

## Mathematician speaks on women and careers

by Kim Dale  
and Cheryl Carroll

Mathematician Dr. Lida Barrett was on the Meredith campus Monday, April 25, to deliver two lectures. Dr. Barrett is head of the mathematics department at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tn. and has previously taught at Texas Women's University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Connecticut, the University of Utah, and the University of Wisconsin. She has also served as a consultant at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

At 10:00 a.m. Dr. Barrett spoke in Jones Auditorium on "Women Mathematicians: Past and Present." "There are a surprising number and

surprising quality of women in math history," stated Dr. Barrett. She spoke of Hypatia as the first significant woman mathematician in the third century A.D. Russian Sonya Kovalevsky was cited as being a prominent nineteenth century mathematician who is commemorated on a poster that is displayed in many college math departments. Dr. Barrett said that Emmy Noether in the twentieth century has contributed the "most significant" of all math works by women. Her works with algebra has encouraged more women to enter the field of mathematics. According to Dr. Barrett, Grace Chisholm Young is a good example of a female mathematician who combined a family and a

career.

Dr. Barrett also discussed mathematicians Maria Agnesi of Italy, Dr. Emily Du Chalet and Sophie Germaine of France, and Mary Fairfax Somerville of Germany. "These early women mathematicians may have received more credit than they deserved because of their unusual occupation," stated Dr. Barrett.

The very "stringent and unusual" work involved in math and the problem of marriage versus a career were two major reasons Dr. Barrett gave to explain why there are not more women in math. She further commented that women who desire a career in math or science have a "unique opportunity" now. "The sights of women should be raised because I think attitudes on women have changed," said Dr. Barrett. She noted that the level of math interest showed no sex differences on high school tests, but despite this fact, high schools seem to "filter out" such interest by encouraging it more in male students.

At 4:00 p.m., Dr. Barrett spoke in the Continuing Education Auditorium at Cate Center on "Applied Mathematics or Applicable Mathematics." Dr. Barrett pointed out the importance of problem solving in a technical world. Mathematicians can not expect to perform pure mathematics on the job, she said, because they will be



Dr. Lida Barrett

solving the problems of others, such as engineers and physicists.

She stated that companies are looking for analytical minds. Courses in written and oral communication are vital to math majors, because such courses enable them to precisely describe what they are trying to show. She emphasized that universities must emphasize problem solving as important and worthwhile.

In her lectures and private conversations, Dr. Barrett discussed her role as a wife, mother, and career woman. Dr. Charles Davis, chairman of the Meredith math department commented, "Dr. Barrett presented a good view point of the battle between home and career," and math professor Mrs. Martha Boukright remarked that Dr. Barrett was a good example of a woman who has combined both roles.

## Silver Shield selects

Silver Shield, the honorary leadership society on campus, recently elected officers for the coming year and inducted new members.

The officers are: Jamie Council and Julie Kicklighter, presidents; and Priscilla Chadwick, secretary-treasurer.

New members, in addition to the officers are: Cindy Allen, Penn Ervin, Sharon Holder, Vicki Jayne, Julie Kicklighter, Joyce Montgomery, Julia Nipper,

Suzanne Price, Cindy Truelove, and Sue Vehorn.

Members were elected on the basis of Christian character, constructive leadership, service to the college, and scholarship.

While Silver Shield has not been active in recent years, the officers-elect hope to involve the club once again in acting out the purpose of Silver Shield, to influence the general spirit of Meredith College.



## Young republicans elect for '77

by Nancy Newton

The Meredith chapter of Young Republicans elected new officers on Thursday, April 28. Holly Waddell became the club's chairman, replacing Carol Lancaster. Vice chairman Claudia Daniel, secretary Kim Lawson, and treasurer Lou Graham were also elected. The position of parliamentarian and sergeant of arms was claimed by Nancy Clendenin. Teresa Parker will serve the club in the area of public relations and press coordinator and Lisa York will be in charge of conventions

and special projects.

In her outgoing speech Miss Lancaster praised the club for their "unity in the face of national party strife." She acknowledged the support that the club added to the "ERA movement and the deregulation of natural gas." As a part of her acceptance speech, Miss Waddell echoed many of Miss Lancaster's sentiments concerning party unity and "cautioned" all young republicans not to fall into the trap of becoming apathetic politically just because it's not an election year.

Activities for the chapter have included speaking at the North Carolina legislature, attending the Republican party convention in Charlotte, N.C., hosting a reception for the republican members of the state legislature and taking part in Fieldman's school held by the college republican national committee. The club also sent six delegates to the college republicans convention held at Chapel Hill at which Carol Lancaster was elected co-chairman of the N.C. Federation of College Republicans.

## Playhouse has banquet

by Kim Dale

The Meredith Playhouse held their first annual banquet Wednesday, April 27.

Members of the newly established executive committee for the playhouse were voted on for next year, and the name of next year's fall musical was announced. Bertolt Brecht's, *The Three-Penny Opera*, is the chosen musical to open the Playhouse's 1977-78 season.

Drama instructor Nancy Truesdale told of the upcoming renovation of Jones Auditorium to include male and female dressing rooms, a costume shop and more office and classroom space. The old recital hall will also be reworked to serve as a dramatics studio and

workshop and an area in which to produce student-directed plays.

It was also officially announced that the Academic Council has approved the drama minor

New members of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honorary dramatic fraternity, were announced. Membership in the organization requires extensive work on at least three college productions. The five newly elected members are: Georganne Branham, Carole Burbank, Kim Dale, Lynne Kane, and Judy Toliver.

At the close of the banquet, a slide show was given that contained slides of past shows and cast parties.

## Honored

Turlington Honored

In honor of Mrs. Helen Turlington, a member of the Sociology department, the social work club has been renamed the Helen Turlington Social Work Club. Mrs. Turlington will be leaving at the end of this year to go with her husband to Iran.

If anyone has questions concerning the club, contact the president, Ginger Gay at 833-0291. Other newly-elected officers are: program coordinator, Melinda Merrill; publicity managers, Debbie Landon and Priscilla Chadwick; secretary-treasurer, Alix Wilcox; sequential news reporter, Julia Nipper; and faculty advisor, Mr. Eugene Sumner.