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Women authors kick off RSW festival

by Nancy Newton

Novelists, Patricia Hagan Howell and Sylvia Wilkinson, participants in Meredith College's "Festival of Creativity" sponsored by the Program for Raising the Sights of Women, were on campus Wednesday and Thursday of last week for informal conversation and the

Silver Shield, Kappa Nu Sigma Induct members

Two of Meredith College's honor societies, Silver Shield and Kappa Nu Sigma, recently inducted new members.

Nine juniors were inducted into Meredith's honorary leadership society Monday, April 5. The inductees were selected by the current members of Silver Shield and faculty, according to President Louise Crouch.

The inductees were Mary Kay Allsbrook, Hazel Browning, Kathy Frazier, Menda Sue Godfrey, Beth Leavel, Virginia Norton, Betsy Rowlette, Phyllis Smith, and Beverly Steen.

These nine members will elect the remaining nine students of their class's membership in ceremonies next fall.

Kappa Nu Sigma, the college's academic honor society, inducted twenty-four juniors and seniors at their spring banquet held in late March.

An academic average of 3.5 or better qualifies a student for membership in this organization.

Inductees into Kappa Nu Sigma were Cecilia Allen, Betsy Blair, Sally Mac Blue, Hazel Browning, Amelia Bryan, Debra Coates, Sara Cotey, Deborah Doss, Carmel Finger, Charlot Frye, Susan Lawrence, Gail Ledbetter, Jennie Carter Lynch, Lou Mickey, Robin Morgan, Margaret Odell, Miriam Elizabeth Privett, Margaret Rehder, Shearon Roberts, Betsy Rowlette, Jane Siceloff, Elizabeth Steagall, Lou Anne Burke Strickland and Suzanne Frances Styron.

Phi Alpha Theta elects 1976-77 officers

Phi Omicron, the Meredith College chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, elected officers for the 1976-77 school year at its April meeting. They are: Layne Baker, president; Lou Cocker, vice-president; Julie Jones, secretary-treasurer; and Saralyn Gillespie, historian.

This is the second year that Phi Alpha Theta has been in existence at Meredith. The advisor is Dr. Frank Grubbs.

readings of some of their work.

Ms. Howell and Ms. Wilkinson provided Meredith students with information concerning the literary world's receptiveness to women writers and told a little about their own work and philosophies.

Both women have written fiction, magazine articles, and juvenile literature. Ms. Wilkinson has recently published a work in the non-fiction area.

The women reflected on the effect of the women's liberation movement on their work. According to Ms. Howell, "the movement has had little effect except to provide writing material and to sell my books."

She observed that the professional men in the publishing field do not harass her but rather "it is the public that presents the problem."

"They think that because I am a woman writer that I think that I am smart, and so they try to attack me and pull me down to their level. They think I'm out of my realm and try to prove it," said Ms. Howell.

Ms. Wilkinson presented thoughts along the same lines as Ms. Howell, stating that "as a woman I don't want to be elevated or protected from abuse because I am a woman - being a woman gives me writing material."

"If I meet a barrier I can't cross and I want to, I fight to knock it down for reasons of personal pride in my work - not feminine pride. The fight is between the typewriter, the paper and myself," said Ms. Wilkinson.

The main point is that I don't like to mix the politics of the Liberation with my work," she continued.

Both women are involved with reporting various types of motor racing, an area traditionally barred to women. There again they observed that they were not harassed by professionals in that field but by spectators and people on the edge of the racing world.

Ms. Howell revealed that her main pressure came from male press agents reporting the races and from "the racers' wives and girlfriends."

Ms. Wilkinson, who wrote a non-fiction account of racing, related her difficulty in overcoming the superstitions against women in the racing field and recalled how she was once "bodily removed from the racing pits!"

In a final observation, both women commented on the freedom of today's woman. Ms. Wilkinson stated that women the age of most Meredith students "don't recognize the struggle of women's liberation and are basically reaping the benefits. Now instead of lacking the choice to work women lack the choice to decide not to work."



Authors Patricia Howell, left, and Sylvia Wilkinson, right, relax as they discuss their work with students and faculty members at an informal coffee in Cate Center. The writers were sponsored as a part of the Festival of Creativity, held in conjunction with REW.

Ms. Wilkinson and Ms. Howell, graduates of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the University of Alabama, respectively, are primarily Southern in their writing.

They both draw a great deal from their childhood experience.

The Program for Raising the Sights of Women is funded from a grant of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Inc.

Peacock retires

by Suzanne Styron

Dr. Leishman Peacock summed up his career with, "It's been fascinating!" No doubt, Dr. Peacock, who will be retiring this spring from his position as English professor, has a fascinating career to look back on.

Before coming to Meredith in 1948, Dr. Peacock had lived in various places. He was an instructor at Wake Forest, taught at Colgate University, Pennsylvania State University, Ottaway College in Kansas and was dean both at Ottaway College and Kalamazoo College in Michigan.

Twenty-eight years ago, he came to Meredith as dean and as a teacher of American and modern literature. Dr. Peacock adds, "I was happy to come back to Raleigh and Meredith!"

Dr. Peacock was no newcomer to Raleigh when he came to Meredith as dean. He had grown up here, and his father was president of Shaw University for seventeen years.

Dr. Peacock has many ties to Meredith in other than his professional one. His sister graduated from Meredith and taught here. His sister-in-law, Mary Kelly Peacock, also graduated from Meredith and wrote *Queen of Our Hearts* Alma Mater.

A cousin, Margaret Wheeler Kelly, was the

president of the first class to graduate on this campus.

Considering the changes in Meredith over the past twenty-eight years, Dr. Peacock concludes that most changes have been in physical expansion. He recalls earlier days when Meredith was just the quadrangle, the temporary classroom buildings and dirt roads.

Dr. Peacock feels the students are the same, however. "Customs have changed," he exclaims, "but the essential Meredith ideals are the same."

When questioned about his plans after retirement, Dr. Peacock acknowledges no definite plans - he only expresses his desire to remain flexible.

This summer, though, the Peacocks do plan to go to Massachusetts. In the fall, Dr. and Mrs. Peacock are going to Europe for three weeks. Their trip will take them through England, Holland, Germany, Austria, and Italy, among other countries.

Dr. Peacock said he has not seen all of Europe yet and is looking forward to the tour.

Dr. Peacock's career at Meredith has been remembered by Meredith Alumnae and friends who still refer to him as "Dean Peacock." Dr. Peacock's devotion to Meredith and warm personality will be long remembered!

This will be the last issue of the TWIG for this school year.

The TWIG thanks its staff for its fine work and looks forward to reorganizing early next fall.

Thanks also to students and staff for its support.

Good luck on exams and best wishes for a happy summer.

Regional meeting hosted

by Karen Britt

The Meredith chapter of Phi Alpha Theta hosted the regional meeting for the state of North Carolina Saturday, April 24, on the Meredith campus.

History papers were read in the morning sessions by students from different North Carolina universities and colleges. Papers were heard by the group on such topics as "Medical Reform in Mid-Nineteenth Century England," "Gold Mining in North Carolina," and "The Winston-Salem 1919 Race Riot."

Meredith students presenting papers were Vicki Branch Pritchard, Marla Tugwell, and Mazie Fleetwood.

After a luncheon in the President's Dining Room, the

group was addressed by Dr. Bernard Wishy, chairman of the history department at North Carolina State University on "Our Crisis and Our History."

Dr. Thomas S. Morgan of Winthrop College represented the national office at the meeting and closed the session with a discussion of Phi Alpha Theta affairs.

Phi Alpha Theta chapters represented at the state meeting included those of East Carolina, Wake Forest, Winston-Salem State, Appalachian State, UNC-Greensboro, Pfeiffer, and UNC-Charlotte.

Phi Alpha Theta is an international history honor society. It is the second largest honor society in the nation, (second only to Phi Beta Kappa).