

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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New students Go for Gold at Meredith

Meredith welcomes over 500 new students.

LESLIE MAXWELL
Editor in Chief

Months of preparation and anticipation led up to move-in weekend, when freshmen and transfer students arrived at Meredith.

Saturday, Aug. 19 marked the beginning of freshmen orientation, and Sunday, Aug. 20 saw the arrival of transfers on campus.

Planning for orientation began in February, when students advisers and resident assistants were selected and committees began meeting.

Each year, orientation has a theme. Themes of the past two years were Destination: Meredith and Design Your Future. The theme for Orientation 2000 is Go for the Gold, a theme that revolved around the Olympics. This theme was selected because of the Summer Olympics, which will be held in Sydney, Australia, in September.

This year, Residence Life members arrived on Sunday, Aug. 13, Orientation Crew members arrived on Tuesday, Aug. 15, and Student Advisers arrived on Wednesday, Aug. 16 to prepare for the arrival of

new students.

Senior Elizabeth Jackson, an Orientation Crew member, said of her role, "I enjoy helping freshmen get adjusted to Meredith life."

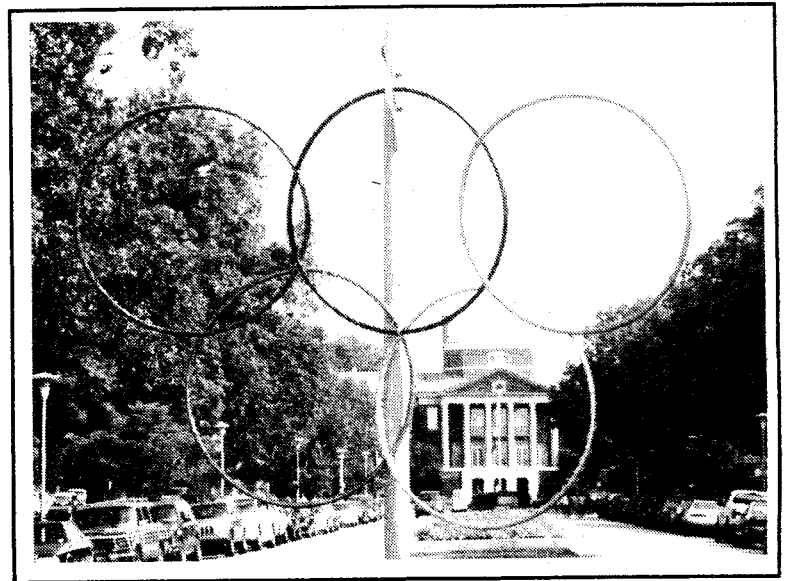
Fifty-six freshmen student advisers, 10 transfer student advisers, 28 resident assistants and 45 Orientation Crew members welcomed 406 on-campus freshmen, 27 commuting freshmen, 36 on-campus transfers and 52 commuting transfers.

Move-in began at 8 a.m. on Saturday, but some freshmen and their parents began arriving around 7:30 a.m.

After constructing the balloon rainbow at 5:30 a.m., Orientation Crew members greeted the new students and their families, directing them to their residence halls, providing information and handing out water bottles.

This year, as opposed to other years, students moving in placed cards on the dashboard of each car. These cards allotted them 30 minutes to unload, an effort on the part of the Campus Police to move cars out of the way quickly.

After lunch on Saturday, parents and freshmen attended different sessions and speeches introducing them to life at Meredith.



Freshmen were greeted with Olympic rings as they came to Meredith to Go for the Gold on Saturday. Johnson Hall greeted them behind the rings.

PHOTO BY STEVE WILSON

The day concluded with a barbeque in the courtyard.

Chrissie Bumgardner, co-director of the First Year Experience, said of the day, "I think it's gone as smoothly as it's ever gone." She cited the willingness of the Meredith community to participate as the reason Orientation went so well.

"The campus community was wonderful," she said.

Cheryl Jenkins, director of Student Activities and Leadership Development, agreed: "I can't even think of a hitch," she said.

Dena Price, assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Development, cited the weather as a factor in the ease of the day. "It's usually 95 degrees," she said. Instead, Saturday's weather was breezy and sunny.

Sunday, marked the beginning of transfer orientation, when the transfer student advisers began their part in orientation.

Rebecca Rawl, a sophomore transfer student adviser, said that she enjoyed "the chance to work with people learning about Meredith, not about college."

Stephanie Helms, director of Commuter Life and Special Services, played a main role in transfer orientation,

and she noted that orientation went well.

Also on Sunday, all new students attended a skit on campus life, performed by members of the Orientation Crew.

Jenkins noted that the skit was perhaps the most amusing part of orientation. "I just laughed the whole time," she said.

Sunday was also the day that sophomores, juniors and seniors returned to campus.

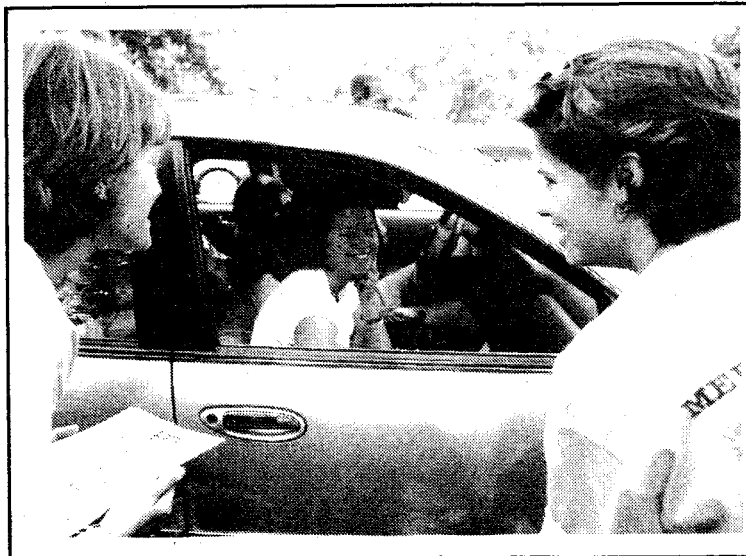
Monday, freshmen attended diversity training workshops at which they played the Game of Life. Each workshop was led by students and staff.

Monday was also drop/add for returning students.

Tuesday, freshmen registered for classes and bought books.

Today, Wednesday, an activities fair will be held at dinner. New and returning students can show their interest in clubs and organizations on campus.

Nikki Bissell, assistant director of Student Activities and Leadership Development, was impressed with the way that Orientation Crew members, student advisers and resident assistants worked during Orientation. "with everything that has been done and is still getting done."



Orientation Crew members Leslie Gilliland and Jennifer Wynne greet a Meredith freshman Saturday.

PHOTO BY STEVE WILSON