



MEREDITH HERALD

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

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Candidates share goals with community

- Each leaves a distinct and favorable impression.

BETH HALL; ALLISON CARTER
News Editor, Editor in Chief

The final three presidential candidates introduced themselves to the Meredith community last week during their individual receptions. Maureen Hartford, the vice president of student affairs at the University of Michigan spoke Wednesday; Nancy Huggins, an investment banker from Dallas spoke Thursday and Hope Williams, president of the NC Association of Independent Colleges and Universities spoke Friday.

"Impressive," was again and again the response given by those in attendance when asked their thoughts of the candidates.

Retiring president, John Weems, said, "I feel confident that any of the three will be right for the college."

Hartford, a native of NC and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, told those at the reception that she "would be excited to be president of an all-women's

institution." She noted that women today are asked to be leaders, and in order to be good leaders women must be properly educated and nurtured. "I would be delighted to be a part of that," said Hartford.

She spoke a little of the differences between the single-sex Meredith and the co-educational University of Michigan. Joking about culture shock, Hartford said impulse had led her to look for the football team when she first arrived on the Meredith campus.

Hartford chose to end on a more serious note. She told the audience of a student at Michigan, whom she had mentored, who had become a Rhodes scholar. She wanted to inspire Meredith to produce Rhodes scholars.

During a very brief interview, Hartford said, "It's time Meredith had a woman president." She continued, "If we are telling women that they can be whatever they want to be" then it is important that Meredith, a woman's college, should have a woman as president. Hartford also joked that "so often the joy of my job (as vice president of student affairs)

comes from working with women; a lot of the problems come from working with men."

LeeAnna Keith, a professor of history, said Hartford was "poised and upbeat." Keith, like Eloise Grathwohl, a professor of English and director of the Honors program, appreciated Hartford's Rhodes scholar comment. "I really loved that," said Grathwohl, "It's nice to think about having a president who is going to take academics very seriously and help (the academics) improve even more."

Jean Jackson, vice president of student development (the equivalent to Hartford's current job), said Hartford was "well-spoken," "attentive" and "brings strong qualifications."

Huggins, a native of Corinth, Miss., introduced herself Thursday. She told the audience that she received an undergraduate degree from Rhodes College, a liberal arts college in Memphis, Tenn. and a MBA from Harvard. She worked on Wall Street for over 20 years before becoming an investment banker in Dallas, Texas.

Huggins candidly discussed the fact that she, unlike the

President to be named Friday

This week, the Board of Trustees will make the final decision about whom will become Meredith's seventh president.

That decision will be announced Friday, Feb. 26 at 3:30 p.m. in Johnson Hall Rotunda.

The entire Meredith community is invited to attend.

other two candidates, is not coming from a career in higher education. She explained her interest in becoming a college president stems from her experience as a trustee of Rhodes, her Alma Mater. Huggins said she always appreciated liberal arts education which "teaches students how to think and takes them through life and different careers, not just one." While serving on the Board of Trustees, she enjoyed working with the students, faculty, alumni and other constituents of Rhodes. Huggins served on sev-

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Convocation celebrates Founder's Day, seniors

- Students, faculty share in the Vision.

LESLIE MAXWELL
Police Reporter

Each Founder's Day, students, faculty, and staff take a journey to Meredith's past with a speaker and glimpse the future as current seniors wear their academic dress for the first time. Monday, Feb. 22, the audience gathered in Jones Auditorium visited the recent past with Carolyn Robinson, author of *The Vision Revisited: A History of Meredith College 1971-1998*.

The class of 1999 wore their caps and gowns, and faculty and staff wore their own acad-

emic dress. The faculty walk in the following order: the faculty marshal, the executive vice-president, vice presidents, deans, faculty emeriti, professors, associate professors, assistant professors, instructors, administrative faculty, and adjunct professors. Their robes signify the types of degrees they have achieved.

Before Robinson spoke, Chuck Taylor, executive vice president, and the Board of Trustees honored retiring President John Weems as a contemporary founder of Meredith College. Past contemporary founders

include Carlyle Campbell and Bruce Heilman. "I am very



Interim President Chuck Taylor and junior Laura May lay the wreath.

PHOTO BY ALLISON CARTER

proud to be associated with the very distinguished former recipients of the award," said Weems. "This has been a wonderful day to be invited back," said Weems who is currently on sabbatical.

Robinson's book *The Vision Revisited* picks up where Mary Lynch Johnson's book *A History of Meredith College* left off. Johnson was the first historian of Meredith College. She dealt with Meredith's history from 1891 to 1971.

Robinson graduated from Meredith in 1950 as a religion major. She worked for Meredith in various positions from 1958 to 1992 when she retired as college editor and director of

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