

Emerging leader graduates honored at dinner

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Staff Reporter

Graduates of the Emerging Leaders Seminar attended the Recognition Dinner and Alumnae Panel held in honor of their completion of the leadership program sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development.

The 1999 Emerging Leaders Seminar was a seven part series with an additional trip to the Bond Park Ropes Course in Cary and an awards banquet upon completion.

Lynda-Marie Taurasi, a first-year, said, "After attending the seminar series and the dinner, I feel like I have learned more about myself, the resources at Meredith and how to utilize and enhance my leadership skills."

After students and speakers finished dinner, a panel of four Meredith graduates, Heather Wilkin '97, Meredith Lovelace '98, Kendra Green '98, and Carol Hill '94 rose to the lectern in the front of the Oak Room to talk about where the leadership skills they learned at Meredith have brought them to in their lives today.

Wilkin spoke on how the skills she learned through seminars at Meredith gave her the confidence and poise to adapt to different jobs she is hired to

complete. Greene, who works in Admissions, spoke about how the leadership skills she learned at Meredith has helped her to express a positive and encouraging message to future Meredith applicants.

However, regardless of the different experiences, the alumnae panel agreed the leadership skills acquired while at Meredith have built a reputation for the school.

Wilkin said, "The businesses in this area always say, 'I want to hire a Meredith graduate.'"

After the alumnae panel concluded, some students presented the speakers with certificates for volunteering their time and energy to the seminar. Then Price presented each student with a 1999 Emerging Leaders stationary pad and a certificate to finalize their graduation of the program.

"I thought the dinner was a great way for the seminar to complete the package," said Taurasi. "It was a great opportunity for us to see how Meredith alumnae are using their degrees, leadership skills, and other Meredith experiences."

Beginning Jan. 12, students attended seminars on topics covering every aspect of leadership from diversity awareness to learning how to maintain one's values.

The speakers included Dr.

Jean Jackson, vice president for Student Development; Dean Sharon Cannon and Stephanie Harris of the Dean of Students Office; Rhonda Craver of the Counseling Center; Chrissie Bumgardner Director for First Year Experience; Virginia Gentry Parker, president of the Meredith Alumnae Association; and Faithe Hart, a residence director in Vann.

According to a final evaluation survey, many students signed up for the seminar for reasons that included improving leadership skills and getting to meet new people. The seminar also fulfills a requirement for the Sophie Lanneau Women's Leadership Development Program, a program designed to provide students with "opportunities to develop, enhance, and practice a personal philosophy of leadership," as stated in the program's brochure.

"Overall, I think it went really well," said Dena Price, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development. "Not only did students learn from the speakers, but the real learning came when they got to talk to each other and learn from each other."

Price was in charge of arranging correspondence,

planning activities, meeting with the students each session and organizing the banquet.

Eileen Moore, an ECU graduate student who worked as an intern in Student Activities last semester, "did a lot of the leg-work" said Price. She was in charge of contacting the speakers and making out the schedule of programs.

The Emerging Leaders Seminar concluded in the Oak Room on Tuesday, Mar. 2, at 5:30 p.m. As soon-to-be-graduates munched on the salad and Cordon Bleu, conversation with the speakers who were

seated with some of the students included reflections of what they all had learned.

The Emerging Leaders seminar sparked the curiosity of students from all classes who wanted to improve themselves as future leaders not only at Meredith, but in their future careers and post-graduate lives.

"We had a good representation of the classes: freshmen all the way through seniors," said Price.

For all of those students who want to become Emerging Leaders, Price said the seminar is held every year in the spring.



Pictured left to right: Emily Phillips, Jessica Fuller, Kelia Hester, Kelli Parrish, Lynda-Marie Taurasi and Nancy Carter enjoy their time at Bond Park in Cary.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DENA PRICE

Habitat mission trip builds more than character

LESLIE MAXWELL
Police Reporter

For the past 11 years, the Meredith Christian Association has sponsored an annual spring break mission trip to a different location. In the past, the group has gone to Florida to work on a Habitat for Humanity house. This year, MCA stayed a little closer to home—Charlotte.

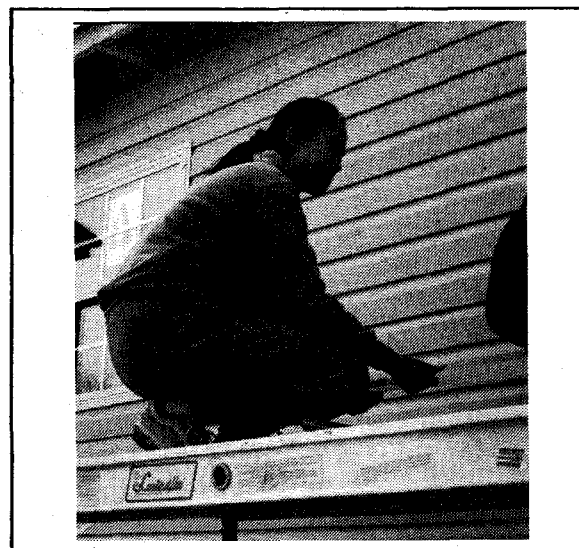
This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Baptist Student Union, and to celebrate that, the BSU sponsored a state-wide mission trip to Charlotte, N.C., to join students from NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Pembroke, Chowan and UNC-Wilmington.

Outreach co-chairs Juanita Taylor and Laura Autry and Campus Minister Sam Carothers organized Meredith's trip. The total cost of the trip for each student was \$75.

The week provided the group

with a variety of volunteer experiences. The group of five Meredith students and Carothers left cam-

pus on Friday, Mar. 5 to stay at Carothers' home until departure for Charlotte. Friday, they stayed



Freshman Zhen Zi Liu works on a Habitat House in Charlotte with MCA over spring break.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SAM CAROTHERS

in Raleigh to work at the food bank and at First Baptist's Clothes Closet.

Sunday they left for Charlotte, where they arrived at their home for the week, Providence Baptist Church.

Monday, the

group worked on a Habitat house that was built for a woman and her two young sons.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the group spent their mornings at the Salvation Army doing various jobs like office work, can sorting and child care. In addition, the group served lunch at the shelter for homeless women and children. The afternoons provided them with another opportunity to work with children at Briar Creek Road Baptist Church's after-school program.

The group returned to Raleigh on Friday afternoon.

Carothers appreciated the Salvation Army's emphasis on women and children. Taylor said that she enjoyed working at the Salvation Army.

"We worked in administration offices, and I like that," she said. She also said that she enjoyed serving lunch at the shelter.

Tuesday morning, the group awoke to an inch of snow; however, Taylor said, "It didn't bother us."

In addition to their volunteer work, the group toured the city. Tuesday night, they watched the Charlotte Hornets win a game after finding inexpensive tickets. Carothers, however, missed the game to recover from a sinus infection.

Taylor said of their mission: "I enjoyed the trip. It was very nice."

Carothers was pleased with the group's response to the week. He thought the students benefited from their outreach and grew in their relationships with each other.

"They were very enthusiastic. I think it was a good experience for them," said Carothers.