

## Slew of new faculty are on campus

AVA LEIGH JACKSON  
Staff Reporter

Meredith College began this semester with 23 new faculty members in order to fulfill another part of Initiative 2000.

Coming to Meredith from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dr. Joyce Blackwell-Johnson teaches American history and women's history. Blackwell-Johnson received her B.A. and Masters degrees in history at North Carolina Central University, and she obtained her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a focus on women's history.

She began her career in teaching at NCCU before moving to a 5-year position at NC State and then to UNC-C.

"I wanted to come here for several years," said Blackwell-

Johnson. "I really wanted to come to Meredith because it is a small college. I was also very interested in coming primarily because of the direction the [college] seems to be going in. I felt that, considering my goals in life and what I wanted to do as far as my career is concerned, Meredith would be the right place for me."

Blackwell-Johnson is currently working on a women's history conference, which will occur in the spring and will be open to scholars of women's studies, independent scholars, graduate students and advanced undergraduate students. The one-day conference is titled "Global Women, Global Village."

She is a native of Roxboro, N.C. and currently resides in Durham with her children.

Dr. Gregory Vitarbo is also a newcomer to the History and Politics Department. He came to Meredith College from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Prior to teaching in Nevada, Vitarbo taught one year at Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania.

"I am very happy to get this position," said Vitarbo. "Meredith was exactly the type of place I saw myself teaching. I came from a small liberal arts school where there was a lot of faculty/student interaction and a lot of emphasis upon the whole learning community."

A native of New York City, Vitarbo received his B.A. at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. Vitarbo is a Russian specialist and will teach both

the Modern Russian course and Western Civilization. Next semester, he will be teaching Modern Britain.

The Reverend Margarita Suarez is the new faculty member in the Religion and Philosophy Department. She will be teaching Religion 100 and Religion in America. Suarez has a strong interest in liberation theologies, including the theologies of feminists and women of color.

She also has an interest in aspects of religion in film and literature. She received her B.A. in religion and theatre from Fordham University in New York City and earned her Masters of Divinity from Harvard University.

She is currently a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University and Garrett Evangelical

Theological Seminary and is expected to complete her doctorate this coming spring.

Suarez comes to Meredith from Colorado College. Prior to teaching in Colorado, she taught at Garrett Evangelical Seminary.

"I decided to teach at Meredith for a number of reasons," said Suarez. "Meredith was in a place where they were doing a lot of what I thought were significant changes. And what an exciting time to be at a college on the cutting edge of revamping their general education curriculum and at a time when the actual department of Religion and Philosophy was looking at its curriculum and doing some changes. I thought it would be a really exciting time to come and to offer new courses and new ideas."

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stone courses.

Dr. Rosalind Reichard, vice president for Academic Affairs, assured Happer that the new curriculum would be "phased in with plenty of training."

The task force also addressed the question of funding for such wide-reaching changes and intensive faculty development.

The General Education Task Force is already "working with Institutional Advancement, looking for money sources to tap into," explained Reichard.

Webb continually assured those present that even when all the aspects are decided

"there will be no more required hours in the new plan than in the old plan."

Oatsvall supported Webb, saying, "The Task Force is committed to making everything a conscious decision rather than simply a default."

While there will be other aspects to the new general education curriculum, the majority of the meeting focused on the core classes.

This Friday, Sept. 7, there will be a "Campus Conversation" concerning general education reform at 1:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

Meetings will continue throughout the semester and will be posted on the Campus E-news web page.

### Freshmen Elections Filing

*The Class of 2005 Needs YOU*

Last day to file for office  
is THIS Friday, Sept. 7, 2001 by 5 p.m.

File in the Office of Student Activities  
and Leadership Development, 202 Cate Center.

Questions? Call Ashley X2506 or Kelly X8338

### Register for the Leadership Enrichment Series and be recognized at Leadership Awards Day

The Leadership Enrichment Series takes place every Wednesday in October from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

This year's series includes the following sessions:  
"Ethical Leadership Panel and Reception"  
Wednesday, October 3

"Resiliency: A Necessary Trait for Women Leaders"  
Wednesday, October 10

"Don't Be a Humpty Dumpty!"  
Wednesday, October 17

"Character Leadership: Who Are You in the Dark?"  
Wednesday, October 24

If you are interested or would like to see a brochure, come by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, 202 Cate Center.

### You're Invited...

Join the 2001 LeaderShape® participants for a  
Vision Showcase

Drop by Johnson Hall Rotunda on Tuesday, September 11  
from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and  
see the visions of the 2001 LSI participants!  
Kick-Off Reception at 9:00am