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New vice president for student development steps up to bat

by Christina Peoples

There is a new vice president up to bat, but she is not your typical administrator. In fact, there is nothing typical about Dr. Jean Jackson who was appointed vice president of Student Development effective July 1.

In addition to her new role as administrator, Jackson has hit several homeruns in other significant roles at Meredith College. She has been an excellent student, a student leader, an English department faculty member for 11 years, and she was offered the chair of the department this same year prior to her appointment as vice president.

These varied roles are evident by the American Literature books on her desk among the piles of administrative papers and the boxes upon boxes of English books yet to be unpacked and placed on Jackson's non-existent bookshelves, which she hopes to get soon. There is also an apple on her desk in a typical teacher fashion and a picture of her dog, Willie.

"The school mattered absolutely to me as a student. It was exactly the right place for me, but it is not for everyone," said Jackson. "Meredith is the

kind of place that invites investment of self. I have found that the more I have given, I have gotten lots more in return."

Jackson graduated magna cum laude from Meredith in 1975 with degrees in religion and English. She continued her studies at the University of Illinois where she received her master's and Ph.D. degrees in English. She then taught at the University of Illinois from 1976 to 1982 before joining Meredith's faculty in 1983.

The duties of Jackson's role as vice president of Student Development are as follows: coordinating and directing the offices of the Campus Minister, Personal Growth and Counseling Cen-

ter, Dean of Students, Student Activities and Leadership Development, Residence Life and Career Services.

"Dr. Jackson brings to this position

experience, strength, warmth, creativity and a large dose of humanity. I think she will offer the kind of effective leadership our students deserve,"



Dr. Jean Jackson steps up to bat in her new starting position as vice president of student development.

said Meredith College President John Weems.

Willie (the dog) thinks the hours Jackson works are quite long, and he does not enjoy being reprimanded for jumping on his owner's new professional clothes. Jackson said she brought Willie to orientation events twice, and

the students played fetch with him when the movie in the courtyard was not able to be shown. He is enjoying that aspect of campus life.

Jackson said the decision to leave the English department was a difficult one because the two jobs are so different, but she hopes to teach in a different way outside of the traditional classroom. In the future she plans to teach a few classes in the English department whenever she can because she will still remain a faculty member.

"I was teaching summer school in Hunter, and my class was taking their mid-term exam on the day I wrote my letter to the department about my new job," said Jackson. "I became so upset that I had to go out to the hall, just as Nan Miller was coming down the hall to congratulate me after hearing the news. It was funny because Nan was so happy for me, and I was standing there weeping.

"I'm thrilled over my new position. It is my instinct to want to do more. The work is exciting, and I expect to love it, but I could say the same thing

see Jackson page seven

Students slide into their new home at Meredith

by Clarky Lucas

Freshmen and transfers experienced their first taste of life at Meredith during orientation this past week.

They arrived by carloads under the balloon rainbow on August 18 to begin a new adventure in their lives.

"A League of Our Own" was the theme of orientation, which pitched out information to help the new students learn about their surroundings. Their days were filled with meetings, meals and new faces.

Students touched base with student advisors throughout the week to discuss choosing classes, exploring campus and registering for courses.

"Student advisors were able to welcome the new students and give them a good taste of the Meredith

community and a glance of a new beginning," said Joi Williams, junior.

Students spent time with their faculty advisors who gave them insight on what classes they might be interested in taking.

"Having a faculty advisor has helped because I have no idea what I want to do, and having someone who can help me decide what courses to take has been beneficial," said Susan Jenkins, freshman.

Other activities through the week helped break the ice. Movies and picnics in the Courtyard gave the students a chance to relax after the meetings and tests.

"Pizza parties late at night on the hall has helped us to get to know everyone," said Hettie Nelms.

Kim Littlefield, assistant for First

Year Experience and Leadership Development, has assisted in making the freshman transition from home to school a little easier. She has taken on a position that is focused solely on freshmen and first year concerns.

"A compilation of ideas from various staff members within the division of Student Development made orientation a real team effort. Working with the committee generated more creativity which resulted in a positive orientation experience," said Littlefield.

Now that classes have begun, it is time to see if all of that coaching during the past week on Meredith's rules, regulations, classes and opportunities will prepare the new students to play the academic game and come out winners.

What's inside the Herald?

Orientation 1994 center spread

Okay, I know it isn't much, but it is only the first issue.

Next week look for us to be back to press with an eight-page issue on Wednesday.