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Museum exhibit features Ocean art

By Dina Di Maio

"Island Ancestors: Oceanic Art from the Masco Collection" is the North Carolina Museum of Art's newest exhibit.

The exhibit comprises 76 objects from the pre colonial period from the area of the Pacific known as Oceania that consists of Australia, New Guinea, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

A map of Oceania opens the show. The atmosphere is dark brown and green—to be natural like the places where the works were made.

The pieces in the exhibit are detailed and one can see the painstaking work that was put into them, especially in the "Treasure Box" with its intricate designs.

Included in the collection are a number of diverse artifacts: masks, clubs, weapons, ornaments, drums, dancing sticks, figures and more. They are made of different woods, including fernwood which is very textured as one can see in the "Grade Society Figure."

The people of Oceania used some unusual materials indigenous to their area in their works, including shark's teeth, tortoise shells, sea shells, and human hair. One club was made of wood and human teeth.

One of the highlights of the show is an Uli figure. The Uli honors a dead chief. The sculpture has female breasts and a male penis to symbolize the importance of fertility and the "chief's care for women."

Much of Oceanic art is based on religion with objects used in certain ceremonies and sculptures depicting various gods.

The show-stopper, and an attention-getting one at that, is the skull rack used by headhunters. The rack has three skulls attached to it.

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Experiencing Meredith



Meredith hopefuls and their families check out the activities fair.

By Arinn Dixon

Saturday, March 30, dawned chilly and overcast, not quite the perfect weather Cheryl Jenkins, director of Student Activities, had wanted for "Experience Meredith." Still, people from Student Activities and other organizations went about getting prepared for all the high school seniors interested in attending Meredith.

And it's a good thing they did. Before the day was over, 164 prospective Angels and 264 parents had arrived to tour and learn about Meredith.

Most arrived between 8:30-10:00 a.m. to register and participate in tours given by student volunteers. After an opening session for all the visitors at 10:00 a.m., students and parents could choose to go to two short information sessions on such topics as Registration 101: What to Expect and Financial Assistance and Planning.

By the time 12:00 p.m. rolled around, the chilly and overcast weather had turned into a bright, breezy day. The visitors had an indoor picnic, complete with chicken and potato salad, and then went out to the Activities Fair in the courtyard. The fair consisted of about 30 tables set up, each one manned with representatives from an organization on campus. Students and parents could walk around, talk to

those at each table about campus life, and even sign up for an organization if interested. Everyone from the Programming Board to the Food and Nutrition Club was represented.

Jenkins, who coordinated the Activities Fair, called it a great success. "I have always enjoyed 'Experience Meredith,'" Jenkins said. "Not knowing what the weather was going to do and having the students go indoor for the picnic probably took away from the day a bit, but overall I think it went very well."

At 1:00 p.m. students and parents went to the gym for the Academic Fair during which students could find out about academics at Meredith. Just some of the academic opportunities represented were Study Abroad, Teaching Fellows and Campus Computer Information.

As the day was winding down, the visitors went to a closing session directed by Director of Admissions Sue Kearney. At the close of this session, the incoming freshmen were serenaded by their soon-to-be Big Sis class with a "Salute to our Little Sisters." Lastly, a reception was held in the rotunda of Johnson Hall for all of the visitors to talk with members of the Meredith Community.

Teaching Fellows help Habitat for Humanity

By Robin Hollingsworth

Saturday, the 23rd of March, a brave group of thirty Meredith angels woke to an early morning with a full day of work ahead of them. These young women, all freshman, sophomore, and junior Teaching Fellows, are required to complete ten hours of community service in keeping with the terms of their scholarships.

Just this year, Meredith has offered the Habitat for Humanity program as an option to fill those hours. Many of the Teaching Fellows choose this as an excellent opportunity to fill all of their service hours at once. This past Saturday was the second time this year Meredith's Teaching Fellows have participated in the Habitat program.

The Meredith group, along with the Assistant Director of Meredith Teaching Fellows, Beth Flye, spent the day in a Habitat neighborhood under construction in Wake Forest. The Meredith group worked alongside a Baptist youth group from Raleigh on two homes in the community. At one home students repaired siding, while down the street others cleaned windows, caulked, painted and dug into yard work at another house.

Though the morning had begun bleak, dreary and chilly, Meredith Teaching Fellows braved the elements and were rewarded with a warm day by noon. Other benefits were the chance to see a job well done, meet new people and spend time with Meredith friends, old and new.

Lauren Cox, a junior Teaching Fellow, commented, "It gives you a really good feeling to actually see the difference you are making in someone's life." No doubt these future teachers will make a difference with their gifts of generosity and dedication in North Carolina's youth and education system.