

Jennifer Hartig--more than SGA President

By Amity Brown and
Sonali Kolhatkar

Mounds of paperwork, constant phone calls, and late hours are old hat for Jennifer Hartig, President of the Student Government Association, after she spent her summer compiling the Student Activities Calendar and preparing for Freshman Orientation.

Jennifer, an Asheville, NC native, is now a senior at Meredith, majoring in political studies with a concentration in environmental studies and a minor in fitness.

Jennifer's interest in student leadership began when she ran for Senate as a freshman. She said, "The fact that I even ran was an accomplishment in itself because I came to Meredith not knowing anyone." However, Jennifer's interests are not exclusive to student government. In fact, Jennifer has worked off and on at Shoney's since she was a junior in high school. She said, "Believe it or not, but my

experiences in Shoneyland have taught me a lot about life."

While working at Shoney's, Jennifer met Lisa, a mother of two, who had worked at Shoney's for 10 years. Jennifer called Lisa "the perfect mom" and added that Lisa had gone back to school at UNC-Asheville to be a social studies teacher. She said, "Lisa always made dean's list. If I had so many things stacked against me, I just don't know if I could do it."

Jennifer said she has had several rewarding experiences at Meredith, citing her relationships with her big sister and her little sisters as the most rewarding. She said, "That's why I'm Senior Class Wishbones Co-Chair, so I can give a little back to them for all they've given me."

Additionally, she said that being president of the SGA was a

way for her to do something for Meredith, yet Jennifer also commented that her biggest fear as the SGA president "is not living up to [her] predecessors." This comment reflects what Jennifer calls her biggest character flaw: perfectionism. She said, "It causes me to be very

critical of myself."

Considering her plans for after graduation, Jennifer said, "I'd love to get a job teaching aerobics on a cruise ship for a couple of years - at least until I decide what I want to get my masters in," revealing that Jennifer Hartig is not all business.



file photo

Jennifer Hartig and Sarah Reynolds at Little Friends Weekend 1992.

Faculty experiences increase

The start of a new academic year always means a lot of new faces here at Meredith. This year is unique because, along with the incoming class of 1996, Meredith is welcoming 24 new faculty members to campus. According to Allen Burris, Dean and Vice President of the College, a certain amount of faculty turnover is to be expected, but this year the numbers are higher than normal. He attributes this to faculty members retiring, taking extended leaves, and resigning and to changes in temporary staff.

Dean Burris points out that temporary basis, positions are based on a one-year appointment with an opportunity—in most cases—for renewal at the end of that period.

The search for new faculty is an inter-departmental process. Dean Burris explains that new faculty members are recruited by the individual departments, and guided by the department head. Applicants are taken from a local—or possibly event national—pool. While Dean Burris assists the department head with the selection process, ultimate

approval of a new staff member comes from the Board of Trustees.

Although Dean Burris stresses that continuity is important to Meredith, he feels that new elements are very refreshing. Dean Burris describes the changes in faculty as, "an opportunity for new people new ideas, and new ways of doing things." This year virtually every academic department is opening its doors to new faces and new opportunities.

Susan
Finley



Dining hall gets face lift

Belk ready for students return

By Beth Lowry

The "new" Dining Hall pleasantly surprised Meredith students returning for fall classes. Renovation to the building began in June and should be completed no later than Fall Break.

Belk Dining Hall is used more than any building on campus by more people. According to Charles Taylor, Vice President of Business and Finance, each year 704 meals per student are served in the cafeteria. Since the last renovations took place 20 years ago, Taylor felt it was time to upgrade the facility.

Through informal talks with Meredith students, Taylor discovered that the dining hall was much too noisy and that there was not a good flow of traffic when getting a meal. Renovating the cafeteria, said Taylor, "...was the thing to do make during more pleasant."

Construction of the \$300,000 project began in June. The entire ceiling was demolished and replaced with acoustic tiles to eliminate the noise. The heating and cooling system has been redi-

tributed to eliminate gusts of air blowing on the students. A new sound system which will benefit Meredith programs in the cafeteria will be completed in a couple of weeks. Money for the project came from the Meredith Second Century Challenge and from ARA, the food service company.

Renovation has also occurred in food service. Pizza, Mexican Bar, Pasta Bar, Oriental Stir-Fry, and waffles will be available on an alternating basis, along with the standard two entrees. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and grilled cheese will be available every day. According to Thad O' Bryant, director of Meredith food service, these features should be available to students no later than Fall Break, but as early as the second week of September.

O' Bryant said the renovations, once completed "will be able to benefit more students." He added that the renovations were needed "to update the school and put it in line with other colleges." The new Belk Dining Hall enables food service to offer similar menus as those at large universities, such as State and Carolina.