



Seminars give scope to Sept. 11

International Education Week serves as outlet to answer students' questions

□ A week of nightly seminars explore the questions probing the campus in the aftermath of Sept. 11

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Editor in Chief

The war that shaped professor of English Dr. Betty Webb's college career was the Vietnam War.

As a student at Meredith College, she remembers a time when a professor held a seminar on southeast Asia, and no one attended.

Apathy is difficult to combat, but she rejects the idea that Meredith students are disinterested in the war that is now shaping their college careers.

Her evidence points at the students who have engaged in discussions of the first two of four seminars held nightly at 6 p.m. on the first floor of Belk Dining Hall in honor of International Education Week.

The event, lasting from Nov. 12-16, is nationally recognized and was established on July 24, 2000 by Congress to encourage global understanding and relationships among people of every country.

As chair of the International Studies Committee, Webb collaborated with other faculty members and students on the committee to design a program for International Education Week that would speak to stu-

dents' questions about the history, culture and politics of the Arab world.

Prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, the Middle East was not on the minds of many Americans. This made Webb wonder if students were thinking about the

location and history of

Dr. David Gilmartin, a professor of history at North Carolina State University with expertise in the history of Pakistan, spoke on the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"The modern history of

of the countries were drawn to serve the interests of the British and the Russians whose conflicts stretched from the late 19th to the middle 20th century.

"Critical to remember is that the boundaries were drawn not

On Tuesday, the College's first model United Nations team gave a presentation on the issues the team would be tackling at the Model UN conference in Atlanta on Thursday.

At the conference, the team will represent Bangladesh and



Dr. David Gilmartin, professor of history at NC State, explains the history of Afghanistan's and Pakistan's relationship.

STAFF PHOTO CHRISTINA HOLDER

"these exotic countries like Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan," said Webb.

Therefore, the first seminar on Monday night focused on identifying the "stans"--Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

these two countries," said Gilmartin who stood only feet from a large Middle Eastern atlas projected onto the wall behind him, "are majorly intertwined."

Gilmartin explained that the politics of both countries are linked because the boundaries

to form a strong nation," said Gilmartin.

Instead, Afghanistan served as a buffer state between the two powers. The boundary with Pakistan, established by the British, made the ethnic ties of both Afghanistan and Pakistan closely related.

the International Alliance of Women.

The seminars continue tonight in Belk with a presentation on South Asian women refugees. On Thursday night, Muslim students from NC State and Meredith will discuss the Islamic faith and culture.



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