

# Campus News

## Two students learn all about China

CHRISTINA HOLDER  
Staff Reporter

Just the word "China" conjures up images of the majesty of the Great Wall, the courage of Tian An Men Square, the melancholy of pandas, and certainly the intrepid nature of Dr. Carolyn Happer, Nikki Ellingworth and Melissa Bishop. These three visited the nation through the Meredith Study Abroad program the summer of 1998.

Meredith College offered that option in China for six weeks beginning May 19 and ending June 29. Participants in the program (limited to 10 students) are selected each year via an application process. If chosen, the students will receive six academic credits upon completing the six week course study.

While staying in China, the student studies for four weeks at sister institution Dongbei University in Dalian, spends two weeks traveling and sightseeing, builds timeless friendships, grows in understanding of a new culture, and gains experience in a new way of living all for approximately the same expense of a semester at Meredith.

Ellingworth, a senior this year at Meredith, said that she heard about the China study abroad from her German professor, Dr. Rey, last year.

"She was so enthusiastic. I thought 'I've got to check into this,'" said Ellingworth.

Bishop, also a Meredith senior, had already traveled to Europe and wanted to explore something new. She said that, when she first decided to go, enquirers would say, "Why do

you want to go there?"

Now that she has returned, she hears another question: "Would you go back?"

"Yes, definitely," Bishop answers. Thus began the exciting semester delving into Chinese culture.

Happer and the students spent four hours with a Chinese teacher in classes such as Chinese language three days a week and two hours in a Chinese Culture class twice a week. While the classes focused primarily on basic training of the language and culture, six weeks was just not enough time to get acclimated. Said Ellingworth, "Just when I was beginning to pick up the language, I had to leave."

In addition, two or three trips were scheduled per week to visit various factories, schools, farms, historical sights, and parks with their fellow Chinese students.

Happer also taught her own class, Development of Christianity, at the university 16 hours per week. In fact, when not teaching "Do-Re-Mi" or "So Long, Farewell" to her classes, she also picked up a few phrases. Her first phrase? It can be translated into, "Please help an old lady," which she said she uses frequently in her classes here at Meredith.

Ellingworth and Bishop were given the opportunity to teach some of their own classes at the university as well. They held question and answer sessions at Dalian where they were challenged with questions such as, "What is America like?" or "Have you seen *Titanic*, and if so, will you sing the song to us?"

According to Ellingworth and Bishop, the Chinese pupils were convinced that "life in America was like the movies."

"What makes the trip so exciting is that the Chinese are so warm, so hospitable, so anxious to please you," said Happer. "They assist you in every way, and the students are so anxious to learn. Just crossing the street is exciting. Everywhere you go, you make a friend."

Out of the classroom, the students were popular with the Chinese who rarely saw Westerners. They posed for photographs at a kite festival which appeared in the paper. They saw the terracotta warriors of Xi'an and the Buddhas several stories high in Datong. They found themselves lost in Beijing lugging their heavy suitcases with them to arrive at their elevator-less hotel extremely late, which was one of a few troubles they encountered. Yet the students insist the grand images of China outweighed any negative aspects of their traveling.

"The Great Wall of China was really overwhelming," said Ellingworth. "I would try to describe it, but I could not give it justice."

As far as cultural differences are concerned, Chinese life seemed more structured to Ellingworth and Bishop.

"As a whole, the Chinese have a problem understanding how we can be friends with someone for a long period of time, and then suddenly change our minds," said Bishop. "When they are friends, they are friends for life."

The academic structure in China includes strict guidelines, with exams required to enter high school and college.

At the end of the six weeks, Happer, Ellingworth, and Bishop were reluctant to say goodbye to their newfound friends and a way of life they had adapted to so quickly. China was left behind, but on this trip each one of these women took a part of the culture, the language, the life, and the heart of



Pictured left to right: Nikki Ellingworth, Professor Che LiJuan, Melissa Bishop, and Dr. Carolyn Happer.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAROLYN HAPPER

## Want your MCTV? Gotta wait.

BETH HALL  
News Editor

Library renovation complications and the departure of Meredith's cable administrator have delayed the return of Meredith programming channels 5, 10 and 13, but the system should be back up in another week, said Carlyle Campus Library personnel.

The head-end, which is the office where the mechanics of channel programming takes place, had to be broken down and stored before construction in the library could take place

beginning May 9. Library personnel could not enter the library until Aug. 19 due to possible hazards during construction. For the summer, the library operated out of Stringfield dormitory.

Also during the summer, campus cable administrator Cindy Bowling, who was responsible for the administration of campus programming, left Meredith in order to take a teaching position at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, NC.

Bowling, who gave two weeks' notice, effectively resigned July 24 just as John

Kincheloe, media specialist, was returning from his vacation. Cable Administration falls under the library's Media Services department where Kincheloe works. Little could be done before Bowling left in order to prepare the system for reinstallation because it was securely stored away in a sealed room in the library.

"If we had had a cable administrator there, the system would have been up and running by the time the library opened back up," said Kincheloe. "A good opportunity for Cindy set us back a

bit."

Bowling will return this weekend, as a contractor, to reinstall the system.

Courtney Duncil, a senior who has been involved in MCTV since her first year at Meredith, said, "MCTV is an information source for the whole campus. We want to get it running again as soon as possible."

"People have been understanding and cooperative," said Kincheloe. "I appreciate that

See MCTV page 5

## Campus Briefs

### Interior Design Educators Council

FROM THE OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Meredith College Interior Design will be hosting the Interior Design Educators Council '98 Southern and Eastern Regional Conference. The conference will be held at the Ramada Inn on Ridge Road and also in the Meredith Wainwright Suite. It will begin on Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and conclude on Oct. 2 at 5 p.m.

The regional conference for Interior Design Educators is held annually and offers the opportunity for papers, roundtables, teaching forums, and poster sessions. The conference title is "Interior Design Curriculae - Save, Delete, Replace." For more information call Dr. Martha Burpitt at 760-8550, or e-mail her at burpittm@meredith.edu.

### Special Olympics

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEDIA

Raleigh is hosting one of the largest sporting events in the world next year--the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games--from June 26 - July 4. Over 7,000 athletes will travel from 150 countries and territories to compete in 19 sporting events. More than 35,000 volunteers will come together to welcome the athletes, coaches, and 15,000 family members from around the world.

Before the '99 Games competition begins in the Triangle area, cities and towns across the Tarheel state will welcome coaches and athlete from 150 different countries through a Host Town program. The Host Town Program will provide a cultural exchange, where athletes will experience Southern hospitality, meet new friends, rest, acclimate to North Carolina's summer heat and practice their sport prior to competition. International coaches and athletes will spend five days prior to Opening Ceremonies with their host town.

For volunteer applications and additional information on the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games, visit the official website at [www.99games.com](http://www.99games.com) or call 1-888-767-1999.