

Meredith admits women of all ages

LESLIE MAXWELL
Police Reporter

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the Dec. 2, 1998 issue of the *Meredith Herald*, the Editor informed the community of this forthcoming article about the 23+ program at Meredith College.

If you have any questions regarding the program, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 760-2836 or 760-8631.

Now is a good time for all Meredith students to learn about the 23plus program because a SACS study is underway which will discuss age diversity and how it affects the education programs at Meredith College.

An applicant to the 23plus program must submit an application, reference form, high school transcript or GED and a transcript from any college previously attended, as well as attend an information session and an interview.

While the 23plus program does accept any woman age 23 or over with a high school diploma or a GED, she is not actually admitted into the College until she achieves the same admissions standards required of all undergraduate applicants. Usually, these standards are reached in a preliminary semester or year.

According to Sandra Close, Director of Continuing Educa-

tion and 23plus graduate, "sometimes it takes longer for a woman to meet the standards, but that's the minority."

An applicant must have a GPA of at least 2.0, English 111 and two years of high school algebra in order to be fully admitted into the College.

However, if a woman has 30 or more hours of transfer credit with 18 of those as general education requirements, and she has a 2.0 GPA, she is not

the program has grown dramatically. The number of 23plus students doubled from 1993 to 1997 and now represent about 30% of Meredith's population--over 550 students. Nearly 120 of them started last week with the new semester, and 160 entered in the fall of 1998.

Close attributes the growth of the program to the fact that "women can succeed here." Her sentiments are supported by the numbers. Thirty-three

decrease in the coming years.

Women may choose to enter the program to begin or continue a college education or to complete a second major or a different degree program. Some of Meredith's own graduates return to receive second degrees; in fact, five Meredith graduates returned this semester.

Many of the 23plus students are also members of Women in New Goal Settings--a group that offers support and friendship for 23plus students. Led by Lisa Nizam, WINGS is an active part of life at Meredith.

Although the 23plus program has been successful thus far, Close feels that improvements and changes need to be made, including offering more night classes. However, Close is grateful to the faculty and administration for all of their cooperation with the program.

"As director of the program, it helps me to be an alumna because I can support the students with their fears," Close said.

On the topic of the College's presidential search, Close said, "I hope it's a woman. It's time."

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required to take preliminary courses. She still must spend one semester in the 23plus program though to make sure she can complete the College's work level.

Each 23plus student has an adviser within the 23plus program. She stays with the program and her adviser until, according to Close, "she meets the admissions criteria every Meredith student must have."

The 23plus program began in 1972 with two students, and 1976 saw the first four graduates of the program. Since then,

women graduated in December--15 with honors--and 110 are expected to graduate in May.

The average 23plus student works either full or part-time and is a part-time student. If she works, she averages around nine hours a semester. If not, she averages 12-15 hours. However, some students take only one or two classes because that is what they can afford.

The average age of a 23plus student is 37; however, Close believes this figure will

Residents welcome new directors in dormitories

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Staff Reporter

New Residence Directors moved onto campus within the past couple of months. Both the first-year and junior/senior dorms welcomed their newest hallmates to campus.

Natalie Rich, a former producer, director, marketing and public relations director and reporter is the new RD for Stringfield. Rich attended college in Bowling Green, Ken. at Western Kentucky University and graduated with a degree in Writing and Theater. Her love of writing and interacting with people landed her various jobs in the past as the Marketing and Public Relations Director for a hospital in Tennessee, a reporter for the *Citizen Statesman*, a local Tennessee newspaper, and the writer, producer

and director for the "crazy and high-energy" TV station WBKO13 in Kentucky.

Rich crossed the state border to arrive at Meredith largely because of the influence of her daughter, Vadra, and her friend Paula Daniels (Director of Residence Life at Peace College.)

"Paula had encouraged Vadra to come to Peace [College] because she went there," Rich explained. Later, Daniels informed Rich about a new position opening up at Meredith - the Residence Director of Stringfield. Daniels thought Natalie could be closer to her daughter, work on her writing career, and help others with their college experiences all at the same time.

Rich hopes to pursue a new avenue in her career, specifically with writing. "Plays, lit-

erature--any form of creative expression has been so important in my life," explained Rich. Rich's hope is that she can write something "that touches your heart and soul."

As for being the RD of Stringfield, the writing of her "heart and soul" is written all over her face each time she smiles or takes the time to listen to the mass of first-years that fill her apartment with accounts of their day or current traumas. Quoting the words of Tennessee Williams, she noted "we are all alone in our skin," but added, "I think we are all connected."

"I really have not met anyone that I do not feel love and respect for," said Rich, "and I am proud of all the young women here."

Not far away, the RD for

Heilman and Barefoot, Kelly Conkling, '98, is unpacking her boxes and surveying her empty living room.

"My living room furniture is supposed to be here next week. Until then, the futon will do," Conkling says with almost a laugh. Last May, the former SGA president graduated from Meredith with a degree in Child Development. This past semester she completed her K-6 certification.

"I always thought I would be a teacher," says Conkling, "but I have a lot of interests and I would like to go back and get my Masters."

Conkling recognizes that her position as RD is a "different form of leadership," one in which she is looking

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Campus Briefs

Multi-media exhibit begins Sunday

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Regina Rowland and Scott Townsend will present "7-Bit Dialogue" in the Frankie G. Weems Gallery with the show's opening Sunday, Jan. 17. There will be an interactive performance by the dance quartet THEM under the direction of David Beadle at 2:30 p.m. The exhibit will continue until Feb. 13. For more information, contact Regina Rowland at 760-2351.

Alumnae House needs your help

OFFICE OF ALUMNAE RELATIONS

Looking to earn extra money during the spring semester? The Office of Alumnae Relations needs 15 students to work the Alumnae Phonathon for donations to the College's Annual Fund.

You would be working in the Alumnae house three nights per week (M-T-W) Feb. 1-24, Mar. 22-24 and Apr. 5-7 (18 nights total). You would earn \$6.25 per hour and gain valuable experience in telemarketing and fund raising.

Stop by the Alumnae House by Jan. 22 to fill out an application. For more information, call Becky Coble at 760-8548.

Submit to the Acorn today

KATIE COCHRAN
Co-Editor of *The Acorn*

Meredith's literary and art magazine, the *Acorn*, is a little-known annual publication. The *Acorn* staff encourages all students to submit their creative works to the publication.

Submission boxes will be located in Joyner, Ledford, Park Center, the library and Belk Dining Hall Jan. 22-28. Artwork will be accepted in Gaddy-Hamrick Jan. 27-28.

If you are interested in becoming a staff member, come to a recruiting meeting Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Joyner's Honors Lounge on the first floor. Contact Katie Cochran (x2807) or KeAnne Tomlinson (x2053) with any questions.

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