

Meredith Herald

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

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Convocation researches founder's geneology

Dr. Louise Taylor challenges seniors to know their benefactors.

KIM HIGHLAND
Editor in Chief

Meredith College celebrated the 97th annual Founder's Day on Monday. Founder's Day was commemorated with a convocation during the 10:00 hour presented by Dr. Louise Taylor, professor of English. Taylor's convocation, entitled "In Search of Hugh—The Meredith Connection," traced the genealogy of Thomas Meredith, founder of the college. Taylor explained that she got the idea for the convocation when a student in one of her classes asked if a Hugh Meredith, mentioned in Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography, was related to Thomas Meredith. Taken aback and intrigued by the question, Taylor began to research the genealogies of both men last July to find out if they were related.

By August she had a draft asking the convocation committee if she could present her speech at Founder's Day.

"Sam Carothers, administrator of the convocation committee, told me they had an offer out to somebody 'good,' but they would get back to me if this person fell through," said Taylor.

Taylor did get the job. Unfortunately, she found out that her information was wrong and had to work hard from Feb. 3 on in light of new information connecting Hugh to Thomas. Taylor was successful in her mission: she discovered that Hugh was the great-great uncle of Thomas.

Taylor was pleased with the convocation. "The audience was so responsive that it made it fun," said Taylor.

But she is glad it is over. "Oh yes! I don't want to be ambiguous about that. I am very relieved that it's over," said Taylor.

"I would like to thank John Kincheloe, who put together a beautiful slideshow," Taylor added. "Some of it was hilarious."

"I thought Dr. Taylor's speech

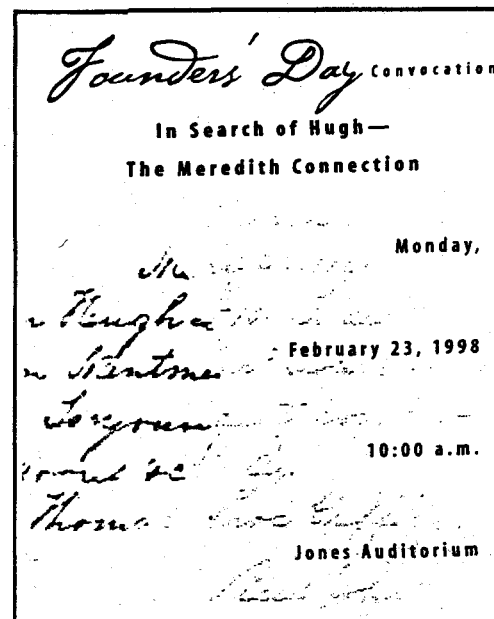
was incredible," said Bill Rodgers of the theater department and head of the convocation committee. "She presented it in a humorous and lively manner."

"I was intrigued by her process of discovery. And we learned a lesson: sometimes we feel like we are on the right track and then we get turned around, but she didn't give up," said Rodgers.

"Dr. Taylor's diligent research methods and her delightful presentation style made the class of 1998 very proud of their advisor," said Rebecca Huffstetter, president of the senior class.

After the convocation, students, faculty, and staff followed President Weems and members of the Granddaughter's Club to the Thomas Meredith Memorial in front of Johnson Hall. At the memorial, club members read the names of the founders of Meredith and also read from the scripture and said a prayer. Then

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A major decision made fun for all

Fifth annual Majors Fair allows students to choose their majors.

SARAH BALUSS
Staff Reporter

Declaring a major is probably the most important—and most stressful—decision a college student has to make. Last Wednesday, the dining hall was crawling with confused Meredith students hoping to make that decision or at least become better informed. For the fifth successive year, the Meredith Career Center presented the students with a Majors Fair in which they could check out their options while enjoying themselves, too.

The atmosphere was loud and festive as students walked from booth to booth, gathering information on different disciplines while enjoying snacks such as pretzels and cookies. They received the chance to talk to professors as well as students who had already declared their majors. The professors and stu-

dents were more than happy to give advice and share their experiences.

Gordon Folger, who organized the Majors Fair, called it a "fun event with a serious purpose." She said that the Majors Fair was a very convenient way to make information readily available to those seeking it.

Students can declare their majors whenever they are ready, and usually should do it by the Spring of their sophomore year. Those students who were already certain got the chance to declare their majors while at the fair.

While they gathered information and chatted, the students also were able to participate in a drawing for door prizes. Just by attending the fair, they had a chance to win, among other things, gift certificates to Harris Teeter and to various restaurants, baseball paraphernalia, souvenirs from departments here at Meredith, and candy.

Emily Phillips, a freshman who helped with the door prizes,

got a first-hand look at how students enjoyed the fair.

"The thing about the Majors Fair is that even if you don't know your major it is a good way to get ideas about which fields you may want to pursue," she said.

Folger stressed that most students come to school not knowing what they want to do. The Career Center is here for that

exact purpose; there are three counselors ready to help students with those important choices.

The purpose of the Majors Fair was to get information out to Meredith students and the Career Center was very successful in doing that. Those students who chose not to go ahead and declare their majors were still able to take giant steps in figur-

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Dr. Blue Greenberg talks with a student at the majors fair about the possibility of an art major.

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