

# Visiting professor teaches about China

CHRISTINA HOLDER  
News Editor

His name means "beautiful sea," but it took more than crossing that wide stretch of ocean for Meredith's newest visiting professor from China to arrive on campus.

"I spent the last night of the last century on a train. Some say I spent two centuries on it!" said Jia Xiuhai. On Jan. 2, 2000, ten days earlier than his first semester of teaching in the United States was to begin, Mr. Jia, as students and faculty call him, stepped onto the Meredith campus.

"I didn't realize I was early," said Jia, laughing as he recounted his early arrival, "but it gave me more time so I could be well prepared."

Jia is a professor of English at the Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in Dalian, China. He has joined the Meredith faculty through an exchange professorship Meredith has with Dongbei.

According to Dr. Carolyn Happer, professor of history, the exchange program has been running for approximately ten years. Through the exchange, a Dongbei professor teaches at Meredith during the spring semester, while a Meredith professor teaches at Dongbei during the summer.

Jia will be visiting the United States for four and a half months, teaching at Meredith and traveling during the remainder of the time.

He will teach two classes this semester. The first, Introductory Chinese, will cover the phonetics of the Chinese language, while the second, China Today, will explore the traditions found in Chinese art, culture, people and history.

Jia graduated from the Dalian Foreign Language Institute in 1985, majoring in English language. After graduating from Dalian, he married in 1991. He and his wife have an eight-year-old daughter. Today he teaches Advanced English

and Listening at Dongbei.

While in Raleigh, Jia will continue with many of his hobbies—"swimming, playing table tennis, taking long walks, listening to violin and piano music"—and take up a few others.

Sightseeing has been one of his newest hobbies in the U.S. Happer and other Meredith faculty have already exposed Jia to a small part of RTP culture including visits to a Meredith basketball game, Duke Chapel and the N.C. Museum of Art. Yet this is only the beginning. Jia plans to travel to Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City and Washington, D.C. before he leaves the U.S.

Jia is excited to teach at Meredith. He hopes that his lectures will bring a new interest in China to Meredith students. "Many Americans don't have the opportunity to visit China. They may have some picture. I hope my lectures will bring a real picture to them, will introduce them to China."

On Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7

p.m., Happer and Jia will host a meeting where students can meet Jia and learn more about Meredith's study abroad program in China during the summer. A copy of Jia's syllabus will be available this week. If students find a class lecture to be of interest to them, they are invited to visit the class and learn more about China. "More than one fourth of the world is Chinese, so it would be an asset to anyone who has some knowledge of the Chinese language," said Happer.

Jia's visit thus far has been, in his words, "totally out of my expectations." He is staying at the Lemmon House, the school's house for official visitors located outside of the back gates of Meredith.

Happer encourages students to talk with Jia and tell him about any places of interest during his visit in Raleigh. Contact Jia at the Lemmon House at 834-0552 or at his office in Joyner 210 at 760-8559.

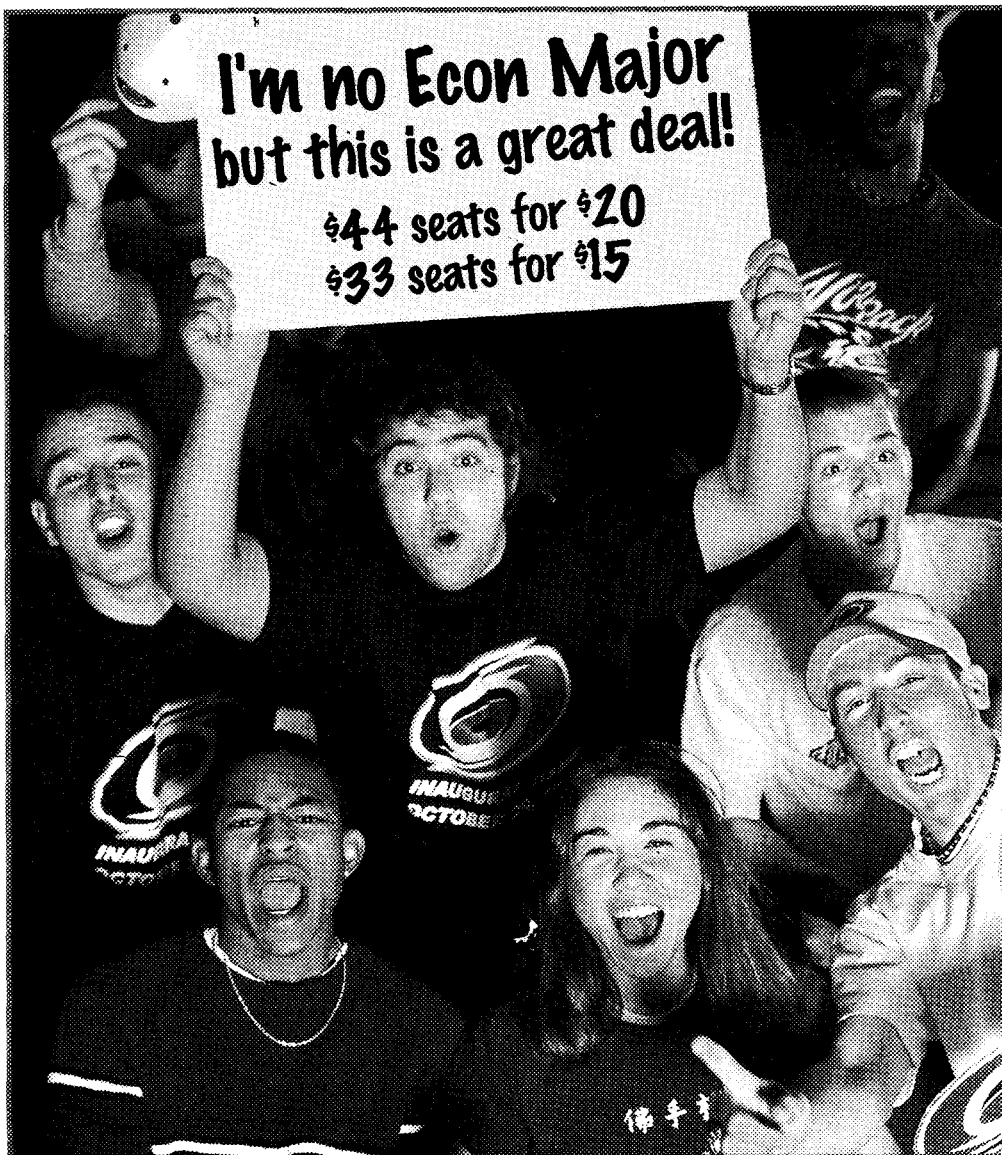
## Let it snow, says Meredith

LESLIE MAXWELL  
Editor in chief

Students woke up Tuesday morning, the day after a long weekend, only to find three inches of snow covering the ground and to discover that Tuesday's classes were cancelled. Tuesday afternoon, administration announced that Wednesday's classes would begin at 11 a.m.

N.C. State did not hold classes today because of the holiday, but other area schools like St. Mary's and Wake County Schools were closed. Other schools, however, did not take the snow as seriously. Peace College was on a two-hour delay, and UNC-Chapel Hill held classes as usual.

Instead of classes, students caught up on homework and stayed warm. In addition, they found some time for play as they used plastic trash bags to slide down Meredith's many hills. Snowball fights were not uncommon, and students saw the occasional snow person or snow angel.



## COLLEGE RUSH

Get great seats at a great price. Purchase Upper Level \$33 seats for \$15 and Lower Level \$44 seats for \$20. Tickets may be purchased up to 48 hours prior to any game at the Arena box office based on availability. College ID required.



Philadelphia Flyers	Jan. 11	7:30PM	Chicago Blackhawks	Mar. 8	7:30PM
New York Rangers	Jan. 20	7:00PM	Boston Bruins	Mar. 10	7:30PM
Buffalo Sabres	Jan. 22	1:30PM	Atlanta Thrashers	Mar. 12	1:30PM
Montreal Canadiens	Jan. 24	7:30PM	Edmonton Oilers	Mar. 15	7:30PM
Phoenix Coyotes	Jan. 25	7:30PM	St. Louis Blues	Mar. 22	7:00PM
New Jersey Devils	Jan. 28	7:30PM	New York Islanders	Mar. 26	1:30PM
Florida Panthers	Feb. 1	7:30PM	Buffalo Sabres	Mar. 27	7:30PM
Montreal Canadiens	Feb. 17	7:30PM	Nashville Predators	Mar. 29	7:30PM
Tampa Bay Lightning	Feb. 19	7:30PM	Philadelphia Flyers	Apr. 2	1:30PM
Washington Capitals	Feb. 21	1:30PM	Atlanta Thrashers	Apr. 9	1:30PM
Florida Panthers	Feb. 24	7:30PM			

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ARENA BOX OFFICE  
AT 919-681-2323 OR WWW.CANESHOCKEY.COM