

Hartford excited about Meredith in 2001

STEPHANIE JORDAN
Copy Editor

We've heard all about Initiative 2000. Students have debated it endlessly. So now what?

According to Dr. Maureen Hartford, Meredith's president, now is the time to get excited because Initiative 2000 has "hit the ground running" in 2001.

The most immediate change that students will notice is known as HT² — high tech, high touch. And it's already underway.

The high-tech element includes not only the lap top initiative but also the upgraded computer labs for each upper class dorm and the preparing of campus buildings for wireless capabilities.

"We'll spend the summer wiring the campus to go wireless," laughed Hartford. "It sounds funny, but it will be a big job."

Hartford referred to a USA Today article as proof for what she believes to be the necessary high tech push. The article reports that 9.3% of college men are interested in technical careers, while only 1.3% of college women say the same thing.

"This is a big gap," Hartford said seriously. "Too big."

Along with closing the technology gap, 2001 will also bring immediate changes in the number of full-time faculty at Meredith, thus bringing in the high touch part of the equation.

With new faculty in each department, students can expect advisors with lighter advisory loads and more time as well as a more complex curricula.

"These are changes that students will begin to see spring" as new course schedules are worked out said Hartford.

Financial aid, the topic of most concern to students, is Hartford's "highest priority" right now.

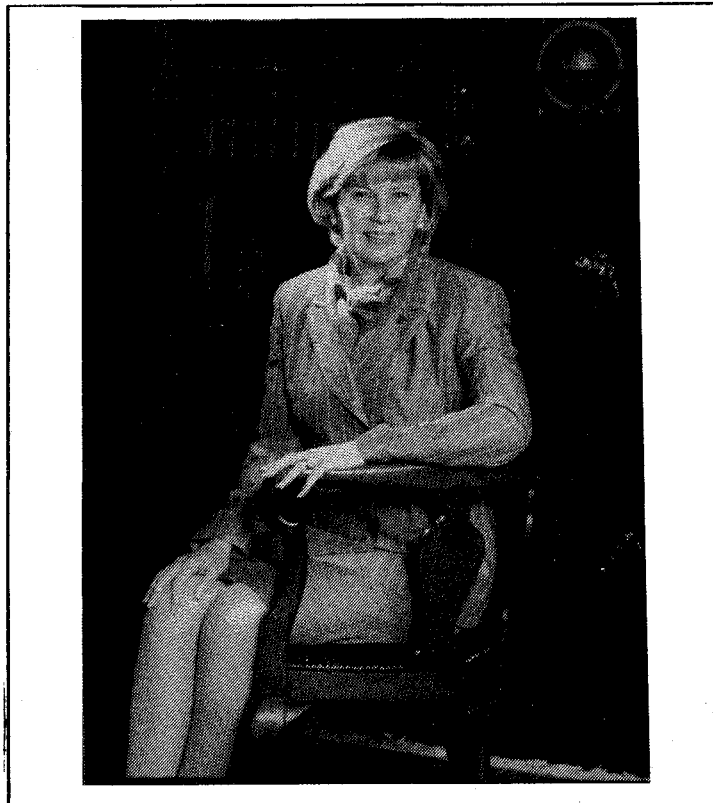
"We've doubled the money going into Meredith's contribution to student aid. We will still use the FAFSA formula and a lot will still be determined by the federal govern-

ment, but there is a lot more available," Hartford stressed.

She also mentioned that Meredith will definitely break ground for the new math and

science building before the summer ends.

"And this is just the tip of the iceberg of things to come," Hartford said excitedly.



Dr. Maureen Hartford is enthusiastic about Meredith's future.

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FIRE continued from page one

being set up to purify the air and some other clean-up had to be done, said Heidi LeCount, director of Residence Life.

LeCount said that students responded very well during the incident. According to an R.A. in Barefoot, as soon as seniors with extra beds heard the news of the fire, they were volunteering their rooms to juniors who may have needed a place to stay for the next week. "It is telling of the support system Meredith students have," said LeCount.

Jessica Landon, president of the Junior class, says that she has not heard any complaints from members of the class, although she did have to return several phone calls about the class meeting which was canceled on Monday night. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 5 at 9 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

As a resident of third Heil-

man, as well, Landon said it made her very nervous to see the suspended tiles removed and all the clean-up that had to be done. "It could have been a

lot worse; I am just glad that everyone was safe," she said.

Landon said she did overhear some students questioning whether smoking

should be allowed if it could cause such harm.

LeCount responded by saying that Residence life has not discussed changing any policies regarding smoking in rooms as of yet but it may be a future consideration.

Monday morning's fire was the third Heilman fire in the past four years. The most recent one was in April 2000, when a first-floor, laundry-room trash can caught fire.

"I am just glad that everyone was safe."

**--Jessica Landon,
junior class
president**

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