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MEREDITH COLLEGE

New staff, offices for Career Services

by Sarah Pace

A new year always brings about resolutions for change and improvement and the office of career services is no exception. With both a new staff and location, Career Services is starting the new year with a fresh start.

"It is exciting to have a new location and a new staff. It encourages us to look at things with fresh eyes," said Gordon Folger, director of career services and cooperative education.

Folger took over as director after the retirement of Marie Capel in mid-November. Folger was previously the director for the Women's Center of Wake County. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Hollins College and a master's degree in education from Wake Forest University.

Barbara Ficklin, assistant director and coordinator of cooperative education, came to Meredith this past summer after working in the marketing division of the Bell System AT&T. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Dennison University in Granville, Ohio.

Joan Mills, associate director and instructor of career planning seminars, began working at Meredith this past fall. Mills worked at N.C. State University where she helped freshmen select a major before joining the career services staff. She received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in counseling and higher education from Appalachian State University.

Mary Ellen Philen, office manager, has worked in the office since the fall of 1986. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Westhampton College.

Along with the staffing changes came a location change for the office, which is now located on the newly remodeled second floor of Cate Center.

When asked why the office was relocated, Folger gave two reasons. The office needed a location that provides adequate space for resource counseling and recruiting. "The space was not adequate for the demand of

our services," said Folger. The second reason was to create a student leadership suite. By modifying Cate Center, student activities and student leaders were able to consolidate their offices into one central location.

Folger said that she did not plan to make major changes in the way the office operates. "A lot of good programs and services are already in place," she said. The staff will do some planning and evaluating of the services after the spring semester.

A current project the staff is working on in conjunction with the alumnae association is the Alumnae Network, a program in which alumnae donate their time and resources to help students in career planning.

Folger's personal philosophy about career planning is that it is a developmental process. She feels that the second semester is the time for a student to start her career development.

"A student needs to go through a period of self-exploration. She needs to learn about herself and what she wants," stated Folger. Career Services helps freshmen and sophomores explore career development through its 101 seminar, which provides tools for selecting a major. The office has several panels open to the campus this spring, including discussions from department representatives about majors.

Juniors and seniors receive tools for finding a job, which include mapping out job search plans, creating resumes, providing job listings, creating placement files, and teaching interview techniques.

Career Services also helps the development of students by providing a part-time job board, administering vocational interest tests, and issuing information about internships.

An important service that the office provides is a cooperative education program. According to Barbara Ficklin, Meredith is one of the few small colleges that offers this program. She said that co-oping is one of the most valuable experiences a student can have. Nationally, 62 percent of the students who co-op get job offers from the companies that sponsored them.

Meredith employee suffers a heart attack, dies

by Elizabeth Almond
Jennifer corn

Samuel C. Wilder, a maintenance employee, died suddenly Friday, Jan. 8 as he walked to work at Meredith. Wilder suffered a major heart attack.

Raleigh police saw Wilder fall into the snow, but he died before they could reach him. Bobby Shattuck, a campus security officer, identified Wilder.

Wilder was a faithful employee who worked at Meredith since August of 1979 in the maintenance office in the normal capacity and as a locksmith. Dan Shattuck, chief of security, said, "He was an ambi-

tious worker who took pride in what he did. Every one liked him." Lon Avent, head of maintenance and Wilder's supervisor, could not be reached for comment.

According to Shattuck, Avent had advised Wilder to stay at home because of the snow. "Lon told me that he [Wilder] was not even scheduled to work that day," said Shattuck.

Wilder had experienced other health problems since his teens, according to Shattuck. During his years at Meredith, he suffered several seizures and blackouts while working.

Wilder is survived by his wife and three children.



Samuel C. Wilder, 2nd row, 7th from right.

Allen takes on new challenges as student activities director

by Jo Hodges

The new semester brought not only the usual number of academic changes but also an addition to the office of student development. Cindy Allen has been named the new director of student activities.

Allen officially assumed the position as the new director on Jan. 4, filling a position that had been vacant since mid-October when former director Chandy Christian left the office to become the director of annual giving at Meredith.

"I am officially in charge of all major student associations and those associations' budgets," Allen said.

On a lighter note, Allen added, "I am mak-

ing sure that Meredith College students have fun in their activities but also develop good leadership abilities."

Before coming to Meredith, Allen worked extensively developing leadership abilities in the Girl Scouts. "I have been involved with Girl Scouts all my life . . . One of my goals here at Meredith is to get a scout troop on campus. I think it would be both good for the students and good for the troop."

So far, Allen said, she has been enormously impressed with the Meredith campus and the student body. "I am really impressed with the high quality of student leadership in the students on this campus," she said.

But Allen stressed concern that she has not met as many students as she would like

to. "I feel like I am only meeting a cross-section of the campus population. I keep hearing familiar names and I am concerned if we are providing the right types of programs. My goal would be to reach as many students as possible with activities and programs that would be interesting for the majority."

Allen is originally from Colorado but attended Raleigh's Broughton High School. She received her undergraduate degree with honors in psychology from Wake Forest University and her master's degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is currently working on her dissertation to receive her doctorate degree. Before coming to Meredith, Allen taught

child psychology at UNC-CH. "I love to teach. It's very exciting for me and that's why I'm doing what I'm doing now. I love working with students," Allen said with a smile.

In her free time, which she says is practically nonexistent in her busy life, Allen is finishing her dissertation and planning her wedding. She is also thinking of new projects for student activities in the new semester and the semesters to come.

"I get my motivation from seeing students do great things, things that they never thought they could do. I like to give them a challenging project to do, a problem that is difficult and see them do well with it and get excited about it. I get excited when they get excited."