

MEREDITH HERALD

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

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Sandler urges for 'movers & shakers'

□ Sandler says women's colleges' role to fight passive stereotype.

JULIE KERR
Staff Reporter

The Meredith faculty and student body packed Jones Auditorium Monday morning to listen to Dr. Bernice R. Sandler, an accomplished guest speaker, discuss how women's colleges can utilize standard curriculum to teach their students to be "movers and shakers." The opening convocation addressed the role of women's colleges in women's lives.

She published the first reports on campus sexual harassment, campus peer harassment, gang rape, and how men and women are treated differently in the classroom in the quarterly newsletter "About Women on Campus."

According to Sandler, women's colleges are the "counterbalance to trends and stereotypes in society."

"Women are often socialized to be passive," said Sandler.

Factors such as lack of role models and lack of confidence contribute to the common indifference of women toward our rapidly changing world.

Sandler believes that women should be involved in the rapid change, and, as she put it, "Do something." She added, "Being a changer means being in charge of oneself."

Sandler made it clear what Meredith College can do to help its students overcome stereotypes. She repeatedly mentioned that a school's curriculum is its most powerful tool. Women's issues can be taught in subject areas such as psychology, sociology, history, biology, and economics. Curriculum must weaken the negative stereotypes and "must challenge women and make them uncomfortable."

Sandler's presence on the Meredith campus was beneficial to many students. She shared many ideas that can help to abol-

ish stereotypes and make everyone "movers and shakers."

Joy Widmann, a 23+ student in her first semester at Meredith, was inspired by Sandler. She offers her time as a volunteer within her community and sometimes seen as being "pushy."

Widmann said, "I was about to give it all up, but now I see even more that I need to continue to strive for change. Somehow I will need to ignore the criticism and do what I know is right."

Sandler is a Senior Scholar in Residence at the National Association for Women in Education. An expert on policies and programs affecting women on campus, she consults with colleges on issues such as achieving equality for women.

In the early 1970's, Sandler filed the first charges of sexual discrimination against more than 250 colleges and universities. Her actions led to the development of Title IX and other laws prohibiting sexual discrimination on college campuses.

Campus grieves loss of Deborah Smith

□ Memorial service planned in memory of biology professor.

ALLISON CARTER
Editor in Chief

The Meredith community learned last week of the death of Dr. Deborah K. Smith, previous head of the Department of Biology and Health Sciences. Smith passed away on Aug. 26, 1998 after her brief fight with lung cancer over the past year.

Senior Lara Nosal said, "Dr. Smith was a great lady and a great friend. She will be sorely missed."

Smith joined the Meredith family in August 1985 as assistant professor in the biology department. In 1993, Smith was named head of the department; consequently, she was awarded full professor status fall of 1997.

"She was a very likeable department head," said Alyce Townsend, administrative assistant to the biology department. "She didn't have any alienated faculty. The biology department

is very tight," said Townsend. "She was a very, very dear friend, too."

Smith received her Bachelor of Science in molecular biology from Vanderbilt University in 1973 followed by her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Virginia in 1978.

"Deborah was a faculty member who challenged her students in the classroom and gave them all kinds of support so they could succeed," said Vice President of Student Development Jean Jackson.

On July 15th, the entire Meredith campus was invited to a reception honor-

ing Smith and her work before she moved to Texas with her family. "She wanted to see everyone she'd ever worked with

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Faculty emerita Olive Taylor visits with Dr. Smith (middle) and her daughter Lindsey at a reception in July.

PHOTO BY JEAN JACKSON

Presidential search now underway

BETH HALL
News Editor

The search committee for Meredith's next president has been appointed.

Gene Langley, a trustee and the search committee chair, said in the summer edition of the Meredith Newsletter that the search committee "will begin the process of having hearings from Meredith constituencies. These will be public hearings where interested parties will be invited to make presentations to the committee in a public forum indicating the qualities that they think Meredith's next president should have. The search committee wants that input." The newsletter is published by Meredith's Office of Marketing and Communications.

The following is a list of committee members:

Student representative: Amy Rene Smith, of Goldston, is a junior history major. She is also a Teaching Fellow and is involved with various student activities.

Trustee representatives: Gene Langley, of Raleigh, is the president of Resource Management Associates of Raleigh. One of his daughters is a Meredith graduate. He is serving his first term on the board.

Faye Broyhill, '59, a community leader from Lenoir, will be the committee's vice chair. She has served on search committees for several other academic leaders in the state. This is her third term on the Board.

Sam Ewell, of Wendell, owns Ewell Ford Sales in Enfield and is serving the third year on the Board.

Jerry Harper, Sr. of Jamestown, is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Jamestown. This is his fourth year on the Board.

J. Earl Pope, of Charlotte, is president of J.E. Pope Company. This is his fourth term on the Board.

Gary Traywick, of Burgaw, is an attorney at law and former Superior Court judge. This is his

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