



Graduation speaker announced

□ **Commencement speaker confirmed just in time for graduation.**

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Editor In Chief

The College confirmed yesterday that author Marion Luna Brem will address the Class of 2002 on May 12 in the McIver Amphitheatre, an announcement that comes with only a little over a month left before the exercises take place.

Brem has gained national recognition for her book *The Seven Greatest Truths About Successful Women*, a work that recounts her rise as a successful entrepreneur in the male-dominated automotive industry despite a battle with cancer.

The book was named one of the Ten Business Books for 2001.

Brem is part of only 3% of women who own automotive dealerships in the United States. She now owns two franchises in Corpus Christi, Texas, and four other businesses including an ad

agency, a publishing company, a real estate firm and part of a local bank. The official decision to invite Brem came after months of debate among a committee composed of Dr. Maureen Hartford, President of the College; Rory Mueller, assistant to the President; Dr. Rosalind Reichard, vice president of Academic Affairs and the officers of the senior class.

The committee began meeting officially in early September to draft a list of prospective speakers.

Among those



Author and entrepreneur Marion Luna Brem will address the Class of 2002 on May 12.

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on the list, according to Mueller, were news anchors such as Katie Couric of NBC's *The Today Show* and Leslie Stahl of CBS's *60 minutes*; New York mayor Rudy Guillani and a New York City firefighter.

Senior class President Christine Kelley said that initially the committee was looking for women speakers related to the news media or who were involved in Sept. 11.

However, Kelley said that "after Sept. 11, [the committee] had a hard time getting someone" to commit to the commencement

date because of the volatile nature of the journalism field.

According to Kelley, Mueller suggested contacting Brem.

"We needed a speaker," said Kelley, and Brem met the committee's requirement of "a woman who had really done something."

Senior Courtney Arrington said that after Senate candidate Elizabeth Dole spoke at commencement last year, she was hoping Dole could "come back two years in a row."

"When I heard Liddy Dole was coming," said Arrington, "I thought Meredith was coming into her own."

Kelley said that she is pleased with the committee's selection.

"A woman overcoming challenges is great for any young woman going out into the world," she said. "I think she appeals to all the students."

The College's students will

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Landscape master plan in progress

□ **Renovations will "protect the natural beauty of Meredith."**

LADONNA LOGUE
Staff Writer

Beginning soon, Meredith College will be taking on a new look—again.

With the help of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, a design firm, some student suggestions for improving the campus will be taken seriously and perhaps reevaluated in a new master plan.

One representative of the firm, Bill Colehower, said, "An important challenge of the 'master plan' will be to devise strategies that protect the natural beauty of

Meredith."

Over the past couple of weeks, representatives from the design firm have met with both students and faculty to receive suggestions and begin planning for renovations.

The Student Government Association for 2002-2003 was able to meet with the firm March 19.

Some of the student requests voiced by SGA included a game room for males and females to spend time together on campus and extended hours of the BeeHive.

There was also an open forum for faculty and students last Thursday, Mar. 21 in the Chapel.

The firms representatives on campus included: Carol Wedge, principal in charge; Bill Massey, architect;

William Colehower; and Peter Crowley.

Massey's goal for Meredith is to "energize the campus, have everyone be involved, and embrace the changes. If everyone remains interested and patient, the improvements will be made throughout the campus."

The desires of students and faculty Massey heard repeatedly include: a variety of housing types, rather than the typical suite style; better recreation and athletic fields; upgrades for older buildings (including the renovation of Harris and Hunter); enhancing the natural landscape; more outside gathering areas to accommodate larger groups or classes; pedestrian walkways; and better lighting.

The highly-demanded

upgrades focused on parking and the heating and cooling systems.

"It is important to maintain the essence of Meredith—the quality of its faculty and the interactions between faculty and faculty, faculty and students, students and students," said Massey.

The plans for renovation will evolve over the next ten months. The firm will also be returning to meet with the students again in order to provide feedback and give time to react and respond to the plans. This is tentatively scheduled for April 26.

However, the firm cannot guarantee an open forum for students to attend. Students should listen for updates on future meetings and, if possible, be present and

willing to contribute to discussions.

Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott was established in 1874 and has worked on different renovation projects, including projects at Harvard (1960), Cambridge (1939), Dartmouth (1962) and Vanderbilt (1965). The firm won the American Institute of Architects' National Honor Award in 1970 for their design of the Tramway Terminal in California.

When asked if he enjoyed working with the College, Colehower answered, "Everyone we have had the chance to interview has been wonderful and eager to participate. Most important, everyone is excited about the future of Meredith College."