

Other cultures celebrated with MIA Week

JENNY ALTIER
Staff Writer

Last week, Feb. 14 through 18, Meredith International Association sponsored MIA Week.

This week is a time when students of different cultural backgrounds can come together and share some of their different customs and activities. The aim of MIA Week is to promote cultural awareness among Meredith students.

Natasha Venema, a junior at Meredith and president of MIA for the second year, voiced her opinion about the week.

"I think it is great that MIA Week gives students from 30 to 40 different countries the chance to share their experiences and cultures with other students.

"MIA wants to have everyone involved share how they did things back home in hopes that it will help them celebrate their culture. MIA Week's aim is to make the students who participate feel more at home since many of them do not have family living here in North Carolina," Venema said.

MIA sponsors various activities during the Week.

Last Monday, MIA had a day when international students were invited to wear the clothing of their home countries. Many students were seen around campus wearing their international dress as they celebrated their culture and their heritage.

Another activity MIA spon-

sored last Thursday was an international luncheon. A variety of students cooked some of their favorite foods from their home countries. These ethnic foods were put together to create a luncheon for Meredith's faculty and staff.

Last Friday, in the Belk dining hall, MIA sponsored an East Indian tradition called Mehndi. Mehndi is a temporary henna "tattoo" that lasts for about two weeks. In India, this type of body painting is typically used for weddings and other special occasions.

Seema Patel, the vice president of MIA, is originally from India, and she has participated in this tradition before. Patel had some of her Indian friends come to Meredith and paint these temporary "tattoos" onto the hands and arms of anyone who wanted them.

Venema thought the Mehndi body paint was very interesting. "Seema's friends tried to enhance the ambiance of Belk dining hall by wearing traditional dress and playing Indian music. They tried to make it as realistic as possible," Venema said.

This year's MIA Week proved to be a success, for many students enjoyed the diversity and culture they were able to experience through the MIA-sponsored events.

Lizzeth Jaar, a freshman from Honduras, found that it was educational to have a week when other students from different countries could learn about each other.

Meredith celebrates 109 years of educating women

JONI SMITH
Staff Writer

This is a special time in Meredith College history because on Sunday, Feb. 27, Meredith College will turn 109 years old.

Meredith went through many changes and phases before being chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on Feb. 27, 1891 and named after the first editor of the Baptist newspaper the *Biblical Recorder*, Thomas Meredith.

The first idea to create a college for women was raised by an unknown person. The Baptist Assembly debated for many years on the topic before Baptist Female University, now known as Meredith College, was founded in 1899.

The first class graduated in 1902 and has forever been called "The Immortal 10"

because there were only ten students in the graduating class that year.

In 1904 the name was changed to Baptist University for Women and then in 1909, the college adopted the name Meredith College.

The Founders' Day celebration that was held at the convocation on Monday introduced a person whom Vice President for Student Development Dr. Jean Jackson called a "contemporary founder," Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Rosalind Reichard.

Jackson said, "It is a remarkable time in our history with the leadership of Dr. [Maureen] Hartford whom we already know, and Dr. Reichard whom we look forward to knowing more about."

Jackson wants the entire Meredith College community to recognize Saturday, Feb. 27

as an important building block for the college's future.

Many events have marked celebrations of past anniversaries of Meredith's founding.

For instance, Jackson led Meredith in its Centennial Celebration in 1991 when such speakers as Ruth Schmidt, president of Agnes Scott College; Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Justice; Erma Bombeck, author and columnist; Jerre Levy, professor at the University of Chicago; Phyllis Tribble, professor at Union Theological Seminary; and Patricia Schroeder, House of Representatives, all appeared in a huge celebration.

What will be in store for Meredith in 2001? In 2021? In 3000? Jackson is definitely looking into the future and Meredith's place in it. She said, "One hundred and nine years is a good start on forever."

Wear red ribbon for AIDS

LISA WILSON
Staff Writer

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, has affected an increasing number of people in our society.

Everyone has heard about AIDS, but most do not realize how much of a problem it really is.

The majority of people who test positive for this disease are under the age of forty. For this reason, the Meredith College Student Life Committee puts on an AIDS Awareness week every year.

This year, the co-chairs of AIDS Awareness Week are junior Laura Aponte and senior Amy Alm. They have organized the week into what they hope will be an informative experience for all students.

This week, Feb. 21 through 25, is this year's week set aside for students to become more aware of AIDS, its causes and its consequences.

All week long, volunteers will pass out red ribbons for students to wear in support of AIDS.

In addition, there will be a

photo exhibit on the first floor of the Cate Center displaying pictures dealing with AIDS.

Furthermore, information will be available in both Cate Center and the lobby of Jones Chapel.

On Wednesday morning, the Chapel service was dedicated to this issue with a special

relationships, a time for students to talk to someone about their own relationships.

On Thursday and Friday, the Counseling Center will be available all day long for students to talk about AIDS. Any questions students have can be answered and explained.

Resident Assistants on each floor in every residence hall have been given information and asked to put up bulletin boards to help spread the word around campus.

AIDS is a slow moving disease that has an incubation period of up to eleven years. If someone even thinks there is a possibility she could have AIDS, she should get tested. Now, testing is a process that can be done anonymously.

The reason for this week was said by Student Life Committee Chair, Kelia Hester, who said, "I just think it is really important for an all women's college because we are really affected by this.

"The women here are the target age of AIDS. We need to focus and be aware of this problem."

"We need to focus and be aware of [AIDS]."

**--Kelia Hester,
Student Life
Committee Chair**

guest speaker. In addition, the Student Life Committee sponsored a reception afterwards.

The Counseling Center will be very involved with the issue of AIDS all week.

On Monday Feb. 21, they held a screening for healthy

Free Your Mind Forum

Tuesday, Feb. 29

6 p.m.

**Belk Dining Hall,
Stringfield side**

Everyone is welcome!

sponsored by SGA and Student Life