

Meredith Herald

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We attract bright, talented, ambitious students. Naturally we're a women's college.

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□ Spice Girls "give you what you want, what you really, really want" according to *Spice World* review.

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Weems replacement search to begin soon

□ The Board of Trustees must first appoint a search committee.

BETH HALL
News Editor

The actual search for Meredith's next president has not officially begun.

The replacement for President John E. Weems, whose official retirement is June 30, 1999, will be chosen by the board of trustees after a lengthy search process. Weems begins a sabbatical leave July 1, 1998.

The trustee executive committee, which will meet Feb. 9 for its first monthly meeting, has to establish a timetable and procedure for the replacement process. Twenty elected trustees make up the executive committee. The executive committee is elected annually by the approximately 40 member board.

The trustees must first appoint

a search committee, which will include representatives from college constituencies—trustees, students, faculty, alumni, and others.

The search committee will hire a consulting firm to guide the selection process, which will probably take one year to 18 months, estimates executive vice president Chuck Taylor. One reason the search process is lengthy is because the college will advertise the position nationwide. Another reason is that the person selected will probably have her or his current position to conclude. "It is a necessity for the process to be confidential," said Taylor, "because of job conflicts."

A public meeting of interested persons will probably be held in order to create a profile for the new president.

Some faculty and students have already begun devising a

wish list of characteristics for the president-to-be. The consensus seems to be that the next Meredith president should interact with students, uphold campus traditions, and be a fund-raiser.

"I hope that the next Meredith president has a vision of growth in all aspects of the college," said Rebecca Huffstetter, senior class president.

Kelly Conkling, SGA president, said, "I would like to see someone who demonstrates the same dedication and commitment that President Weems has given to this community." Conkling also said she would like the next president to be one who has "a deep sense of integrity, who can stand firm on the Meredith Honor System," and is "enthusiastic about the Meredith traditions and has confidence in the future of Meredith."

Gary Walton, head of the English department, said, "I



President John E. Weems

envision an evangelical academician—one who is an experienced teacher and administrator who can communicate our excitement about education so enthusiastically that alumnae, business leaders, and foundations will want to contribute as never before to the Meredith experience."

See SEARCH page 2

Scholarship memorial fund established

□ Contributors have given 192 gifts totaling over \$14,000 to the fund.

LISA GILLIAM
Staff Reporter

The friends and family of Erika Woodlief



had in an automobile accident in November of 1997, have made it possible for her memory to live on as a part of Meredith College.

Her family and friends have started the Erika Suzanne Woodlief Memorial Scholarship Fund in her memory, which was officially confirmed on December 12, 1997. Not only have her friends and family been

primary contributors, but approximately one-third of the donations were made by Meredith staff, students, and faculty.

"This scholarship was established through donations from Erika's family and friends," said Dr. Murphy Osborne, Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

"It is unusual when memorial gifts reach an endowment level of \$10,000, and this says something positive about the life of a very unusual person," said Osborne.

According to the Office of Marketing and Communications, there have been 192 gifts given to the fund, which are now valued at over \$14,000 and will continue to grow throughout the years.

Like any endowment at Meredith, a legal agreement is

drawn up between the donors and the college, making a contract Meredith must abide by. The scholarship is designated to provide financial assistance to a Meredith freshman with preference given to someone who exhibits financial need and who has an interest in K-6 elementary

education or in sociology.

The scholarship will be awarded at a minimum of \$500 a year and can be retained by the freshman, carried for four years, and then passed down. The final decision of who gets the scholarship will be decided by the Office of Financial Assistance.

The Class of 1998 decided at their class meeting Monday night

to make their own contributions to the Erika Suzanne Woodlief Memorial Scholarship Fund in remembering their fellow classmate.

"As a vital member of our class, it will be our honor to keep Erika's legacy alive at Meredith, as well as in the hearts of each

"The life of a very important person will be remembered as long as Meredith College exists."

- Dr. Murphy Osborne

senior," said Class of 1998 President Rebecca Huffstetter.

Osborne feels very positively about the new fund. "The whole community has come into effect here," Osborne said.

"Perpetuity will be here as long as Meredith College exists. The life of a very important person will be remembered as long as Meredith College exists," concluded Osborne.

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the 1998
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summer of 1998.

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