

Aqua Angels splash into the season with flair

NIKKI NORRIS
Staff Writer

Even before Thanksgiving, the Aqua Angels reminded their audience of the season ahead. Meredith community members and guests gathered in Weatherspoon Gymnasium on Thursday, Nov. 18 and Friday, Nov. 19 for the fall performances. The Aqua Angels, Meredith's synchronized swim team, performed to the theme of "Christmas Celebration."

They performed routines to popular theme songs from movies such as *Pretty Woman*, *Grease* and *Titanic*. Christmas routines were performed to old favorites including "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree," "Winter Wonderland" and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," as well as nontraditional songs such as Mariah Carey's "Christmas" and "Christmas" by Blues Traveler. "Congratulations Seniors"

was the opening routine performed by Captain Sandra Dexter, Michelle Priddy and Mary Katherine Tyndall, all seniors. Priddy said the seniors chose a millennium theme, performing to songs such as Prince's "1999," Robbie Williams' "Millennium" and the Spice Girls' "Goodbye."

This is Priddy's third year as an Aqua Angel, and she said her favorite part of being a member of the team has been "the people I've met."

Tiffany Yokeley, sophomore, has been an Aqua Angel for two years. Yokeley said that she was excited about the shows and, "I felt all swimmers showed a great deal of improvement and I think the spring performance will be even better." Yokeley performed in the *Grease* and "Christmas Tree O" routines. Yokeley stated that what she enjoys most about being an

Aqua Angel is "the opportunity to ... do what I love best—swim!" She has been swimming competitively since she was seven years old.

Lori Owen, sophomore, attended both of the performances. Her favorite

part of the routine, she said, was the finale. "I was really impressed with the finale. I enjoyed watching the whole team perform together," Owen said.

Tamara Cole, who filled in for Coach Carol Brown while on sabbatical, served as the coach for the Aqua Angels team this semester.

Cole said that the team prepared for the performances by practicing figures and routines as well as using the weight room for conditioning. The team practiced on Mondays and Wednesdays for three hours each night.

Several practices were video taped to allow the team to work view their strengths and weaknesses while at the same time giving them the opportunity to watch themselves perform.

The group performed a few old routines, but they changed them to include new lifts and figures to add to the glamour of the performance, Cole said.

The routines are choreographed by the team and the coach. Tracie Pynn, who helped coach this year's team, also aided in choreographing the routines. Pynn was responsible for choreographing the finale.

"Tracie and I basically just helped choreograph the routines," said Cole. "We wanted them to create something they wanted," she added.

Cole said that the choreography was a group effort. She and Pynn provided input and sug-

gestions.

Cole and Pynn both felt the performances were great. "The girls did well," stated Cole.

Pynn agreed that the team did a great job. Cole and Pynn were also pleased with the length of the show and the variety of music. Both were excited with the Christmas theme because "it lets you enjoy old favorites," said Cole.

Cole, who teaches the synchronized swimming class, said that any student who is interested in trying out for team should sign up for this class as a prerequisite. Students who have experience in synchronized swimming may try out without the class with the permission of the coaches.

The Aqua Angels will hold their spring performances on Mar. 30 and 31, 2000, with the theme of "Old Favorites." These performances will consist of all new routines.

Meredith students host dance for special group

AMANDA FLETCHER
Staff Writer

Meredith College was alive with loud music and smooth moves. On Friday, Nov. 19, the Psychology Club sponsored its annual Special Populations dance.

The guest list was made up of people from all over Raleigh, including members of group homes and people who had attended in the past. News of the dance also spread through word of mouth. Meredith College workers also attended the dance.

To make the dance a success, students from different psychology classes volunteered. They helped set up and serve refreshments and they danced.

Carol Beth Allen, freshman, said that helping serve impacted her by helping her "realize how fortunate she is."

Weatherspoon Gymnasium was transformed for the event.

Christmas lights and dim lighting helped create a mood that went along with the theme: "A Night to Remember."

Instead of the harvest theme that has been used in the past, this year's event took on a prom-like theme.

Dance co-chair and Psychology Club President Hilary Lichty said that this year's dance was "one of the best ever," which she attributed in part to the new theme.

Also new this year was a professional DJ and a photographer.

The DJ played fun dance songs like the Electric Slide, the Hokey Pokey and the Macarena, in addition to many current top 40 songs.

The photographer took pictures of the couples and groups that attended, and then the pictures were put on display for the participants to take home at the end of the evening.

Students want campus to become aware of AIDS

LEESHA AUSTIN
Staff Writer

Although AIDS Awareness Week is several months away, the planners need several months to make it a success. The week is to be held at Meredith College Feb. 7 - 11, 2000.

According to Student Life Chair Kelia Hester and AIDS Awareness Week Co-Chairs Laura Aponte and Amy Alm, planning and preparations for the week are already underway.

"We are having AIDS Awareness Week because it is a growing concern and we are a women's college so we feel it is especially important since women in their mid-teens to 40s are the group most affected by AIDS," said Hester.

Aponte explained that this will be Meredith's second annual AIDS Awareness Week.

Hester said that the week is still in the planning stages but that they are discussing the possibilities of having guest speakers, a photography exhib-

it in the Cate Center and other features.

"We are trying to get a photography exhibit of women who are HIV positive as well as an educational speaker who is actually infected with HIV and another speaker who is affiliated with a church and involved in an outreach program for AIDS patients," said Aponte.

Aponte noted that red ribbons will be distributed during the week and safety issues will be addressed.

She explained that an agency table will be set up so that students can get information on how they or someone they know can be tested for AIDS. At the table, they can also receive information about how they can volunteer to help with area AIDS programs.

"The AIDS Awareness Week committee's desire is to bring awareness to our small campus community because although it is not a large problem at Meredith now, students need to be aware that anyone can be

infected by AIDS," said Aponte.

Aponte also wanted to remind students that the AIDS Walk is being held this Saturday, Dec. 1 and that information is posted around campus and everyone is strongly encouraged to participate.

Anyone who would like more information about the AIDS Walk can contact Tonya Lester, AIDS Walk Chair, at 760-2074 or Ann Gleason, Dean of Students, at 760-8521.

Aponte stated that she would like to get more people and organizations involved because AIDS awareness is a very important issue.

She encourages anyone who would like to help out in any way to contact her at 760-2072 or Co-Chair Amy Alm at 854-7809.

Aponte stated, "The more people who participate, the more people will be reached."

Last year's AIDS Awareness Week brought pieces of the AIDS memorial quilt to campus.