

New faculty representative dedicated to Meredith and family

by Christina Peoples

The faculty, administration, trustees, and students of Meredith need to look ahead and see what kind of institution we need to be in the year 2000, said Dr. Brent Pitts, the new faculty representative who also teaches in the French department.

"I believe the faculty would like to see a college where they can put more of their energies into being better teachers, advisors, and researchers rather than always thinking about rules," said Pitts as he casually leans back in his chair.

In an interview Friday, Pitts said that as faculty representative, he finds out faculty concerns and then takes action to see that these concerns are addressed. Pitts enjoys his position because he sees and talks to more faculty, administration, and students.

Pitts also said, "It's a great honor to be faculty representative, but I don't feel that I speak for the faculty. I want to be in communication with the faculty so that a consensus can be reached and given a voice."

When asked how education has

changed since he began teaching, Pitts said that the methods of teaching have shifted to build critical thinking skills in students. They are being called on to actively participate more.

Pitts explained, "There has been a de-emphasis of the teacher as master of the classroom, delivering information for students to regurgitate later."

Perri Sutton, one of Pitts' French students, believes that Pitts is a good example of this new method of teaching.

She said, "I think he's an awesome teacher. He's great at making class exciting, especially when we act out French plays. He gets so tickled and it makes it really fun for us."

Pitts said he has always been

interested in education because as a youngster he enjoyed school, grew up in a house full of books, and both of his parents were in the field of education.

Pitts' father was a high school principal. Pitts looked thoughtful and said, "It was kind of like being a minister's kid in that you move quite a bit and everyone knows you at school. It helped me to make friends more easily."

**Dr. Brent Pitts
Meredith College Faculty
Representative**

It is easy to see Pitts' love for learning. His office walls are covered with shelves full of books and beside his desk there is an open dictionary.

Pitts' office also shows his love and appreciation of family. The wall next to his office door is decorated with pictures of his wife, daughters, and granddaughter.

Pitts crosses his legs and removes his glasses before talking about his family, seeming to put himself on a more personal level.

Pitts met his wife at Indiana State University where he received his Ph.D. in French.

"We were in a history class together and we disagreed in class about the Reformation Period. After class we met to talk," said Pitts.

Jokingly he commented, "But we don't discuss the reformation any more."

Pitts has two daughters: Fran, 22, and Anna, 20. His older daughter recently had a baby and Pitts "enjoys being a grandpa."

According to Pitts, "Having a family is important. We try to stay together without getting in each other's way."

After Pitts earned his doctorate, he was looking for a job, and his wife was looking for a Ph.D. program.

Both of these materialized in the triangle area, said Pitts.

"I came to Meredith in 1981 because I got a real sense of the camaraderie of the faculty to pull together and move the school forward," Pitts said.

His wife teaches political science part-time at ECU. She is also the coordinator for the Center of European Studies at UNC-CH.

When asked about his career choice Pitts said he became interested in French because his parents also studied the language.

"On rainy Saturday afternoons I would drag down an old French book to look at," said Pitts.

He took French in high school and had an excellent teacher. She inspired him to find opportunities for further study. She had a real enthusiasm for her craft and was a role model for him, said Pitts.

Pitts' parents were also great influences on his life. Pitts said, "They taught me to have love in a family, an ethic that values work and study, and the importance of reading and music."

The classical music playing on a small radio in his office shows his appreciation for music. His other interests include travel, medieval studies, and working on projects for his first house that he and his wife purchased last year.

Pitts appearance suggests that he is a down to earth fellow. He looks relaxed in a pair of khakis and a striped cotton shirt with the top button left undone.

Sutton agreed with that informal image and said that Pitts really tries to get to know his students. She said, "He makes himself always available to students and he really likes to be involved."

Security Notes

by Chief Dan Shattuck

• There have been an unprecedented number of harassing phone calls to Meredith students this year. There are not enough phone lines available for Communications to change all the phone numbers of students experiencing these calls. The best way to handle an obscene caller is to hang up immediately and DO NOT TALK to the caller. If the person persists in calling back, do not answer the phone and (if one is available) let the answering machine screen the calls. More than likely, the caller will give up. Numbers will only be changed in emergency situations. If the stu-

dent knows the caller, notify security. If she is willing to press charges, security or the police will contact the caller.

• On Monday, October 18, an ambulance was called to assist a student who had collapsed in her room due to a previous injury. The roommate called the rescue squad for help after finding the girl collapsed.

• Tuesday night, October 19, a fire truck, which many students saw come on campus, was responding to a fire alarm accidentally set off at the President's house.

• Students should be aware that with Halloween comes a variety of pranks. They should use good judgement and be particularly cautious in whatever activities they choose to partake in on Halloween night.

Big Sis/Lil Sis Bonfire

Wednesday, Nov. 3

10 p.m.-12

softball field

Featuring David Miles

Bring your sis, \$.50 and a hanger!