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Meredith seniors say good-bye to their officers

by AddieTschamlerand Arinn Dixon

Graduation is just around the corner, and the "real world" lies ahead. Meredith senior leaders prepare to build new experiences after May 14 using the four years at Meredith as their foundation. The leaders took time out of their hectic end-of-the-year schedules to reflect on their years at Meredith and gaze into their future lives.

Senior class president Catherine Davis was involved many positions as a leader at Meredith, including programming board chair, member of the Silver Shield, and part of Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities.

"Meredith has given me the best four years of my life. The experience I've gained as a student leader has prepared me for whatever the future holds," Davis said. "The friendships I have made (with all those I have interacted with)



are ones I will treasure always." Davis said her best experiences were the times spent with the class of 1995.

"I could never thank my class enough for all they have given me," she said. Davis says she feels like she has been challenged in ways that have helped her prepare for the real world by being able to gain many leadership experiences. Davis says that graduation is a time of many mixed emotions. But "I am so happy to graduate," said Davis. "It's just hard saying goodbye to friends," she said.

To the freshmen Davis said "Make the most of every moment, get involved, and have fun because your time here will go by faster than you could ever imagine!"

This year Michelle Smith was another one of the most instrumental se-

nior leaders. She was senior class vice-president and a member of both the Student Business Advisory Board and the Silver Shield Honorary Leadership Society.



"Meredith has given me self-respect, self-confidence, and a desire to be the best." Smith states. "I have a strong sense of where I have been to carry me into the future." Smith says that she has a strong appreciation for single-sex colleges and that Meredith has given her a special pride in women.

Something else Smith says Meredith has given her are wonderful experiences. One of her best experiences was her trip abroad during the summer of 1993. She describes that trip as a definite growing experience and confidence builder. This experience and others like it have prepared Smith for the future. "I have been out and seen how the real world works," she says. "Meredith is a great networking opportunity! I think my eyes are open and I'm prepared."

Smith says her plans for the future are "a little up in the air right now." She plans to go home to attend friends' weddings, and then it's off to sunny California where she will try to find a job. Smith says how long she stays will depend on whether or not she can stand to be away from family and friends here in North Carolina.

Nicki Bettini, senior historian, described her leadership experiences at Meredith College. She said, "Although limited, my leadership experience at Meredith has been wonderful. I've learned a lot about myself as a person and a leader. I have gained much respect for other students that are in leadership

positions; they require [qualities of] integrity and determination." Bettini said that her classmates have helped her in many ways to accomplish what she has at Meredith.

"They are always there with a helping hand, words of encouragement and, most importantly, open hearts," she said.

Bettini thinks that the most important thing she has learned at Meredith is the value of integrity. She said that "regardless of the situation, if you stick to your principles you will always come out ahead." Bettini mentioned that "this lesson began on day one with the honor code pledge."

With her family and friends as her encouragement, Bettini says that she can do anything she sets her mind to. "And if I've failed at something, they've helped me to learn from it," she said.



Bettini peers into her future with enthusiasm and confidence, as she plans to enter graduate school in environmental science and prepare for a career in environmental consulting.

"I am excited about the adventure that the future holds for me and look forward to each new one. I know that I've been prepared well at Meredith and will always carry my love for this college and the love for my classmates with me wherever I may be. Thank you to all who helped me through the past four years, and especially thank you to the graduating class of 1995 - you are my Meredith family and I love you dearly," said Bettini.

Tina Sylvester, senior class secretary, reflects back on Meredith as a

positive experience. While at Meredith, Sylvester held positions as publicity co-chair of Astros, winter leadership conference co-chair, and member of the Silver Shield honorary leadership society. Sylvester defines all her years at Meredith as "the best."



She said, "College is too short to have bad memories. Besides, I burned my bad memories at the Senior Bonfire."

Sylvester believes that her experiences at Meredith have greatly prepared her for the real world. Learning about herself through classes and friends, one-on-one relationships with professors and gaining from their knowledge has all been significant in preparing Sylvester for what she faces in the future.

In the future Sylvester says she plans to find a job that "I will love every minute of - both good and bad." She has also thought about graduate school as a future option.

To the freshmen Sylvester leaves this advice: "Enjoy every minute of the four years. They are short and precious."



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