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Founders' Day observed

Amid pageantry and nostalgia, Meredith College last week celebrated Founders' Day, commemorating the eighty-ninth charter year of the institution.

Celebration began Friday morning with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Thomas Meredith Memorial. Meredith, who was instrumental in founding of the Baptist State Convention and the founding of Wake Forest University, is most important to this college because of his key role in winning a place for higher education for women.

As a result of Meredith's diligence, this college received its charter from the BSC in 1891, and opened in 1899, as the Baptist Female University. In 1909, this title was changed to Meredith College, in tribute to its founder.

The Founders' Day program began shortly after the wreath-laying. Jones Auditorium filled quickly with students and observers. The procession of faculty and administration, in a full array of robes and honors, was led by the senior class, dressed also in graduation robes.

Meredith Alumna of 1957, Jeanne Grealish sang Franz Schubert's "Ständchen" with the Meredith Chorale following the greeting by President John Weems.

Tribute was paid to Dr. Elizabeth Delia Dixon Carroll, as an early founder of the college by Dr. Elizabeth James Dotterer, Meredith class of 1930. Dr. Carroll, for whom Carroll Infirmary is named, was a member of the original college staff and

served as the resident physician.

Following the recognition of this early founder, tribute was paid to a contemporary founder by Dr. Weems. Dr. Dotterer was, in turn, chosen for this honor.

Dotterer began as a trustee of the college in the 1950's. She served as a past president of the alumnae association and was the first female chairman of the board of Meredith College.

The Founders' address was given by Dr. William J. Bennett, director of the National Humanities Center. Bennett, originally from Brooklyn, New York, received his B.A. from Williams College, Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Texas, and degree in law from Harvard Law School. He also currently serves as adjacent associate professor of philosophy at North Carolina State University.

"Fairytale" was the topic of Bennett's address, or "reflections on the relations of men and women and their future," he said.

Bennett said he has "recognized the equality, at least, of men and women. Sometimes women are superior, in such things as sobriety, realism, good and common sense, a less fragile ego, and the ability to recognize dreams for what they are. For survival men need myths, to protect themselves from frustration and disappointment."

"When illusion occurs in women it seems pathological; in men, it seems normal. Women deal more often in the

actual textures and details of life -- not so much of the stuff that dreams are made of, but of the stuff," he explained.

However, Bennett did not offer an unrealistic picture of the women's world or of the relationships of men and women. "Although the future of relations of men and women is pregnant with possibilities, it is not a promised land."

Because of this, Bennett offered advice to not only Meredith women, but to all men and women. "I urge us all to reject any vision of the future that promises a neat, perfect, seamless world. That is a lie. That life has its joys, that is true; but that the future will be one long, uninterrupted joy, that is a lie."

"My remarks are not intended to depress either you or me," he said. "But we should not ask for a future free from pain." The sooner men and women accept that the future will have harshness, severity, and disappointment, Bennett explained, the sooner they will be able to recognize the joys.

"The future is a lot like the present -- only later. Each of us will get to the future at the same rate. That is one step, one choice, one decision at a time," he concluded.

News and announcements

Theatre In The Park

Theatre In The Park announces auditions for a children's show, SIR SLOB AND THE PRINCESS, Feb. 27th and 28th at 5:00 p.m. Ages 8 to 15 only. For information call 755-6058 or 755-6936.

Theatre In The Park announces Beginning Children's Acting Classes taught by Petra Chambers Allen starting Feb. 18th. Six-week course fee \$25.00. To register call 755-6058.

Theatre In The Park announces Mime Workshop taught by Dominic Fisher beginning March 1. Eight-week course - 1½ hours weekly - \$50.00. Two sessions offered - Saturdays at 1:30 and Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. To register call 755-6058.

Financial Aid Announcement
College Foundation, Inc. will hold their annual borrower conference on Meredith Campus Thursday, March 13, 1980 at 7:00 p.m. in room 103 Joyner.

Upcoming Recitals

Jeanne Grealish and Jane Snow, Guest Voice Recital, 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 28, Carswell Hall.

The New Amsterdam Trio, Guest Piano, Clarinet and Cello Recital, 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, Carswell Hall.

Neill to Lead Program

Meredith Neill, Associate Campus Minister, will lead a dorm program on "Priorities and Decision Making", March 11 in 1st Brewer parlor.

Atlanta group to perform

by Marlene Debo

The Theatrical Outfit of Atlanta will present *Red Composition 1* in Carswell Concert Hall, Wainwright Music Building on Thursday, February 28 at 8 p.m.

Red Composition 1 is a non-traditional theatre piece about the lives of three women. The work blends song and dance, film, realistic storytelling, dialogue and poetry. This material is drawn from autobiographical, historical, literary, and imaginary sources.

Written and conceived by the actresses, *Red Composition 1* rings true to our common experience. How many times have you heard a female friend (or yourself) jokingly say, "I'd kill myself, but I'd be afraid I was missing something." Or "Don't look back. Just keep a photo album." And the artist inside each of us had felt this urge, "I want to sing one note so long and so loud and so clear that the entire universe is suspended."

In addition to the performance, the three actresses will hold a free theatre workshop from 10 a.m. - noon on Thursday in the Studio Theatre under Jones Auditorium. Students can join the workshop at 10 or 11 and can leave at any time.

Marianne Fraulo, Sharon Levy, and Elise Witt makeup the cast of *Red*. Ms. Witt is a Triangle Area native.

Asked about the nature of *Red Composition 1*, Ms. Witt replied, "Although the composition avoids any overt political statements, it is informed and developed with a feminist sensibility. About the company's intention in performing," Witt added, "we see ourselves as a catalyst for those who have forgotten their talents or had them denied. For those who find it difficult to articulate their opinions."

Tickets for the performance are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and senior citizens. The group is being brought to our campus by the Meredith College Playhouse.

Black Emphasis Week activities held

by Beth Giles

Black Emphasis Week began on Monday, February 18 with a convocation address by Dr. Patsy Perry, chairwoman of the English Department at North Carolina Central University in Durham. Dr. Perry spoke on "Double Jeopardy", relating the difficulties that arise in the career world when one is black and a woman. She mentioned various black women writers and described their experiences in dealing with racial, as well as sexual prejudice in their career pursuits. Dr. Perry's talk was covered by local television and radio station, WRAL.

A special Ash Wednesday worship service was held with Rev. Yvonne Beasley serving as worship leader. Rev. Beasley is director of United

Campus Ministry at N.C. Central University in Durham and a graduate of Duke Divinity School. Following Adrienne Thomas' scripture reading from Isaiah, Vanessa Gay's solo of "One Day at a Time," and Ella Branch's introduction, Rev. Beasley called for self-evaluation during the Lenten season and stressed that too often we believe that the world's problems are the result of other's faults, and we are blind to our own.

Thursday's program included the performance of St. Augustine's Performing Dance Group in Jones Auditorium Rehearsal Hall. The group presented diverse arrangements ranging from African folk, spiritual, modern, and a jazz top hat and cane finale.

Alice in Wonderland

The only faculty production of "Alice in Wonderland" to be presented this college generation happens tonight, Wednesday, February 27, at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. Helena Allen, director, highlights the unique characteristics of this

production. She says, "There are approximately 63 faculty and staff participating this year. New faculty and administrative members having roles this year include Ann Kurtz and Jerry McGee. Belle Haeseler and Jim Briscoe are in charge of the music, and

Phyllis Thompson is helping with the costumes and makeup. Charlie Krebs is in charge of the set and lights. The sophomore class gave the cast a reception following our dress rehearsal on Tuesday evening; we really appreciated that. Tonight,

following the production, everyone is invited to Belk Dining Hall for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party!"

Mrs. Allen encourages everyone to support this special tradition.

"It's going to be fun -- ya'll come!"



Yvonne Beasley of NCCU speaks at convocation. (Photo by Peggy Williford and Lorri Whittemore)