

# Meredith Herald

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

March 18, 1998

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## Faculty Distinguished Lecture features Dean Burris

□ Dean Burris speaks at convocation prior to his retirement in June.

WHITNEY WILSON  
Staff Reporter

Vice President and Dean of the College Allen Burris presented the Faculty Distinguished Lecture which was held Mon.,

Mar. 16 at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

Burris shared his historical research through a talk on the three "D's" of politics: Decalogue, Dialogue,

Dialectic. Burris spoke about how these three concepts apply to the art of governance as well as how they relate to the state, the church, and independent colleges and universities.

Professor of History Emeritus Frank L. Grubbs, Ph.D., introduced Burris to fellow faculty, staff, administration, family and friends.

"I had the problem of preparing an introduction for a man most already know," said Grubbs.

In his introduction, Grubbs

commented on how well-liked Burris has been throughout his time spent here at Meredith, as well as how he has excelled

as a professor almost every year in history and politics.

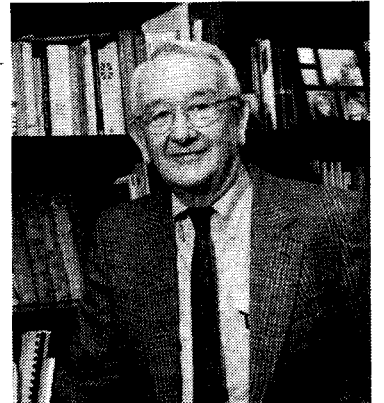
In his lecture, Burris comically explained the choice for including decalogue as part of his title.

**"I had a problem of preparing an introduction for a man most already know."  
- Professor Emeritus Frank Grubbs**

"The word decalogue provided unquestioned authority and alliteration, and I like that," said Burris.

Burris has had an extended education that led him to his 28-year service as vice president and dean at Meredith. He attended Wingate College in his hometown of Wingate, North Carolina. He then went on to receive further degrees at Wake Forest University, Southeastern Theological Seminary, and he received his Ph.D. from Duke University. He also conducted research at the University of London, Oxford University, and the University of Birmingham last fall to prepare for this week's lecture.

After studying economic and political development in Pakistan, Burris served in the Navy and held teaching positions at Gardner-Webb and St. Andrews College. Then Burris came to Meredith where he has been Vice President and Dean of the College, as well as professor



Dean Craven Allen Burris

of history and politics.

Although Burris claimed to have "nothing new to add to what you've heard over the past 28 years," he succeeded in captivating his audience.

As Burris has announced his retirement for June 1998, this lecture was a conclusion to his years at Meredith.

Convocation chair Bill Rodgers concluded, "The Faculty Distinguished Lecture provided a wonderful opportunity to bid farewell to Dean Burris."

## Appalachian women writers vocalize works

□ Southern writers visit campus as a part of Women's History Month.

LISA GILLIAM  
Staff Reporter

Two famous Southern writers, novelist Lee Smith and poet Kathryn Stripling Byer, spoke in the Seby Jones Chapel at 10:00 a.m. on March 16 in honor of

Women's History Month. The series was called Appalachian Women's Voices and is part of the celebration of Women's History Month at Meredith. Byer and Smith sat in the front of the church, accompanied by Dr. Eloise Grathwohl, a professor in the English department at Meredith and head of the honors program, Nancy Joyner, a 1958

Meredith alum, and two Meredith students--sophomore Ellen Hipp, and senior politics major Kim Debus.

Hipp and Grathwohl explained to the audience how the whole idea developed. Hipp was in one of Grathwohl's classes where she heard Dr. Grathwohl read one of Byer's poems. Hipp said she didn't realize at the time that she knew the very poet whose work Grathwohl was reading, but once she made the connection that Byer was the mom of her friend, she expressed her astonishment to Grathwohl, who was very pleased with the interest Hipp showed.

"None of this would have happened without Ellen," said Grathwohl. "Seeing a student make connections she hasn't made before and seeing Ellen's realization that poets and novelists are real people is one of the things that makes teaching so wonderful." Grathwohl was also pleased that she "learned some-

thing about the two writers she never would have otherwise learned."

Debus was the organizer of the event. She said it was "amazing" how the idea of having famous NC writers just "fell into place" and had such a "spectacular turnout for the day after spring break." Debus was also pleased that the Creative Idea Fund committee chose to provide funding for the event. Debus said it gave the idea "validation" and "showed that it was an idea people really liked."

Grathwohl introduced Byer and Smith and gave brief histories of their lives.

Byer has written three published volumes of poetry, had many fellowships, published essays, and done many readings and workshops. Byer is currently a Poet in Residence and professor at Western Carolina University. Smith has written more than half a dozen novels, as well as several volumes of short

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Pictured left to right: Kimberly Debus, Lee Smith, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Ellen Hipp, and Professor Eloise Grathwohl.

PICTURE BY ALLISON CARTER