

Re-entry emphasizes tradition among the non-traditional students

by Amity Brown

Senior portraits. Cornhuskin'. Class Day. All of the traditions of a Meredith student's senior year. All of the traditions Jamie B. O'Briant, a senior and a re-entry student, plans to participate in this year.

"I'm going for the total experience this year," O'Briant said.

"Actually Cornhuskin' is my most favorite thing I've done here. This will be my fifth year in Cornhuskin'. You can go to class anywhere. You can sit and take lectures anywhere. But where else can you get Cornhuskin'," she added.

Such participation is not unusual for O'Briant, last year's president of Women in New Goal Settings (WINGS) and a member of Kappa Nu Sigma and Silver Shield.

O'Briant came to Meredith College in 1982, taking only one class her first semester. She claims, "I've been here a long time."

"I came to Meredith because of its size, the small size. Also the people in the re-entry program were so good and so helpful. They would actually sit down with you and talk about what you needed to do. Even after they pass you on to another advisor, they still look after you," she said.

According to O'Briant, an English major, Dr. Louise Taylor's English 111 got her hooked on Meredith and its English department.

"English is something I've always liked. I even like diagramming sentences. I also really liked 111 with Dr. Taylor. I feel like she got me on the right track. She's got so much energy and so much drive. You can feel the energy," the English major said.

Campus to participate in Alcohol Awareness Week

by Frances Pate

SGA is sponsoring Alcohol Awareness Week from Oct. 19-23. The purpose of this week is to educate the community on the physiological, social, legal, and emotional effects of alcohol consumption and abuse. Through different educational and social activities, SGA hopes to achieve its goal.

Monday night peer educators spoke during the class and hall meetings. Tuesday night the movie *Bright Lights, Big City* was shown. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed making banana splits. Tonight ComedySportz returns to Meredith at 8 p.m. This event is sponsored by SGA, MCA, MEA and MRA. According to Jennifer Hartig, SGA President, "ComedySportz is a Raleigh-based comedy act which emphasizes audience participation, and good, clean fun." During half-time there will be a Mocktail



Jamie O'Briant, senior English major

O'Briant did not originally intend to study English. After growing up in Justice, NC, "a farming community between Louisburg and Spring Hope,"

and graduating from Edward Best High School in 1965, she moved to Raleigh and attended Hardbarger Business College.

"I went for one year and got an executive secretarial degree. After that, I went to work for the North Carolina Department of Revenue. That's where I met my husband," O'Briant said.

O'Briant and her husband, Leon O'Briant, have been married "for almost 25 years." They have one son, James, a graduate of the University of North Caro-

lina at Chapel Hill School of Journalism. competition between the classes. Hartig said the "faculty judges will determine which class has the most creative and best-tasting non-alcoholic beverage." The winning class receives \$50. The event will be held in Jones Auditorium.

Thursday night Melanie Horne, MCA President, will lead "Unwinding" in the Chapel Commons Room at 8 p.m. On Friday Barry Nickalson from the Cary Police Department will be speaking at the Association of Meredith Commuters meeting at 10 a.m. in Kresge. There will also be videos aired daily on MCTV, bulletin boards in Johnson Hall and the residence halls, and white crosses in the courtyard representing North Carolina deaths caused by alcohol-related accidents.

SGA invites the entire Meredith

lina at Chapel Hill School of Journalism.

"James gets tired of hearing me talk about my classes all of the time, but he supports me," she said.

After getting married O'Briant spent several years working in the home. "I'm doing things kind of in reverse. Now I really want to work. I had a chance to stay home, and I'm glad I did it. Now I don't need to do that anymore. As hard as you work at Meredith, you just can't turn that drive off," she said.

Right now, O'Briant has an internship with the American Cancer Society, overseeing their booth at the North Carolina State Fair. She had to recruit 80-90 volunteers, hire potato peelers, and order ten bushels of sweet potatoes. "We'll be giving out samples of sweet potatoes, and it was a real challenge to do all this and make it work," O'Briant said.

O'Briant, however, is accustomed to challenge, after the anxiety she felt about going to college. "I was really nervous about everything, especially math. I put math off until I knew I was serious about graduating. I was also afraid I'd be intimidated by all the smart 18-year-olds. Then to top it all off, it snowed on the first day of class, and I couldn't make it. Anne Dahle [Director of the Re-entry Program] got the notes and called me," she said.

Concerning the relationship of traditional age and re-entry students, O'Briant believes there is practically no conflict.

She summed up by saying, "A lot of re-entry women worry that they won't be accepted by the traditional age students, but it's okay here. In the classroom, I don't see any difference. Once we get in there, we're all students. In fact, some of my favorite people at Meredith have been the traditional age

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