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On the inside:

□ Aqua Angels bring in the season.

Page 2

□ Students and faculty duke it out in volleyball.

Page 4

□ Is publicity on campus enough?

Page 4

□ Basketball team brings home a win.

Page 7

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Campus meets vice president finalists

□ Academic Affairs position has been vacant for two years.

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in chief

When students arrived back from Thanksgiving Break, they received a notice in their mailboxes: The three finalist candidates for the vice president of academic affairs had been announced and visits to campus had been planned.

Dr. Suzann Buckley, Dr. Richard Fallis and Dr. Rosalind Reichard are the finalists in the search that has gone on since September.

Since Dean Allen Burris retired in the June of 1998 after 28 years of service at Meredith College, the position has been vacant. Dean Allen Page has handled some of the duties of that job since Burris' retirement.

The job of vice president of academic affairs includes

working with the president and members of the faculty to structure academic programs. The person will run the academic programs on campus.

On Monday, Nov. 29, Reichard visited campus. She is the dean of sciences and mathematics at Elon College outside of Burlington, NC, about 45 minutes away from Raleigh.

From 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Reichard spoke and answered questions. The forum was open to all students, faculty and staff.

Fallis is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. He will visit Meredith on Friday, Dec. 3. On that day, another open forum will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. Fallis will speak and answer questions from campus members.

Buckley is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas Woman's University in Dallas, Tex. She will visit cam-

pus on Monday, Dec. 6, also speaking from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Kresge.

Not only are the candidates meeting in open interviews, but they are meeting people like President Maureen Hartford, Page and Vice President for Student Development Jean Jackson.

Each candidate will also share a lunch-time discussion with a small group of students, with a mixture of traditional-age, non-traditional age, commuters, residents, graduate students and undergraduates.

During the lunch, each candidate has the opportunity to ask about concerns and praises the students have. In addition, the students can ask questions of the candidate.

The search committee for the vice presidency consisted of students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Marie Chamblee, head of the physical education department, was committee chair.

Others on the search committee are Dr. John Huber, psy-

chology; Dr. Robert Vance, religion; Dr. Eloise Grathwohl, English; Dr. Rebecca Oatsvall, business; Dr. Betty Webb, English; Dr. Fran Page, music, Dr. Mary Johnson, dean of the graduate school; Gordon Folger, director of the Career Center; junior Carrie Swart; and senior Sabrina Hearst.

Hartford appointed the committee members to their positions. Each prospective committee member received a letter during the summer. The committee then began meeting during the first week of August.

The group met with all the candidates during the first week in November, Cornhuskin' week. The interviews were held off campus.

Swart received a letter inviting her to join the committee in late July. She was unable to attend any meetings until the beginning of school, however.

Swart said that serving on the committee gave her a better understanding of and appreciation for Meredith College.

MCA helps community with cheer

CHRISTINA HOLDER
News Editor

With exams quickly approaching, Meredith students are anticipating the events that are notorious for inducing stress: late night study sessions, back-to-back exams, borderline grades. Yet for many of those with vein-popping brows and those engrossed in thick textbooks, some relief may be within reach.

The Meredith Christian Association (MCA) is spreading some cheer. On Oct. 31, 1999 MCA sent a letter to parents of resident students informing them about a pre-exam treat for their daughters. Cheer Bags consisting of various fruits, snacks, and candies could be sent to any Meredith resident.

Sam Carothers, Campus Minister, said that the Cheer Bags were available to resident students only because compli-

cations over distributing bags to commuter students have hindered MCA in reaching the entire Meredith community in the past. However, Carothers said that MCA was still working on a way to amend the problem.

The Cheer Bag project is in its seventeenth year. Begun with the Christmas of 1983, the project was borrowed from a similar idea that the Baptist Student Union at NC State had used.

The surprise bags were not sold for a set price. Instead, MCA asked parents to make a monetary contribution to MCA. Carothers said that in the past, the average household sent from \$16-\$18. The combined donations, a \$8000-9000 net from last year, were used to supplement MCA's Mission Fund, a fund that helps with various mission projects throughout the year. The first \$5200 made from the project is

sent back to the NC Baptist Student Union to supplement the overall budget. However, the remaining money is donated to various ministries throughout Raleigh such as Interact, Urban Ministries, Prevent Child Abuse, Project Angel Tree, Operation Christmas Child, the Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen and the Tabernacle Baptist Young Women's Linen Closet. Additional money is used to pay for MCA's annual Spring Break trip to Florida to work for Habitat for Humanity and a possible missions trip to Bolivia this May. According to Carothers, the MCA Council decides where the money is distributed. However, all of the money collected is donated to some organization or cause.

"It's a win-win-win situation. The mission budget wins. The parents are delighted to make their daughters happy, and the students are happy to

get a surprise treat. It's a great feeling," said Carothers.

This year close to 550 parents placed orders for the Cheer Bags. Carothers and members of the MCA council used a portion of the money donations to buy the bags and goodies for the project.

"It is a great thing--students making the bags, knocking on the doors, spreading the cheer. Everyone has a good time," said Carothers.

Students enjoy the thoughtful gifts as well. Sophomore Molly Jensen remembers receiving her cheer bag last year, saying, "Sometimes the exam schedule is so hectic that you don't have time to eat. So it was wonderful of our parents to think of us--to make things easier for us."

As students gear up for the final long trek of the semester, they may find hope in this: the Cheer Bags are being delivered today.