

## Art show features Ellis Island

By Dina Di Maio

David Simonton's *Ellis Island: The Complete Portfolio* exhibit of photographs opened Sunday afternoon in the Frankie G. Weems Gallery.

The photographs, taken between the years of 1988 and 1995, are not what I expected to see. I visited Ellis Island last summer and toured the famous Registry Building. These photographs were very different from what I saw.

During the recent restoration of Ellis Island, Simonton took photographs of the Registry Building free of charge. As "payment" for his photos, he was permitted to photograph the other buildings on Ellis Island. These "other" buildings are the ones the general public is not allowed to tour because they haven't yet been restored.

In 1982, Simonton was part of a group of photographers organized by Klaus Schnitzer, the then Associate Professor of Photography at Montclair State College in New Jersey, to photograph the restoration process. Simonton and the other photographers had access to the 35 buildings on the island.

The photographs in this exhibit range from landscapes of Liberty Island and Ellis Island to decayed examination rooms and dreary hallways. The effect is striking because one would expect the immigration process to be dreary, gray, and violating. From these pictures, one can imagine the immigrant's blend of emotions—sadness, joy, and fear—from seeing the hallways and rooms they were housed in as they awaited entry into the new country.

One picture is particularly striking: "Dormitory Hallway." The reflection is so clear and crisp. The composition in all of Simonton's photographs is wonderful.

This exhibit is a side of Ellis Island and the immigrant experience that people do not often see. Hopefully, it will show people how important remembering the past is and how important and meaningful a broken-down building can be.

I saw Simonton's photographs of Northern New Jersey at Artspace last year and was impressed. If you didn't get to see it, don't miss out on this one. This must-see exhibit runs through March 31 in the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center's Frankie G. Weems Gallery.

## An experience to consider

By Paula Parks

Have you ever been interested in seeing the world? Experiencing different cultures? Really living on your own? Trying out a very different education system? Socializing with persons of different cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds? If your answer to one or more of these questions is "yes" then you should consider experiencing Meredith's exchange program in Hull, England. My name is Paula Parks and I am currently enrolled in this program. The exchange year typically occurs during one's junior year, but does not have to be at this time. Humberside University, the exchange school in England, has excellent programs in history, English, business, sociology, psychology, communications and other courses. All is done in order to assist Meredith students in taking and approving any class that would benefit her. The school is great, the professors are awesome and the experience is one that will literally change your life.

I decided to enroll in the Humberside program two-years ago because I wanted to escape the mundane life I was living; I craved change and adventure and I have received it in

abundance this year. I, and the other four students from Meredith, left four the United Kingdom is September and have been there ever since. I am constantly amazed at the difference between the two school systems, educational beliefs, cultural differences, people, etc. It is truly a different world. But it is definitely a world that I am thrilled to be a part of. Since September, I have met persons from 20 various nations, traveled to and in 10 different countries, and experienced an infinite number of learning adventures. Most of these adventures I never would or could have dreamed of. The past five months brought many new friends, changes, ideas, views and memories into my life. The decision to attend Humberside University is one I will never regret.

If this experience, or any experience in an overseas study program interests you, please contact the International Office in Joyner Hall. Dr. Betty Webb will be more than happy to assist you in any help that you need concerning studying abroad. Please also feel free to write me at 12 St. Martins/ Grange Halls of Residence/ Beverly High Road/ Hull HU67JJ/ England.

### Upcoming Worship Opportunities Jones Chapel Wednesday 10 am

March 6

Dr. A. Douglas Aldrich  
Interim Pastor- 1st Baptist Church, Raleigh  
"Everything...nailed down is comin' loose"  
Special Music - The Meredith Ringers

March 20

Gullick Lecture  
Speaker: Reverend Sam Hill  
Special Music - Meredith Handbell Choir

March 27

Presentation: Mr. Phillip Walker - of the  
African American Drama Company  
"There is a Purpose to Your Life"

**APRIL**

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**It's coming!!!**

**at 10 am**

**Watch for it!!**

**April Foolishness!!**

**Details to follow in next issue**