

# Dean Cannon brings diversity to Meredith

By Shannon Batts and Shadota Hargett

When Dean of Students Sharon Cannon was hired last March, she was the first dean whose job description entailed coordinating resources for special populations on campus.

Special populations includes a wide range of students. Two large segments of the Meredith community have especially been affected by Cannon's presence.

Cannon is the chairperson of the Disabilities Panel and is the main facilitator of activities such as Disabilities Awareness Day and the Disabilities Workshop.

Another large part of her job is chairing the African American Advisory Committee. Cannon is also involved in the Student Life Committee and the Diversity Task Force of the Council for Campus Concerns.

Cannon believes that with a joint effort, changes for disabled students can be made on campus. These changes include the Disabilities Panel. It is an organization made up of faculty and students who are assisting Cannon with making disabled students' lives easier.

Some of the issues and ideas that the panel has discussed are large print maps with accessible entrances identified, policies regarding documentation for learning disabilities and tours for incoming disabled students.

Cannon feels that the Meredith community must become more sensitive to the special needs of disabled students. The more consideration given to the student with a disability, the more awareness is given to making positive changes on campus.

Disabilities Awareness Day, which

is scheduled for the middle of January, and the workshop for disabled students are two projects in the works that will bring various disabilities full circle, in hopes of making a positive impact on campus.

"I think it's important for everyone on campus to become aware and involved in these issues," said Cannon.

Cannon is also involved in promoting social awareness on campus. She feels it is very important that any campus be inclusive to its many diverse groups.

Minority populations of all types have been steadily growing at our school, and it is necessary to include a variety of backgrounds and cultures in campus organizations and activities, said Cannon.

Cannon's involvement in such a variety of campus groups has stimulated dialogue between

once separate campus organizations. These new channels of communication will help all of us understand diversity and can open the door for awareness.

It is important for minority students to know how to utilize resources and voice their concerns. "I have occasionally encountered people who don't want to talk about issues, because they think talking about them makes things worse or causes tension, and I believe that communication is the key," said Cannon.

Cannon has promoted a more positive climate for social awareness since her arrival here. "I think it's very important for everyone on campus to become aware of these issues. We all need to be educated," said Cannon.



Dean Sharon Cannon

## Rings:

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their rings on for the first time as a class. A slide show featuring memories from the balloon arch of the freshman year through Cornhuskin '95 was prepared by Cindy Thornton. It was enjoyed by all with oohs and ahhs.

Following the slide show the juniors' lil' sis's surprised them with a touching serenade. After this juniors and freshman alike enjoyed the delicious cake provided so thoughtfully by the lil' sister class. Afterwards many lingered to collect mementos and pose for snapshots with friends. The experience that was so long awaited had passed and now the juniors anticipation moved towards graduation.

### Referendum results contd.

**Question #2: Are you in favor of proposing that the current male visitation policy be changed to 12 hours of male visitation on every Saturday and 7 hours of male visitation on every Sunday?**

	Question #1		Question #2	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
% of Total Votes	92%	8%	86%	14%
% Resident Votes	93%	7%	86%	14%
% Commuter Votes	88%	12%	82%	18%
% Freshman Votes	95%	5%	88%	12%
% Sophomore Votes	95%	5%	90%	10%
% Junior Votes	87%	13%	83%	17%
% Senior Votes	88%	12%	76%	23%
(uneven due to no response)				
% of Student Body (Undergraduate degree students)	35%	3%	32%	5%
% of all Residents	56%	4%	52%	9%

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### Attention Meredith Students:

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