

News Briefs

Artemisia Symposium to be held on campus

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Meredith College will celebrate women's accomplishments throughout history by hosting "Artemisia: Heroic Women from Antiquity into Modern Oblivion," on April 12.

The Artemisia symposium is the culmination of Meredith's year-long campus-wide project focusing on the life of artist Artemisia Gentileschi.

While she isn't now well known, Artemisia, the daughter of painter Orazio Gentileschi, worked as an artist during a time when women artists were not taken seriously.

Papers and panels will be presented in Meredith's Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center, room 137, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Studio art works created in response to Artemisia will be on display in the Weems Gallery.

The symposium will feature a keynote address by Dr. Mary D. Garrard, an internationally recognized authority on Artemisia and one of the foremost scholars to investigate the historical erasure of women's contributions. Garrard's address, titled "Artemisia Gentileschi: The Reception and Repression of an Artistic Identity," will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the North Carolina Museum of Art auditorium.

All Artemisia events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.meredith.edu/art/artemis-ia.htm



The Campus Forum

Commencement speaker: What does UNC and NC State have on Meredith?

□ Why can't we attract big names like our surrounding colleges have done?

JONI SMITH
Features Editor

It is official. Author and entrepreneur Marion Luna Brem will speak at Meredith's commencement.

Now let's talk about it. Students and people within the Meredith community want to know why UNC will host John Edwards and NC State will host the *Washington Post's* William Rasberry, but Meredith will host an author and rather successful entrepreneur--but still a speaker without the notability of the big names area schools have drawn.

While Brem appears to be a high prospect for a speaker--after all, she does own six businesses in a male-dominated business world--the question that still lingers in the back of many student, staff, faculty and alumnae minds is this: Why can't Meredith attract prominent professionals when other schools in our area can?

Some have suggested the reason behind this is because

Meredith is a small school. However, Sweet Briar College, a small women's college in Virginia, will be hosting Hilary Clinton this May.

Meredith's size has nothing to do with its inability to attract well-known speakers.

Why don't we look a bit further to determine what the real issue really is behind all of this?

Is it the emphasis on traditions and leadership seminars instead of academics?

Maybe this misplaced emphasis is also the reason that the *News and Observer* prints more about Cornhuskin' than on Meredith's students and clubs excelling in academic areas. After all, we are here to get an education, right?

Or are we paying our ever-increasing tuition to do ice-breakers and make posters?

Meredith College is fortunate enough to have excellent staff and teachers and capable students. This is no different from UNC or NC State.

And I would go so far as to say that the quality of education and the opportunities available to students far exceed what a larger public university can offer.

I can say that. I've taken classes at both institutions and still prefer my education at Meredith.

The only difference is those schools have reputations built upon academic excellence and not on their extracurricular activities.

Politics is involved in everything and getting a commencement speaker is no different.

These speakers have to get something out of preparing a speech and taking time out of their schedules to travel to various schools.

The mere notoriety of an honorary degree that commencement speakers get for presiding over graduation ceremonies at UNC or NC State is often a large factor in a candidate's willingness to accept the task of delivering a commencement address.

Unfortunately that notoriety is not as readily given to those who speak at Meredith, and frankly, that is a problem.

Isn't our graduation ceremony worth enough to the administration to get a speaker people in the audience recognize?

Dear Editor,

I was disheartened to read about the formation of Angels for Life. I'm pro-choice but believe that everyone is entitled to their own opinions.

However, I was distressed to see that one of the club's goals is education. People who are against abortion are going to be biased in educating about abortion. They fear they can't give "facts" without putting their opinions in too.

I worked at an abortion clinic, so I know what goes on during the procedure. I don't need a pro-life group to "educate" me.

I'm afraid that this club is going to dispense misinformation in the name of "facts." Abortion is very controversial. Both sides have their own agendas--no matter what they say. Pro-choice wants women to have the freedom to choose what to do with their bodies. Pro-life wants us to care about the unborn child above the mother.

It wasn't until 1973 that women were given control over their own bodies. I just don't want students given information that isn't true. Plus, I'm sure there are Meredith women who have had an abortion. A club like this could bring up painful issues for these women.

We're all entitled to our opinions, but it shouldn't be at the expense of others.

Lindsey McAdams
Class of 2003