

# Students learn to improve leadership at LEAD

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News Editor

The fourth annual LEAD conference was held on Saturday, Feb. 15, at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC.

The conference, sponsored by the NC College Personnel Association's Leadership Consortium and the Southeast Center for Organizational Leadership, aims to help students develop the skills to lead campus organizations. It is a forum for students around the state to discuss problems and solutions in organizations.

The Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development sponsors the event each year for Meredith students, donating \$10 to students who are sponsored by a campus organization; however, any student could attend for the cost of \$30.

Buses pulled away from Johnson Hall early Saturday morning with over 30 students. Cheryl Jenkins and Dena Price, director and assistant director of

the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, went as well.

Price, the Chair of the NCCPA Leadership Consortium, helped to coordinate the conference and offered opening and closing remarks for the day.

Jenkins said that each year the conference is beneficial because Meredith students have the opportunity to interact with other students from other universities and develop the skills needed to be an effective leader.

The conference is a day-long event that includes workshops for personal leadership development, round-table discussions where students can talk about campus concerns and addresses from keynote speakers.

This year's keynote speaker was Joanna Iwata, the Director of the Benson University Center at Wake Forest University, who has designed several leadership training programs to increase change and growth in campus organizations.

As the conference began, the theme, "The Leadership Kalei-

doscope: Creating and Focusing Your View," gave students a small glimpse of the eight hours of leadership training that were ahead of them.

Students could attend various workshops that touched on ways to strengthen leadership skills.

Some included "All Talk, No Action," a session that offered ways to motivate apathetic members of an organization; "Leadership and the Mayberry Model," a session that looked at the *Andy Griffith Show* as a model for positive motivation; and "No Sweat-Really!," a session that gave students a "sweat towel" as a souvenir to remind them not to "sweat the small stuff."

Junior Leslie Gilliland said, "I always enjoy going to the LEAD conference," noting that an advantage of the conference is the wide variety of sessions.

Gilliland attended a session on marketing leadership skills in the workplace after graduation

"That was probably the most

beneficial session for me," said Gilliland.

One session focused on student government issues. "We got some good ideas," she said. Gilliland added that this session gave her a new perspective of other colleges in the state.

Jenkins, who also led a workshop called "Personal Leadership: Putting First Things First," said that her aim in leading a session was to encourage students to "look at the things in life that are urgent and important and to ask ourselves if we are putting time into the things we love to do."

Students could attend various round-table discussions on topics ranging from time management and serving as an ethical leader, to beginning a new organization and student government issues.

Junior Heather Spell said her favorite session was for people who want to be in student development entitled "So you want to be a dean of students."

"I went to the round-table discussion on student govern-

ment issues," said junior Lisa Coltrain.

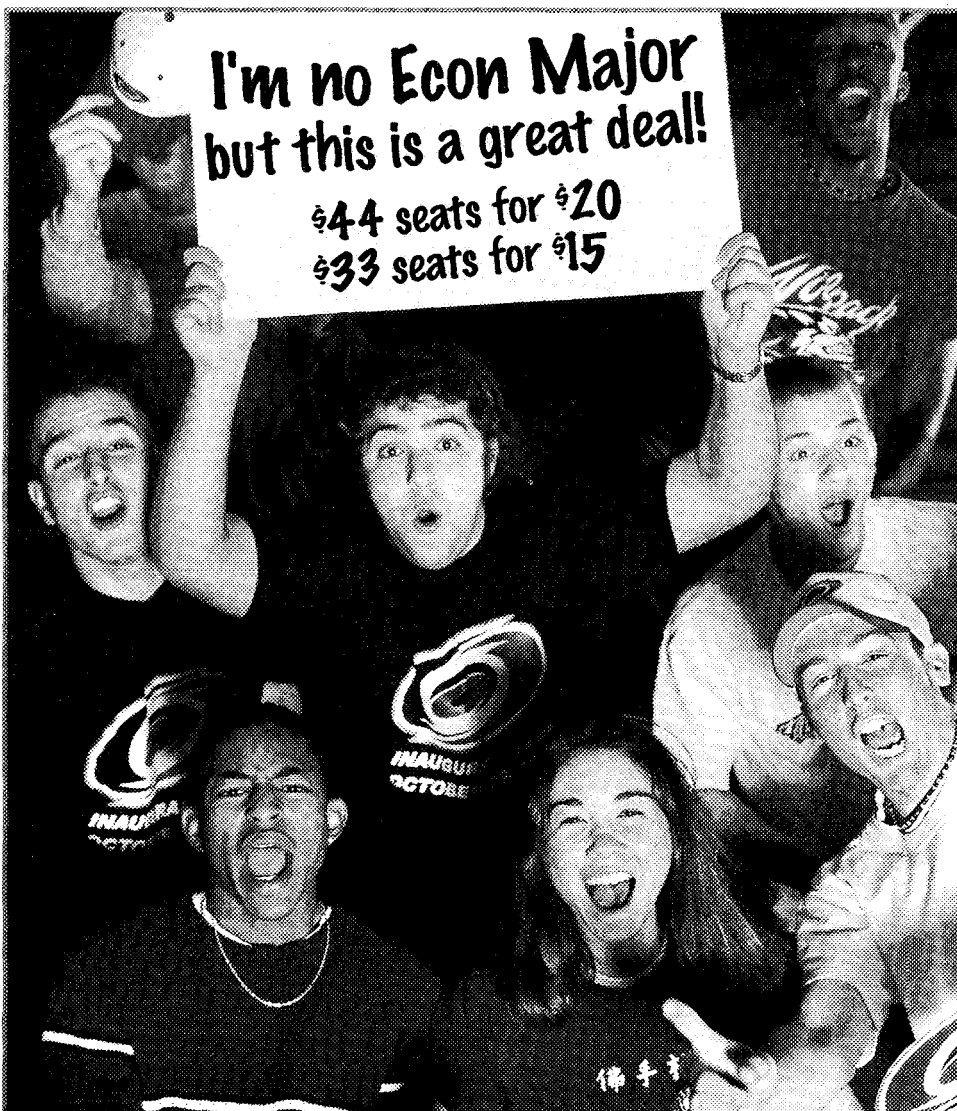
"It was good to hear how students from different schools were facing the same issues and how they resolved them."

Coltrain hopes to bring the ideas she discussed to improve the effectiveness of the organizations in which she is involved at Meredith.

Coltrain, who has attended the conference in the past, says she would recommend the conference to other Meredith students and "especially to new leaders who are trying to sharpen their leadership skills."

Each year the LEAD Conference is hosted at a different college or university in North Carolina, leaving many students who have attended eager to bring the conference to Meredith.

Though no final plans have been made, Jenkins and Price both hope that Meredith will be a site for the conference in the future.



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