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The Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center focuses on unification

by Jo Hodges

When Dr. Craig Greene began teaching art at Meredith College, the art department was scattered over four buildings. The photography, painting, and graphic design studios and the art history classrooms were located in Jones Auditorium.

Print making, 3-D design, and weaving were taught in the Beehive.

There were more darkrooms in Joyner and the ceramics classes were held in a house near Faircloth Street.

Not only was the scattering of the classrooms detrimental to students' academic performance, but also to the communication of the art faculty whose offices were similarly misplaced.

"There had been a need for a centralized art building for over 10 years," said Dr. Greene, chairman of the art department. This year that need was answered.

The Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center is named for two families who have had very close ties to Meredith and who also provided the donations to make the Center possible. Gaddy's wife was president of the Alumni Association and Hamrick was a longtime business manager for Meredith

in the forties.

"We are very pleased with the name connection to Meredith. The families donated the funds because they really care about Meredith and the welfare of its students," Greene said.

The Board of Trustees gave the "go ahead" to begin the planning two years ago. Dr. Greene, with college administrators, toured many college art facilities and talked to their professors for their ideas about structure, student needs, and the problems restrictive teaching areas caused.

On their yearly retreats, the Meredith art faculty raised, researched, and discussed their many creative suggestions of the ideal art building. Because of this hard work, the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center is personalized to fit the conceptual and the functional needs of the instructor.

The ground-breaking ceremony was in July and construction continued until December. Dr. Greene explained that the month of January will be spent finishing final details.

The end product is an attractive and functional learning area. The building is large and spacious, an important factor in the teaching of art. One of the most essen-

tial factors is the centralization of all the classes so that the art student may be exposed to all areas and levels of art. Because each area of art is fundamentally different, each class has its own carefully modified classroom.

Combining these elements of centralization and separation allow for the most efficient work flow. "Also, the professors' offices are nearest their areas of specialization. I think this really strengthens the teacher/student relationship," Dr. Greene stated.

The photography facility is one of the best and most unique ever designed. Nona Short designed a glassed-in darkroom demonstration area so that she may fully and effectively instruct her students on each aspect of the darkroom procedure. The photography facility also features a special lighting studio designed to allow perfect lighting and exposure. Students may also use the studio to photograph their work for professional or graduate school portfolios.

There are facilities for the beginning, intermediate, or advanced student. The graphic design studio also has its own darkroom. Dr. Greene hopes to acquire a

professional typesetting machine and to delve into the world of computer graphics. "We want our graphic design department to be on the cutting edge of professionalism," he said. The "clean room," a departmental idea, is strictly for the assemblage of exhibition material and nothing else. It will be kept tidy when not used.

The gallery space has moveable walls and a special wall covering that allows exhibitions to be attached to the wall by velcro. The modern glassbrick of the lounge, cool white walls, and lofty ceilings exude an academic and professional atmosphere that encourages learning.

Despite the disappointment of its delayed move (at the beginning of the semester), faculty members are very excited and very proud of the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center.

"We're excited. I think our students are excited. We want this to be the center for women in art. Most of our gallery shows will present work by women. We will hope and try anything to make this the center for art education and education in general, for women everywhere," said Greene.

Senate forms a student cafeteria committee

by Jo Hodges

Two years Ann Barnes served on a student committee to voice ideas and suggestions about the food and service of the cafeteria. "We only met once. We complained that we didn't like rice in the tomato soup. They stopped putting rice in the soup but the committee just kind of faded way."

Before Christmas, the SGA decided to select a new cafeteria committee at the urging of food services manager Mike Bellefeuille. Bettie Shipp, SGA vice-president, chose two representatives from each class to serve.

"What we want to do is provide a channel to let the students voice their opinions, establish creative ideas, and ask any questions that might arise," Bellefeuille explained.

"My job is really an open-door policy. By this I mean that I welcome any good ideas the students might have; suggestions are helpful," he stressed. Bellefeuille also invites students to drop by his office anytime they have a constructive contribution to offer.

Bellefeuille hopes this committee will open better communication between the students and managerial staff of the cafeteria. If anyone has their own suggestions to offer, contact a committee member.

The cafeteria committee members are:
Alyssa Pyatte 310 Vann
Susan Davis 312 Vann
Susan Wiggs 120 Brewer
Karen Knight 109 Vann
Vanessa Goodman 114 Heil.
Suzanne Gwyn 212 Heilman

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Students take advantage of cancelled classes during last week's storm which dumped inches of snow all across North Carolina. (Photo by Sharon Wells)