

Student LEADers travel to Mount Olive College

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Staff Reporter

Pickles aren't the only reason students traveled to Mount Olive last Saturday.

The third annual LEAD Conference was a day-long event that gave college students from across the state a chance to broaden their leadership skills and bring back new ideas and solutions to their respective organizations. All students were invited to attend the conference, and many attended free because of their organizations sponsored them.

Over 240 students from Catawba College, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Pembroke, UNC-Greensboro, Elon, NC State, ECU, Meredith and various community colleges attended the workshop series on topics ranging from ethics to diversity. The series was divided up into three lecture sessions and one round-table discussion.

The round-table session allowed students to write questions concerning leadership problems on slips of paper and then offer solutions to posed problems by discussing them

as a group. Laura Aponte, Cassie Evans, Mandy McCullen and Leslie Gilliland were Meredith students who guided the round-table discussions. All of the women helped to organize the conference.

Attendees were given a choice of different workshops to participate in per session. The sessions were led by key position holders of the various colleges in attendance.

Cheryl Jenkins and Dena Price, director and assistant director of the Office of Student Activities, both attended the conference, presented lectures and led the group from Meredith throughout the day.

"I was really excited to see the Meredith students responding to the conference and learning from it as well," said Price.

Meredith took 42 women to the conference this year, matching the trend they have set the past two years.

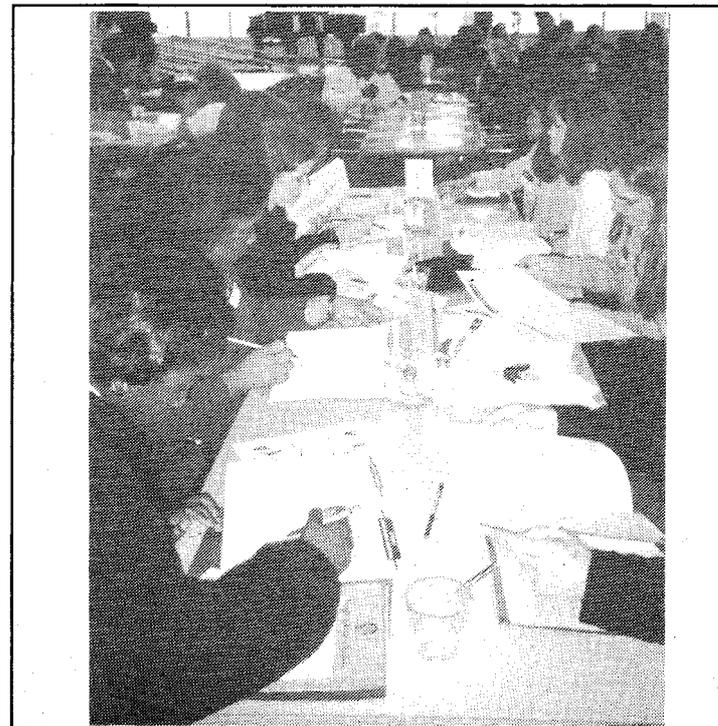
"We take at least 40 students each year. I am glad to see that so many Meredith students are interested. I think that it says a lot for our school," said Price.

The lecture sessions provided many different options in learning about what it takes to be a leader.

One workshop, "Tomorrow's Resources for Today's Leaders," led by Robert Watson, the SGA vice-president of Mount Olive College, presented information about locating Internet sources to improve leadership and negotiating skills. Useful sites, such as RA Programs (<http://www.housing.ucf.edu/RESnet>), America's Promise (<http://www.do-something.com>) and Student Advantage (<http://www.studentadvantage.com>) were only a few sites given to students who were looking for ways to broaden their skills via on-line sources.

The Chaplain and Senior Vice-President of Catawba College Dr. Kenneth W. Clapp led the lecture on the "Cornerstones of Leadership: Integrity and Credibility." The workshop examined past leaders and what defined their personas of leadership.

"Leadership is a relationship. You have to establish a



Conference participants spend their morning organizing their schedules.

PHOTO BY LESLIE MAXWELL

Faculty discuss issues

LESLIE MAXWELL; BETH HALL
Police Reporter; News Editor

Summer school classes will be largely unaffected this summer, although parts of the 1999 Special Olympic Games will be taking place on Meredith grounds June 26 - July 4, Campus Police Chief Mike Hoke told a faculty meeting last Friday.

Hoke told the faculty that for the most part only the front lawn areas and senior parking areas will be affected by the Olympics. Some athletes and their coaches will be staying in the six main dorms on campus: Stringfield, Vann, Brewer, Faircloth, Heilman and Barefoot. The front lawn will be the site of a festival with music, games and food from many countries.

Some faculty were disappointed by another announcement of Hoke's: the back gate

of the drive by Massey House (the president's house) will remain closed. Hoke said the gate had been closed to provide more security for the now vacant Massey House and to discourage the drive from becoming a thoroughfare.

In other business, the faculty discussed:

- The presidential search. Faculty representatives who served on the search committee, Gwen Clay, a professor of mathematics and Janice Swab, a professor of biology, thanked the faculty for their input and said they had enjoyed working on the committee.

- Upcoming convocation featuring Bertice Berry. Bill Rodgers, convocation committee chair, announced that the Berry convocation will take place Mar. 29.

- Candidates for graduation. Dean Allen Page led a vote in

which the faculty approved the list of candidates for graduation. The list will be circulated to department heads. Page also remarked on the "surge of energy" felt around campus with the presidential search almost complete.

- Recent funding additions. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Murphy Osborne noted several gifts and new scholarships. "Our focus is on funding and cultivating our new prospects," he said.

- The Special Olympics. Page and Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president for student development, reminded faculty that the Special Olympics still needed volunteers.

- Enrollment for the fall. As of Feb. 1, the admissions office had received 918 first-year applications. The 23plus office had received 25 applications.

relationship with your constituents so you can gain that trust," said Clapp. Clapp provided a chart listing characteristics Americans associate with leaders, and the importance of each characteristic.

Among the characteristics were honesty, idealism, inspiration and competence. However, from 1987 to 1993 the desire of honesty in a leader rose 5%, the desire of competence dropped a drastic 9%. Clapp added that according to the drop in competence, the

American people were really saying, "Give me someone who is honest; we will deal with their competence."

Charlotte Philen, a conference attendee and MRA President, said, "I'm glad I attended. I left with lots of creative ideas to use for the remainder of the year. I hope I can make the remaining meetings more fun for MRA members."

Interested in next year's LEAD Conference? Get ready to travel to Salisbury, NC to Catawba College in 2000.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, faculty, staff and students should call 760-2384 for the latest information on class cancellations and office closings.

When possible, the College will also run public announcements on 101.5 FM and WRAL Channel 5, and on the WRAL website at www.wraltv.com/contents/.

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not character.*

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