

## Study abroad students share experiences from their travels

by Mallory Hearne

Meredith students who studied abroad in order to improve their language skills during the fall, spring, and summer semesters met Thursday, Sept. 10 at a dessert social sponsored by the Foreign Language Department. Eleven students shared their experiences of studying abroad.

The evening was designed for faculty to learn more about all study abroad programs, those set up by Meredith College and those organized through other universities and organizations but sponsored by Meredith. The faculty felt it essential to know both the advantages and disadvantages of the programs in order to better advise their students in the future.

These programs were by no means standard study abroad programs. While some students still participated in the traditional study abroad programs in Europe, several students of Spanish went to Central and South America. Overall, the eleven students participated in programs in France, Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Chile.

In addition to sharing their experiences, all of the students made suggestions for future students and programs.

Christa Bucks, junior, started the evening by describing how the students in her program, Mobility International USA, had helped each other overcome their disabilities so they could visit and travel in Mexico. Bucks showed a picture of a home-made elevator in one of the homes where she stayed. This elevator was used to lift her up to the second floor.

Lisa Tilley, senior, also visited Mexico this summer with the "Spearhead" program, an interdenominational mission organization. She said she was often late for class or did not make it at all, for to Mexicans, the most important thing is spending time with family and friends, not being on time to class.

Michele Brothers, senior, was one of five Meredith students who spent the fall semester in Angers, France. Brothers gave a few suggestions for making the transition for new students easier.

Tia Hartley, junior, Nicole Rivenbark, junior, and Mallory Hearne, senior, studied in Paris for five weeks this summer and then traveled throughout Europe for a week. All three said

they loved Paris but wished the program were better organized and less expensive.

Briles Johnson, senior, was the first student to participate in the Meredith program in Madrid, Spain. Johnson was there for both the spring semester and the summer session. She described the wonderful feeling of realizing that she no longer had to think in English.

Judy Schuster got the award for finding the most economical study abroad program. She studied and did volunteer work in Guatemala for four weeks.

Seniors Amy Ammons and Angela Denton studied in Costa Rica, Ammons in a summer program through the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Denton in a spring semester program through the University of New York.

Sandra Campos, a native of Chile, studied there during the spring semester with a program from the University of New York, staying with relatives she had never met.

All eleven students agreed that their study abroad programs not only helped them improve their language skills but also helped them grow as people. They all urge other students to consider studying abroad.

Students interested in studying abroad to improve foreign language skills should contact Dr. Burgunde Winz (x8420).

## Students attend Baptist Fall Baptist Student Convention

by Amy Shepard

After attending a stimulating and challenging convention last weekend, North Carolina's Baptist students are "Going Places." Over 600 students, including about 25 Meredith students, attended this year's Fall Baptist Student Convention, which was held at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Black Mountain.

The speakers for the weekend were terrific. They led us as we explored the theme, "Going Places." In worship, we had the privilege of hearing Jon Cawley, a pastor from Mt. Airy, N.C. At each worship service, Jon gave us a fresh look at characters from the Bible who had struggled in the effort of making their lives go places. We also experienced the unusual ministry of Paul and Nicole Johnson, who make up a dynamic drama team. Using drama, they bring the Bible and its teachings to life for their audience.

We also had smaller group meetings. For some of these meetings, we were divided into small groups called "Ports of Call." In these groups, we were challenged to discuss the destinations that we have chosen for our lives and

how we plan to arrive at those destinations. We found friends with whom we could share our goals in life, our present location, and our frustrations about getting from where we are to where we want to be. Through sharing, we were able to learn from the experiences of others in our groups.

The other small groups we had were in the form of seminars. We could choose two seminars from a list which included such interesting topics as abortion, AIDS, evangelism, God and politics, God and the big screen, homosexuality and the church, peer counseling, and dealing with conflict.

Besides different types of meetings, we also had some events that were mostly entertainment. We saw the twelve-member music/evangelism team WITNESS in the final concert of their summer season. Saturday night's variety show was a perfect mixture of the hilarious with the serious; one minute we were laughing, and the next minute we were crying.

Of course, whether we were singing in a worship service or eating cheesecake at Denny's, we made sure that we had lots of fun. The convention helped us include

that fun by providing recreational events. Saturday afternoon, we had the options of attending a square dance, watching the East vs. the West volleyball game, taking a hike up a mountain, or just sitting around chatting with some friends or catching up on the sleep we had lost the night before because we had been chatting with our friends. If none of those options appealed to us, we could join the one hundred people that were upstairs watching the State-Carolina game.

Through all of the meetings, discussions, and fun, we were challenged to "raise our sails" and let God be the wind to fill us and guide us on whatever journeys He has in store for us.

**MEA Luau**  
featuring...  
the Clef Hangers  
**TODAY**  
in the courtyard  
4:30 - 6:15 p.m.  
**BRING A FRIEND!**