

Connie Harris Named Vice President for Institutional Advancement

National search brings Harris to Meredith.

CHRISTY SADLER
Managing Editor

After an intensive national search that has lasted since February, Meredith College has a new vice president for institutional advancement.

Connie Harris came to Meredith on August 12 from Wabash College, an all-male school in Crawfordsville, Ind., where she was assistant dean for leadership gifts. Prior to working at Wabash, Harris worked in both service learning and institutional advancement at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., and was director of devel-

opment in her last year at Earlham.

According to Jean Jackson, vice president for student development and chair of the search committee, Harris was chosen from a field of about 65 applicants, three of whom were invited to campus to interview for the position.

According to Jackson, Harris was chosen because she "demonstrated strength in all areas of institutional advancement."

"She was impressive not only in her written materials but also in her confidence and command throughout the interview process," Jackson said.

In her new position, Harris will be responsible for directing the institutional advancement staff and supervising development and alumnae and parent relations. One of her main responsibilities will be leading Meredith's upcoming \$33.5 million capital campaign.

Harris, who describes herself as "a neophyte sailor and a middle child who was born and reared on a farm in southwest Ohio," also considers herself an advocate of single-gender and liberal arts education.

"I believe that there is much more of an emphasis on the individual students [in single-gender educa-

tion]," she said. "Also, students find that they are challenged by the academics without many of the other distractions of a coeducational environment."

"There are such strong relationships that come living and learning with your suitemates and classmates in single sex schools, and these enduring relationships and the passionate loyalties that alumnae hold dear are the things that make Institutional Advancement work a joy," Harris said.

Harris is already beginning to experience these relationships at Meredith. According to Jackson, she participated in several orientation activities, including Sunday morning's

chapel service, the campus life skit, and a commuter orientation dinner.

"[Harris] will bring to Meredith her institutional advancement expertise and her genuine wish both to understand and be an integral part of this community," Jackson said.

"I'm so grateful to be here to help serve the College and appreciate Dr. Hartford allowing me this opportunity," Harris said. "I am interested in representing Meredith honestly and passionately to Her alumnae and friends, and I'm going to have a wonderful time doing so."

Harris replaces Jane Dittmann, who left Meredith on July 1, 2002 to move to London.

Faculty, students consider summer research a success

Summer research projects prove beneficial for both sides.

JONI SMITH
Editor in Chief

Over the summer, 13 professors paired up with students who share similar research interests for a summer of intensive research and critical thinking through the Meredith Undergraduate Research Program.

Many disciplines were represented in the program this summer, including departments ranging from history and English to education and biology.

"Many people assume that the Undergraduate Research Program is open only for students and professors in the natural sciences because of the UROP program, but that's not true,"

said Director Rhonda Zingraff. "The Undergraduate Research Program is open to professors and students of any field."

UROP, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, is a program funded by a grant given to Meredith by Glaxo. This grant was given to the college for a duration of three years, with this year being the last year the grant will cover.

This program's purpose was to foster students' interest in biology, chemistry, earth science, environmental science, computer science, math and physics by pairing them with faculty who share research interests.

In contrast, the Undergraduate Research Program operates by funds from Meredith's operating

budget. Whereas UROP supported projects in various science related fields, the Undergraduate Research Program supports all academic disciplines.

Last year was the first year for the program, and next year, because the Glaxo grant ends, the Undergraduate Research Program will encompass the projects previously funded by UROP.

Zingraff expects the summer research projects to become more competitive in the future due to increased funding during the academic year.

"Because we expect, and hope, for more research programs to be occurring during the academic year in the future, the availability

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