

Meredith Herald

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We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally we're a women's college.

March 19, 1997

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Secretary of State Elaine Marshall visits campus

Elaine Marshall speaks to Meredith faculty, staff, and students.

Allison Carter
Layout Editor

Women's History Month is still going strong on the Meredith College campus. In fact, Programming Board hosted the first woman to be elected to the North Carolina Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall, on Monday, March 17th.

Heather Wilkin, Programming Board chair, introduced Marshall as being a "well-rounded woman." Wilkin went on to speak of Marshall's career and family accomplishments over the years.

Marshall went to undergraduate school in Maryland, where she earned her degree in Home Economics. About 10 years after graduating, Marshall went back to school to earn her law degree at Campbell University here in North Carolina.

After practicing law and running several businesses, including a partnership in a law practice in Harnett County, Marshall was elected to the North Carolina General Assembly in 1993. However, in 1995, she lost the same election by a mere eight votes. With a recount there was a tie, and she lost again in a completely new election.

"Freedom is not a spectator sport," noted Marshall when explaining why she was in politics. So she continued to strive for more goals, but this time aiming even higher - the Secretary of State of North Carolina.

Marshall opened with her thoughts on Women's History Month and its significance. First, she noted that March is a beautiful month where "the world is coming back to life," just like women bring families, jobs, and general moral back to life. Marshall's second observation leaned towards a more serious note, because she said having a month set aside to study the history of women shows that there is still the



Heather Wilkin introduced Elaine Marshall to the administration, faculty, staff and students on Monday morning. Heather is the chair of the Programming Board, which hosted the event. Photo by Kim Debus

need for a "formal time" to recognize women.

Marshall went on to say that she does not see herself as the "female" North Carolina Secretary of State, but instead the Secretary of State who "just happens to be a woman."

The past election gave her an opportunity to speak her views and ideas nation-wide because her opponent, NASCAR legend Richard Petty, holds vast name recognition throughout the state, and even the country.

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CIF selects 21 proposals for grants for 1997

Budget ideas granted by the Creative Ideas Fund committee.

Beth Hall
Staff Reporter

The Creative Ideas Fund (CIF) has selected 21 proposals (out of the 44 submitted) to receive grants from the CIF's spring semester budget.

"The Creative Ideas Fund seeks to encourage creativity among all members of the Meredith community—students, staff, faculty, and administration. Preference is given to those with clarity of purpose and means of evaluation which have broad impact and advance the mission of the college," says Meredith's Vice President for Student Development Jean Jackson, chair of the CIF.

"Sometimes an organization or department would like to run a pilot project to test for strengths, feasibility, or appeal before committing regular budget funds. The CIF gives them a chance to do so. Also, sometimes very good ideas occur between budget cycles, and with the CIF, organizations and departments do not have to

wait so long to try their good ideas."

Where did the idea for CIF come from? Jackson answers, "A number of people have wished for a long time for a flexible source of funding and expressed those ideas to the STAMATS survey team. STAMATS recommended that the college initiate a Creative Ideas Fund, and the Board of Trustees authorized allocating money to the project in both the 1996-1997 and 1997-1998 budgets."

And just who decides which proposals are "approvable"? This, the first committee, was selected by Jackson and is comprised of the following: Jessica Lewis, Sue Greiner, Vanessa Barnes, Mary Kate Keith, Virginia Knight, Bill Price, Deborah Smith, and Bill Wade. The membership will rotate in the fall. Anyone interested in serving should contact Jackson.

Chrissie Bumgardner, assistant director of the First Year Experience program, is receiving CIF grants for two proposals. One proposal is for funding for the Freshmentoring program. This program pairs freshmen with recent Meredith graduates who "have similar interests, skills, and future aspirations," says Bumgardner.

The 1996-1997 freshmen class is the first to take part in this year-long commitment program. The 30 matched "mentor-mentee" pairs first met at a February conference, and each pair has made plans to meet individually several more times during the year. Bumgardner will use the funding to pay for a cool-out at the amphitheater for Freshmentoring participants in April.

Bumgardner also is receiving funding for "Freshwomen Fire and Water" ceremony and dinner. She wants freshmen to have a class fellowship dinner reminiscent of the Junior class ring dinner or the Sophomore class Mother/Daughter tea. The dinner will celebrate "the fact they (the freshmen) made it through their first year," says Bumgardner. A committee for the dinner, consisting of ten freshmen representing freshmen residence hall floors and freshmen commuters, has been created. The theme of this "dress-up", RSVP dinner will revolve around fire and water. The speaker has not been decided yet. The dinner will take place in late April.

Bumgardner thinks the Creative Ideas Fund discourages people from

"putting their ideas on a shelf" because those who submit ideas will know relatively soon (a month or two) whether they will receive funding or not. Bumgardner also cites the advantage of the CIF when "piloting" an idea. Proposals that have a successful pilot can be more assured of a spot in a permanent budget. Bumgardner would like to secure such spots for Freshman Frolic, the Freshmentoring program, and the Freshmen dinner.

Also receiving a CIF grant is Louise Taylor for the Writing Out: A Writing Workshop for Women proposal. According to the proposal, the writing workshop is open to "all women in the triangle who have always wanted to write or who have begun writing on their own and would like the guidance and encouragement of a mentor." The workshop will take place June 23-27, from 9a.m.-2:30p.m. and will cost \$165. The cost will include five luncheons and various handouts. Workshop leaders will be as follows: Betty Adcock, a poet; Suzanne Britt, an essayist; Suzanne Newton, a novelist;

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