

Special Olympics came to Meredith this summer

CHRISTINA HOLDER
News Editor

The Special Olympics World Summer Games brought over 140,000 athletes from over 150 countries and over 35,000 volunteers to the Triangle this summer. Athletes competed in sports ranging from swimming to bocce ball at venues in Durham, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh from June 26-July 4, 1999.

Meredith College became a part of the Games when the campus was transformed into the World Games Festival. The campus became home not only to spectators and athletes, but to such entertainers as the Embers and Peter, Paul and Mary who performed there.

Concerts, balloons, food, games, and various booths dotted the campus during the Games. With such a large event being hosted by Meredith, students, faculty and staff were encouraged to be involved.

"There was a massive amount of people from all over the world at the Festival," said junior Krystal Tyndall, a Residence Director in Poterat this summer. "I was overwhelmed

with how so many people from so many different places could come together at one event," said Tyndall.

Cheryl Jenkins and Dena Price, director and assistant director of the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, also volunteered at the Festival. "Our official titles were Security Access Control Officers," said Jenkins.

Their jobs? "We helped with parking, traffic control, and were there to be a presence throughout," said Price. Directing people on to campus

was integral in having the day run smoothly. "Traffic in the afternoons was big for us, but it was exciting to see so many people on campus," said Price.

Meredith students also volunteered at other venues across the Triangle. Junior Emily Cash volunteered as an announcer for basketball games in Durham. "I wanted to volunteer for my community, and I wanted to be part of the biggest event going on in the country," said Cash. Being the announcer allowed her to get a glimpse of the athletes in

action. "They have so much determination and confidence. It made me appreciate their perseverance in all they do," said Cash.

Price, who lived in Barefoot Hall this summer, got to meet many of the athletes. "It was great to talk to them and interesting to learn about their cultures," said Price. Price gave an example of how different cultures adapt to new places by saying, "The athletes from Africa asked to have the air conditioning turned off. They were not used to the cold!"

Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president for the Office of Student Development, volunteered at the Festival in Volunteer Services. Her job was to check in volunteers, check credentials, distribute extra uniforms and in her words, "to make sure the Coke and water containers were well stocked for the volunteers."

Jackson got involved with the Olympics a couple of years ago when her niece led Volunteer Recruitment, a job that required she find 35,000 volunteers for the Games. "I think when you vest yourself in a volunteer job, you get so much back," said Jackson. "Being around the athletes was tremendously humbling, and working with the other volunteers was a lot of fun."

Jackson also commented on the openness and determination in the athletes. "So often we walk around guarding our hearts. Our masks are so

intact," said Jackson. The athletes, in Jackson's eyes, were not afraid to accept others and be themselves.

Ayana Rhodes, a Residence Hall Ambassador at Meredith during the Games, agrees: "The athletes—I was in love with them! I had pictures taken with them, and they would give me flowers from the Festival. Some of them even taught me Russian." Rhodes worked at the front desk of dorms calling different venues, scheduling transportation and directing calls, which gave her many opportunities to meet the athletes. "The athletes were so great!" said Rhodes.

When the Summer Games ended with the last trading of a collector's pin, the exchange of addresses from France to Yugoslavia, and the final burst of fireworks of the closing ceremonies, athletes, spectators, and volunteers each carried a medal of their own away.

"I will do it again. This reaffirms my commitment to volunteer. I have worked from being in the residence halls to being a hugger at the finish line. It is all so rewarding," said Price.

Jackson agrees: "The Special Olympics movement is so remarkable in the goodness of the organization. I think there was an amazing amount of joy in the service. To see the support from families and the joy the athletes had in their medals was quite a remarkable experience."



Athletes from Ohio display their medals at Meredith.

PHOTO BY AYANA RHODES

Art students share works from Italy

AHSYLYNN BROWNING
Guest Writer

On Sunday, Aug. 29th, the Gaddy Hamrick Art Center hosted a reception honoring three different groups.

The faculty exhibition that has hung from May 2 will be taken down Sept. 5, and the reception served as a closing celebration. It was a last opportunity to see the personal directions that faculty are exploring in their own artwork.

Senior Madge Duffey exhibited her graphic design portfolio, which included her layout plans for a past Meredith *Acorn* and *Oak Leaves* and designs for the commemorative alumnae mural that is in Cate Center.

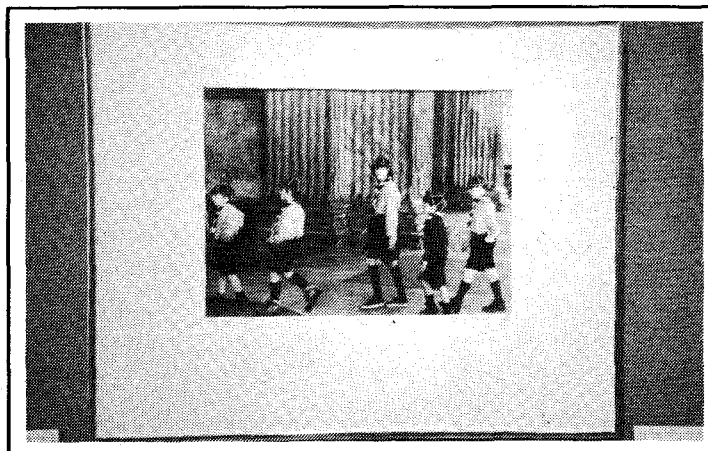
However, the focus of the reception was to honor the artwork of participants in the 1999 Art in Italy program, hosted by the art department. This five-week-long trip, led by art professor Maureen Banker, allowed students to

explore, paint, and draw in Florence and Sansepolcro.

Participants in the program were Claire Campbell, Julie Anna Dimmock, Katie Hilbert, Angela Saladino, Emily Scott, Emily Soldin, and Emily Stephens. The work that they brought back to display covers a number of media, including acrylics, watercolors, drawings, collages, and pho-

tographs. Some students had their scrapbooks and sketchbooks on display at the opening for viewers to look through.

Senior Emily Stephens described the trip as "a really good experience" and said she was "surprised at the amount of inspiration" that she found in Italy and the multitude of things to draw from. The Art in Italy show will be up until



A photograph by junior Katie Hilbert hangs in the Art in Italy exhibit.

PHOTO BY LESLIE MAXWELL

Wednesday Worship

September 8, 1999

10:00 a.m.

Jones Chapel



Speaker: Anna Kate Ellerman
Associate Campus Minister

Come and meet our new associate minister, Anna Kate. She is a graduate of William and Mary and is in her second year at Duke Divinity School