

## World's largest Small women's college

The budding trees lining the driveway wave gently at those entering the campus. The well groomed, too green grass is the envy of many visitors. The rainbow like azaleas add more color to the setting. Everything seems tranquil. Very proper.

But appearances can be deceiving.

Since the doors opened to 19 faculty members and 125 students in 1899, Meredith College has been gaining progress. The traditional woman's college has clung to its reputation and is still attracting women from all over. Some 1700 women attend Meredith annually and the number of applicants is increasing.

Yet although the number is increasing, new housing facilities are not a vision for the new future.

"We're not planning to grow," said President John E. Weems, "we're not planning to be the world's largest small women's college."

Last year the number of students attending Meredith was miscalculated, forcing the

school to house many students elsewhere. Many freshmen were booked at the Ramada Inn until Carol Anne was built to handle the overflow.

### What Attracts The Women?

The fact that Meredith is a Baptist woman's college attracts many students. "Because the school focuses on the individual as a total person, many women are drawn to the school," said Dean Sizemore.

Another plus is the fact that Meredith encourages diversity in the students and faculty and attempts to create a balance between the Christian faith and free inquiry. The reputation of being a challenging academic school also interests many students.

When comparing Meredith to other woman's colleges in the South, Meredith is "among the leaders."

"We're the largest in the Southeast. Maybe the largest around. We're not as expensive as some. At least not in this part of the country," said



The first view of Meredith is the administrative building, Johnson Hall - or as better known, the place where your date picks you up.

Allen Burris, academic dean.

The cost of tuition including room and board for one year at Meredith is \$4,800; however, it will increase to \$5,200 during the 1984-85 academic school year.

"The presidents at Davidson, Duke and Wake Forest include Meredith as one of the better institutions in North Carolina. They group us with them," said President Weems. The atmosphere felt at

Meredith is different than that at other woman's colleges. Old traditions such as the Daisy Chain at graduation, Cornhuskin' and 'Alice in Wonderland' involve both students and faculty, thus creating a unique bond in the Meredith community.

### It's All in the Mind

Receiving a broader knowledge in many different fields interests many college bound

females. A liberal arts education attracts many women to Meredith College, along with the vocational education they can get. Meredith "invites" every student to learn and be educated. Some accept this invitation, whereas others can't or don't.

"There's no magic formula to a successful academic program," said Burris. "I can't put my finger on things we're not [Continued on page 5]

## John Weems: More than just a president

by Cynthia L. Church



John Weems

The oversized desk would make most men look small, yet it fits him perfectly. From the volumes of *The World's Progress* on a shelf to the putters and golf balls in the corner, one can sense his personality. Its setting is formal but a casual atmosphere is nestled in his office among the comfortable highback chairs, the conference table and the paintings, signed Weems.

The graduate of George Peabody College, in his home-state of Tennessee, has been president of Meredith College since January of 1972. John E. Weems has held important positions at Atlantic Christian College, Kentucky Wesleyan College and Middle Tennessee University before arriving at Meredith.

"Meredith is almost the

ideal school," said Weems. However, "I don't anticipate staying here until I'm 65."

### Hail to the Chief

During the past 12 years Weems has been at Meredith, much has been accomplished. "We're not planning to be the world's largest small women's college," said Weems.

This may be true; however, he has been the instigator of many campus-oriented changes. The library's resources have increased, programs have been developed to serve the community, the physical beauty of the campus has improved and a new church has been built. Financially, Meredith has become extremely stable.

"What he's done in the last

10 years is tremendous. He's put the college on its financial feet," said Eve Dulaney, Weems's secretary.

Weems has also been successful as an administrator.

There is "total freedom under his administration. I'm able to do my job in a way that's comfortable to me. He's good for the school and I'm sure all the other vice presidents would say essentially the same thing," said Vice President Joe Baker.

"He gives out responsibility and gives you the space to do the job," said Dulaney.

As the "chief administrator and chief academic officer" of Meredith, Weems is president "24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It takes a lot of energy. It really does. I'm always President of Meredith no matter where I am."

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## Joan Bunting: New SGA president

by Jill Hensdale

In the recent first slate elections held at Meredith, Joan Bunting became the new SGA President for the 1984-85 school year. The rising senior has many new and exciting ideas planned for Meredith in the upcoming year.

Joan first became involved in student government her freshman year when she served as class secretary. She continued her interest in school government activities by serving as Sophomore class secretary and Junior class president.

Joan credits much of her interest in student affairs to her involvement with the 4-H club throughout high school. It was through this club that she learned much of what it takes to make ideas and projects work.

During the past year, several changes have been made to Meredith's SGA Constitution and By-Laws. Joan hopes that through her position as SGA President she can set these changes into motion.

With the addition of the Senate and Student Activities to be offered next year to Meredith students it means perhaps a fewer selection of activities and events but ones in which the majority of the students will want to participate in.

Meredith plays an important role in Joan's life. She is not only involved in student government but is also a member of the PHI society and the Barber Science Club. She en-

joys getting involved in student activities and served as a Student Life Sub-committee chairperson this past year. She is a strong supporter of the Honor Code and feels that it is an important part of Meredith. To her, the Honor Code goes beyond the campus by helping girls build their own honor codes in their personal lives.

The 1984-85 school year plans to be a busy one for Joan.

She hopes to increase the enthusiasm on campus and to get more students involved in campus affairs. Joan wants all students to know that she is available to them and will listen to any complaints or suggestions they may have. She wants to make the coming year an exciting and eventful one.



Joan Bunting [far right] is seen here with Becky Evans, [center] and Tracy Thompson [far left].