

M E R E D I T H I N E R A L D

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Dr. Eble Speaks

by Amy LaVoy

Dr. Connie Eble of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was the guest speaker at convocation on October 3 in Jones Auditorium.

The subject of Dr. Eble's speech was college slang, which she has studied for the past 15 years.

Dr. Eble first became interested in college slang through her students. She used the occurrence of slang in the English language as a tool for helping her students understand how words enter our language.

Dr. Eble compares the function of college slang to the function of clothing fashions: she says it is an inclusive/exclusive element that lets people know who is in and who is out.

Dr. Eble has also found that college slang centers around the fads of the time. For instance, in the 1970s slang most often referred to different types of drugs and their effects. Today, there is less drug slang among college students, not because drug use is down, but because it is less acceptable.

She also said that most college slang tends to be nation-wide because of the increased communication between college campuses across the country.

Some of Dr. Eble's slang terms include "talking to Ralph on the big

white phone," which refers to vomiting; "NTS" which stands for "name tag shaker"—a cute guy you might see at a mixer; and "to play tonsil hockey," which refers of course to kissing.

Dr. Eble, who has published numerous articles on college slang, is a consultant to the forthcoming *Oxford Companion to the English Language*, and a member of both the *American Speech* and the *South-eastern Conference on Linguistic Review* editorial boards. She currently teaches at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Honors Program Offers Students Challenge

by Kay Jernigan

Each year the Honors Committee invites about twenty entering students who show the most academic promise to participate in the Honors program.

The Honors program was established in 1984 to provide selected students with creative intellectual stimulation that goes beyond that of the usual college experience. Dr. Cochran of the religion department is the Director of the Honors program.

The Honors curriculum is integrated into the four years of undergraduate study. The Honors courses are designed to expose students to the breadth of knowledge across several subjects as well as in-depth study in their majors. Many of the courses are presented with innovative and challenging teaching styles such as interdisciplinary studies and team teaching. Besides enriching the academic life of students, the Honors program also offers co-curricular opportunities such as seminars, special lectures, and field trips to area performances that stretch the imagination.

