

# Congratulations Juniors - Winners, Stunt 1988

# Meredith Herald

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## Degree program in dance to take off next year

by Jo Hodges

Meredith will soon be able to offer a major in dance. Recently, the college officially accepted a proposal, developed and submitted by dance instructor Alyson Colwell, to expand Meredith's dance program to include a dance major.

As early as next year, students can major in dance and, in about two years, receive a bachelor's degree in dance.

The new dance major requires 56-58 hours in dance and movement, health, physical education, and biology.

Ten new classes in dance technique, movement, instruction, production and physical education have been developed for the program, said Colwell.

Three new advance level technique classes in jazz, ballet, and modern dance will be added to the present curriculum which consists only of beginning and intermediate levels, as well as two two-hour classes in movement, including movement fundamentals (DAN 255) and creative movement for children (DAN 457), a teaching methods class.

The new major will introduce three three-hour classes in kinesiology, the scientific study of body movement (PED 482), dance production in which students will learn the different aspects of producing a dance program (DAN 455), and teaching methods of dance (DAN 457). Another new class, prevention and care of athletic injuries (PED 282), will also be added for the major.

Near the completion of the major, students will be required to do a dance practicum for one to three hours credit. Students will concentrate on some aspect of production — choreography, set development, advertising and other areas of interest — with one credit hour required in the area of lighting.

Besides the new classes, dance majors must take the dance classes and two health classes presently offered by the department and 16 hours from general biology, human anatomy, and physiology.

Performance with Meredith Dance Theatre is also required.

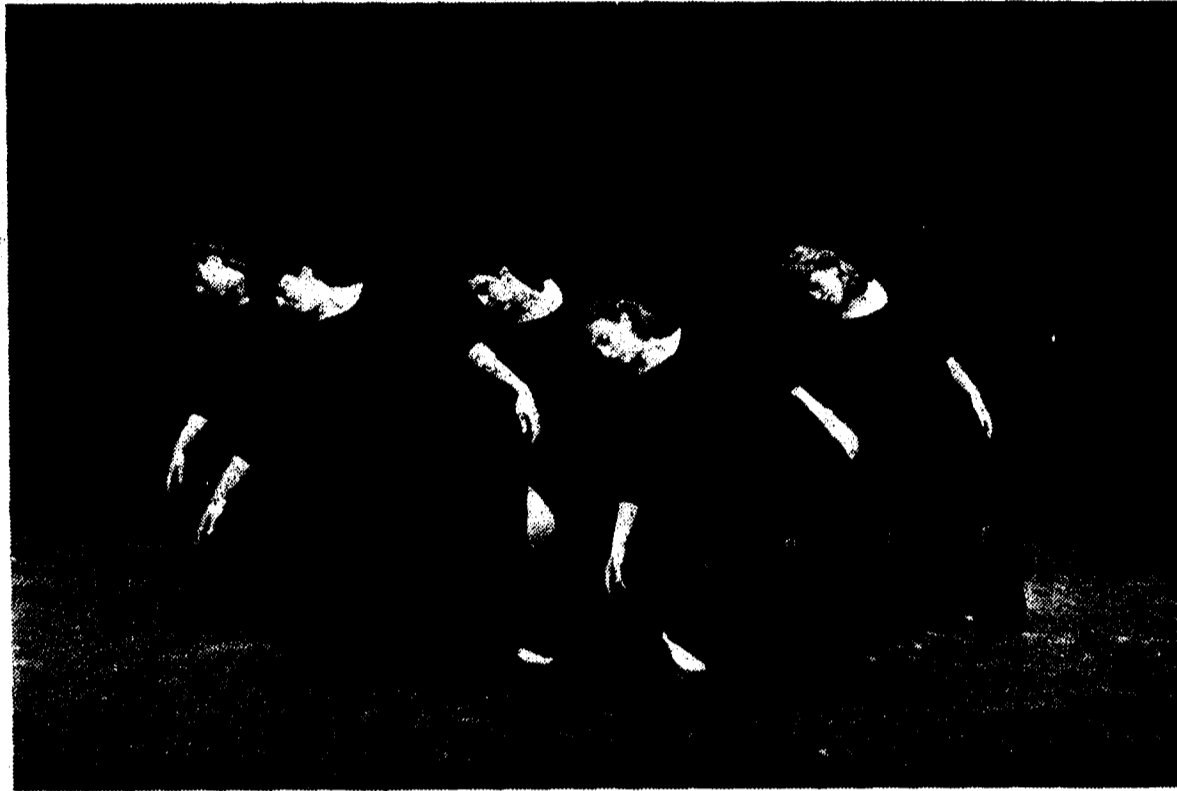
## Foreign Language Week promises a cultural experience to remember

by Elizabeth Almond

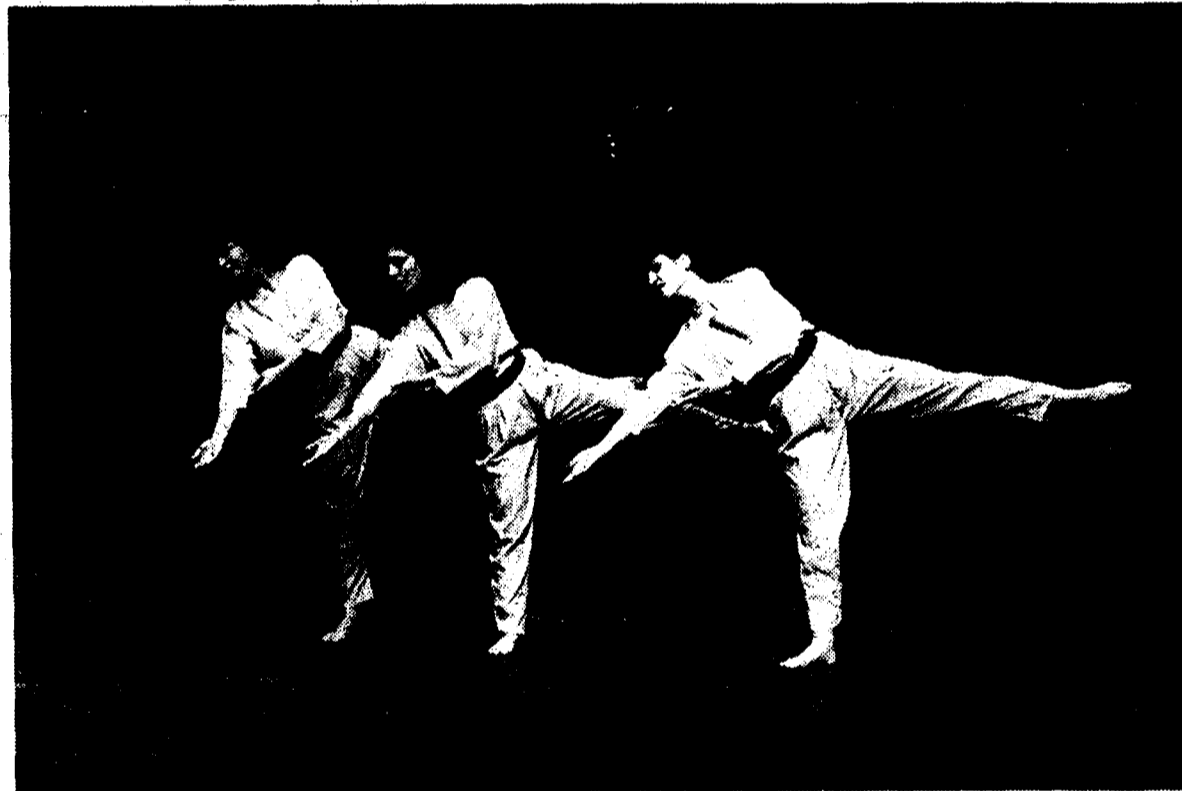
Every year, the department of foreign languages and the three foreign language clubs at Meredith host a week-long celebration of German, French, and Spanish cultures.

This year, activities during Foreign Language Week will include a French play, several foreign movies, cuisine sampling, and an on-campus replica of an authentic French cafe.

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Past and present members of the Meredith Dance Theatre perform "In All The Empty Places," a dance choreographed by Dance Instructor Alyson Colwell. Photo courtesy of Office of Publications



Dancers (left to right) Marily Maynard, Joan Certá-Moore and Alyson Colwell perform "Each for the Other." Colwell also choreographed the dance. Photo courtesy of Office of Publications

## "Good Times Roll" for Parents' Weekend

by Elizabeth Almond

The good times are gonna roll March 19-20 when the 1988 Parents' Weekend gets underway!

An annual event, Parents' Weekend offers a chance for the families of Meredith students to come together for a time of fun, fellowship, and for former Meredith Angels, a time to reminisce about college days.

Scheduled activities on Saturday include the annual Granddaughter's Club Luncheon, the Senior Parents/Daughter Reception in Cate Center, a performance by the Aqua Angels, a Parent/Daughter Talent Show and a Sock-Hop in the gym Saturday night.

Dr. Bill R. Almond, Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church in Reidsville, NC, will deliver the message during the Family Worship to be held Sunday morning in Jones Chapel.

There will be two morning services at 10 am and 11 am. Dr. Almond's daughters, Elizabeth and Becky, are currently enrolled at Meredith and his wife, the former Katherine Allison Ratley, graduated from Meredith in 1964. Dr. Almond also served on the Board of Trustees until his term expired in November.

After the morning worship services, Belk Dining Hall will host a family brunch. Meredith Performs will present a special matinee performance of *Godspell* Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. Residence halls will be open from 1 pm to 5 pm Sunday afternoon.

Parents' Weekend began as Parent's Day in 1967. Over 650 parents attended that first year, prompting expansion of the program to cover a full weekend. In 1968, parents were invited to attend their daughter's

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"We will start next semester by offering movement fundamentals and then in the spring, prevention and care of athletic injuries. The following year, we will add more classes," said Colwell.

Colwell said she has high hopes for the success of the new major. "My dream would be to have twenty students majoring in dance," she said.

The flexibility of the major will allow dance majors to minor in other areas such as business management or professional communications to supplement their degree.

"There are more career possibilities for dance majors besides becoming a professional dancer. A dance major can work in the fields of arts management, theatre production, choreography, dance therapy, or teaching. The opportunities are out there," said Colwell.

Experience is not a prerequisite for dance majors. Colwell also encourages those students who have not had an extensive dance background to major in dance.

"It takes a lot of discipline, as does any major, and at times, it's exhausting and physically taxing but if the will is there, we can provide the way," she said.

Colwell herself was a sophomore in college when she decided she wanted a career in dance.

"I had some dance when I was a child but then I quit when I hit puberty. I didn't decide to major in dance until I was a sophomore in college. I started out majoring in political science but when I took a dance class for a P.E. credit, I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Colwell hopes to develop the major so students can become certified to teach dance. Well-educated, creative dance teachers are hard to find, she said.

"Children especially need a creative experience to encourage them to dance, not the typical class where they are lined up at the barre, all dressed alike, and all taught to move alike. That's wrong, but, unfortunately, most people that are exposed to dance at an early age come away with that impression . . . the teacher as well as the student should always be working on her creativity in movement and as a dancer. The teaching methods class we will offer will promote creativity as well as the proper basic concepts," said Colwell.

In the future, Colwell hopes the major will grow so that Meredith will develop a reputation like that of the University of Greensboro, which has had a strong dance program for many years. She enthusiastically encourages students to major in dance.

"I would like to see Meredith College become a moving, progressive center for the arts, dance in particular," she said.

Students interested in the new dance major should contact Alyson Colwell in the dance department at 8338.