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CNN journalist speaks to campus

□ Judy Woodruff attended Meredith for two years.

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in chief

Tuesday, Oct. 5, CNN Anchor and Senior Correspondent Judy Woodruff spoke to Meredith students, faculty, staff, Trustees, alumnae and donors. The speech, held in Jones Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., was attended by about 300 people.

Woodruff attended Meredith from 1964-1966 for her freshman and sophomore years before transferring to "a larger institution down the road."

While at Meredith, she worked as a staff member of the *Oak Leaves* and served as the sophomore class president.

Dr. Maureen Hartford, president of Meredith College, and her husband Jay Hartford hosted the event.

Hartford introduced

Woodruff as a "frequent visitor in our homes," since she is often seen reporting on the state of affairs in our nation's capital, Washington, DC.

Woodruff has worked as a journalist for over 20 years. She has co-anchored *Inside Politics* and *World View*, CNN news programs.

She has also worked as a reporter on NBC's *Today* and as NBC's White House correspondent.

In recognition of her work, Woodruff has received several awards, including the News and Documentary Emmy Award.

Hartford called Woodruff and "exceptional student at Meredith. In addition to her two years as a student at Meredith, Woodruff was also the commencement speaker for the graduating classes of 1979 and 1989.

Woodruff began her talk by saying that Meredith is very "fortunate" to have Hartford as

its president.

She said that at Meredith she spent "two very important and formative years."

She added that the liberal arts education she received while she attended Meredith "opened my eyes and my mind." Meredith, she said, is a "very special institution."

She said jokingly that she went into journalism to have a deadline, for while at Meredith, she admitted to playing bridge far into the night and "never learned to study ahead."

In her talk, she analyzed the current political climate in Congress and made numerous observations on upcoming political races, especially the presidential race of 2000.

"We don't know what's going to happen," she said of the race.

The 2000 elections, Woodruff said, more than any other recent elections, are "up for grabs." She noted that the

House, Senate and presidential races would be "very interesting."

She marveled at the amount of money spent not only on campaigning for national office, but also on media coverage.

Her self-confessed "pundit's" view regarding presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole suggested that, with a strong showing in an early primary, Dole would be a "good bet" for a running mate, definitely for George W. Bush and possibly for John McCain.

Woodruff sees Al Gore as the "unfair but inevitable victim of Clinton fatigue." She noted a complex web of negative associations enveloping Gore as well as Hilary Clinton, the all-but-declared US Senate candidate for the state of New York.

After the speech, a dessert reception was held in the Johnson Hall Rotunda.

Electricity loss handled smoothly

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in chief

Last Wednesday, Sept. 29, Meredith College lost power for over two hours during the evening.

At about 7 p.m., students across campus heard a loud sound as they were left in the dark.

Emergency lights in the hallways came on, and students gathered in halls or went outside for the last few minutes of daylight. The emergency lights last for only three hours.

Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president for student development, received a phone call from Campus Police Chief Mike Hoke at 7:15 p.m. that the power had gone out.

Jackson drove to campus where she spent time in dorms with students.

Jones Chapel was the only building on campus that still

had power, since it is on a separate line. Many students who had tests went to the chapel to study.

Facilities Services manager Greg Ahrendsen explained that the power failure was "an anomaly on the CP&L system," not a transformer blowing.

For some reason, he said, all three phases off Wade Avenue that bring most of the electricity into Meredith blew.

"We don't believe it was anything in our system," Ahrendsen said. He said that restoring power took a long time because Meredith had shut down its power system to make sure that everything in the campus system was in working order.

Power came back around 9:40 p.m. after a power surge in some buildings around 9.

Jackson stayed on campus until 10 p.m.

SACS age diversity study under review

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in chief

Last year, Meredith College was the subject of a study done by the SACS Focus Topic Committee. This group especially focused on age diversity at Meredith.

Preliminary meetings were held in the spring semester of 1998. Dr. David Heining-Boynton, psychology professor, was the faculty chair of the SACS committee, and he selected committee members with "a wide range of experience, expertise and ties to Meredith." These members included two students, two faculty who are Meredith alumnae and a Trustee who is an alumnus.

The study made itself known on campus in several ways. Last year's opening convocation from Dr. Bernice Sandler who urged women to be "movers and shakers" on cam-

pus and in the community.

In addition, an article in a November issue of the *News and Observer* prompted discussions and letter-writing campaigns to the *Meredith Herald* in November and December.

The SACS committee also used surveys and forums as outlets to gain information about campus feelings on age diversity.

The committee put together a final report, much of which was done this spring. Heining-Boynton compiled the final report in May and June, sending the final report to the Self-Study Steering Committee Chair in July.

In August, the report was sent to the Visitation Chairperson. The week of Oct. 18-22, consultants will be on campus to review the committee's seven recommendations.