

Meredith holds first women's history conference

Surrounding schools will join in the discussion on public policy.

LEESHA AUSTIN
Features Editor

More than 19 scholars from several N.C. universities and colleges and Secretary of State Elaine Marshall will visit Meredith's campus on Friday, March 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. as participants of the first annual Women's History Conference, presented by the Department of History and Politics.

The conference, themed "Women Shaping Public Policy in Global Community," will begin with registration from 7:30-8 a.m. Sessions will start at 8:45 a.m. and will run until 5:30 p.m.

This one-day interdisciplinary conference will feature scholars from universities and colleges including NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke, Davidson, Wake Forest, North Carolina Central, Saint Augustine's and Meredith.

According to Dr. Joyce Blackwell-Johnson, professor of history and politics, scholars will present papers on the role that women have played in shaping public dialogue and policy, relative to women and gender issues, in their respective communities, past and present.

Blackwell-Johnson, who had the idea for the conference before coming to Meredith, explained, "I believe that Meredith is an ideal place for a Women's History Conference. It is a women's college, with a rich history and a long list of men and women who have helped to shape public policy and dialogue about women's issues."

According to Blackwell-Johnson, the conference consists of seven sessions. The morning sessions, which last until 11:15 a.m., will take place in Dogwood A. The afternoon sessions, which run from 12:55-5:45 p.m., will take place in the Chapel Commons Room.

She added that the luncheon, featuring keynote speaker Marshall, will be held from

11:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Oak Room. Marshall will deliver a speech entitled "History Really is What you Make of It." Dr. William Price, professor of history and politics, will preside at the luncheon.

In addition to Blackwell-Johnson and program committee co-chair Dr. Carolyn Happer, professor of history and politics, several Meredith undergraduate students are also working on preparations for the conference.

Students will help with the conference in four major areas: chairs of panels-introducing panel members and keeping time, hostesses-directing and offering assistance to guests, assisting with registration and assisting with the luncheon.

"I have been so pleased with the level of interest by Meredith's students and their eagerness to assist in anyway possible," stated Blackwell-Johnson.

She added that students are also working behind the scenes on publicity, name tags, designing tickets and programs and communicating with conference participants about needed information or materials.

Annette Snyder, a senior history major and education major, designed fliers and sent them to every college and university in N.C. She said of the conference, "It is important for Meredith to host the Women's History Conference because it allows us to spotlight women's issues."

Blackwell-Johnson report-

ed that the response for submitting proposals has been excellent and that "the conference is open to the entire campus community and the public-at-large."

Of the conference's future, Blackwell-Johnson said, "I do plan to make the conference an annual event. Furthermore, I plan to take the conference national next year. With more time to plan, and a great data base for potential speakers/presenters, I believe that this goal can be accomplished."

She added that she will be presenting at the Berkshire Conference on Women in Storrs, Connecticut in June. As the largest conference for scholars conducting research on women's issues in the United States, the conference will present Blackwell-Johnson an opportunity to "network and invite persons to campus next year."

She added, "If participation is high, I plan to have a two-day conference. We'll see."

Blackwell-Johnson also explained that the conference would not have been possible without generous funding from the Office of Academic Affairs and the Department of History and Politics.

According to Snyder, "The conference strengthens what we are as a women's college."

Tickets to Luncheon cost \$9 for non-students and \$5 for students. The last day to purchase tickets is Friday, March 15. Call 760-2289 or email johnsonj@meredith.edu if you will be able to attend or for more information.

News Briefs

College Research Committee calls for papers

JULIA DUNLAP
Contributing Writer

Undergraduate Research Committee is seeking submissions of projects involving some collaboration between faculty and students for the second annual Meredith Undergraduate Research Conference. These projects could be in any area, including social sciences, life science, humanities, art and design, dance and music. Projects may be senior theses, seminar work, recitals or exhibitions.

Students may submit their work in the form of a poster, paper or presentation. Applications for submissions are due March 8 to the Undergraduate Research Program Office in Ledford 100. Applications, which must include a 200 word abstract, may be picked up from any of the bulletin boards on campus or printed from the Internet at <http://www.meredith.edu/urp/meredithurconf.htm>.

The conference will be held on April 17. Participation in the conference can yield valuable presentation experience, as well as an impressive notation on a resume or graduate school application. The Undergraduate Research Conference is an excellent opportunity to display finished projects, as well as discuss on-going research. Many areas of the campus have been reserved in order to accommodate all kinds of projects and presentations. Meet with your faculty collaborator as soon as possible to discuss submitting your project in this exciting venture.

Meredith Herald

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The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

Alcohol Awareness Week

March 4-6

Monday

March 4- 6:30pm, Cate Center 2nd Floor Lounge

"Rape Under the Influence - Sexual Assault on Campus."

View this eye opening docudrama
 Free pizza and drinks will be served

Wednesday

March 6- 7:30, 1st Stringfield Parlor.

"String-break"

Get ready for spring break with mocktails, a limbo contest,
 hula-hoop contest, best Hawaiian outfit competition...
 Door prizes and more!

Sponsored by Commuter Life and Special Services,
 the Counseling Center and Stringfield Residence Hall Board.