

## Students should look beyond books to library staff

by Shannon Peterson  
photos by Jetson

How many of you still apply to every librarian you see the stereotyped image of a gray-haired woman with a finger to her lips telling you to be quiet? Well, you will never do it again because the staff of Meredith's Carlyle Campbell Library is anything but that.

When I walked into the library and went straight to Head Librarian Janet Freeman for the first interview, my nervous stomach from fear of not asking the right questions was put at ease as she eagerly told me the interesting job position that she has been holding for ten years here at Meredith. She described the library as an "academic support unit with the primary function being to support the academics of the college."

Every day for Freeman is "different, and it is not as structured as some offices." She is responsible for administering the library as far as coordinating is concerned. "My job is to help make it possible for them [the rest of staff] to do their jobs," Freeman stated.

For every library staff member I spoke with, each commended the hand-in-hand relationships of the different departments. Freeman said she was thankful for "the cohesive library staff that is divided into departments, but there is no departmental rivalry like the larger universities."

The size of Meredith's library allows the staff to help the students one-to-one, but size doesn't hinder the increasing number of materials in the library. Currently there are 153,000 books, 73,000 microforms, 10,200 non-print media titles, and subscriptions to 778 periodicals.

She went on to say that she, along with everyone else at the campus library, is eager to help any student who needs it. Freeman's hard work and charismatic personality has paid off, for she recently won at a faculty dinner this past Friday a Laura Weatherspoon

Harrill Presidential Award for her services to the college. Last year she was voted by librarians across the state to be president of the National Library Organization.

Freeman spoke freely of how won-



John Kincheloe, media specialist, eagerly shares his love of learning, proving that he is much more than a figure head in the library.

derful the rest of the staff is: "Every department is different, and some are more visible than others." And one of the most visible sections is circulation; it can't be missed when you step through the doors of Carlyle Campbell Library and notice Circulation Supervisor Diana McClung and her student workers ready to check your books in and out.

I somehow managed to tear away McClung from her busy job, and she breathlessly replied that in her job she is "always doing three things at once." I had no trouble believing that when she started telling me just exactly what she does: "I circulate books—check them in and out, reshelve them, reserve them—and am in charge of hiring and training the largest number of student workers in the library. There is a lot of learning to do. Everything here is done by processing, such as re-synthesizing books for security." She praised her student workers because they are always "ready to go to work. They must be flexible to work during Stunt, Cornhuskin', and dinner hours."

Her ever-present smile is a dead give away that she enjoys her job. "I enjoy working with people and the student workers. It is always very satis-

fying to help a desperate person in need of finding something," McClung stated.

Circulation and reference work together to help students find what they are looking for. Susan Squires, reference librarian for the library, says, "We all share a lot of duties. I sometimes will check out books in circulation. We're not isolated from each other; we understand the needs of each department because of this nice size of our library." Her main job is to help Meredith students and faculty locate exactly what information they may need. If the desired material cannot be found at Meredith or NCSU, Christy Lee in

circulation will do the request for inter-loan library. This system allows Meredith students to receive anything they need.

Squires is also in charge of selecting the reference material that Meredith buys for assignments, maintaining periodical binding, finding books for students, and placing books back where they belong. Since she has been here, Squires has "physically moved three times the reference material." She chose to work at Meredith seven years ago after her graduation from Radford College because "Meredith was a lot like coming home."

Along with the hectic job of reference librarian, Squires also team-teaches a course in Native American History and Cultures with John Kincheloe, media specialist for the college. They both will guest lecture across campus about Native Americans. Squires said of her love of teaching, "It's fun. Something I'm really grateful for is that the history department let us offer this course."

Squires' assistant, Jean Rick, is in charge of the record keeping of periodicals. I was unable to interview Rick, along with Ted Waller, who is charge of the archives of the library.

I made my way down to the lower level of the library to the cramped "closet" of MCTV headquarters that used to be the location for archives. Cable Administrator Cindy Bowling and five student cable workers program the three filtered out channels of campus cable television. Bowling said of the work, "We are swamped. There are so many things to edit. I have two to three appointments a day."

There are limited sources for MCTV and the video production classes that Bowling teaches, but space is finally growing. There will be a new editing room that is quiet compared to the current editing room on the main floor near curriculum. Come April 25, Media Services and MCTV will better provide information to Meredith students through a newly-placed



No matter how much paper work piles up on Susan Squire's desk, this reference librarian is always willing to help a student with her broad smiles and good answers.

satellite on top of the library. "Chan-

see LIBRARY page eleven