 829-7988. Reservations for horseback riding can be made until Saturday. In addition to ice skating and horseback riding, the Explorers are planning a trip for November 2 to go rock climbing on the "wall" at N.C. State. Ms. Clement will also take reservations for this event. The cost will vary according to the number of students who participate.

The Intramural Program here at Meredith is also the responsibility of MRA. In fact, the Superbowl was held on Monday, October 21 in the courtyard. The Superbowl was the culmination of a month long football intramural program. The winners of the Superbowl, Third Barefoot, then took on the all-star faculty football team on Wednesday in the court-

yard. Participating in the variety of intramural sports MRA offers is a great way to build community spirit as well as stay in shape! Get ready to participate in soccer, volleyball, and basketball which will be coming up in future months.

While MRA sponsors a variety of events throughout the year, they are most famous for their coordination of Meredith's equivalent to a homecoming, Cornhuskin'. Cornhuskin' is a Meredith tradition that dates back to 1944. While Cornhuskin' has changed throughout the years, the basic ideas are still strong. Cornhuskin' will be held this year from November 3-7. Events will be held throughout the week to promote class spirit and friendly competition. Kitty Pate has asked that everyone bring their best attitudes and spirits to all of the competitions that are involved in Cornhuskin'. The second annual "Can Art" competition will be held in the courtyard on Wednesday afternoon. This tradition will have each class build a creative sculpture out of cans. The winner of the competition will receive the money gained by recycling the cans used in all of the different structures. The main event of Cornhuskin' will be held on November 7 from 6:30-10:00 pm in the Meredith Amphitheater. With great attitudes and active participation from all classes, this can be the best Meredith Cornhuskin'!

MRA is geared up for a great year. With Cornhuskin' on the way, the 1991-1992 school year for MRA cannot help but be a success! Ms. Pate is very excited about all of the activities MRA has planned for the year. She also wants to thank all of her committee chairs and officers for doing such a great job.

It is never too late to get involved in MRA! Ms. Pate said she encourages anyone who would like to get involved in MRA to contact any of the MRA officers. You may contact the President, Kitty Pate at 829-8630; the Vice-President, Kimbra Audette at 829-7817; the Secretary, Angel Duncan at 829-7702; or the Treasurer, Stephanie Lowe at 829-7727. You may also contact MRA during their office hours. The MRA office is located in the Office of Student Activities in Cate Center. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00-4:00 pm and the phone number is 829-8601.