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## Scholarship Dinner is a treat for students and donors

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Editor-in-Chief

Last Thursday a group of scholarship recipients and donors gathered for a dinner in the chapel parking lot under what Dr. Hartford referred to as the "big top," a large white tent that was set up because the number in attendance exceeded what Belk Dining Hall could hold on one side. About 250 people were in attendance.

Connie Harris, vice president for institutional advancement, opened the dinner by commending the scholarship recipients for their accomplishments and thanking the donors for their generosity. She said that she felt the goal of the evening, "to bring our generous benefactors and their families on campus for a night of fellowship with their student recipients," was accomplished.

Harris also commented that, "It's important for donors to make the connection with a face, a story and a future...so that they know how much impact their gifts have on students' lives."

Equally, she added, "it's important for Meredith students to know that there are loyal and generous donors to scholarship funds. It's important for them to know them, thank them and make the connection between their scholarship and the folks who believe in supporting them in attaining their educational goals."

Students sat with the donors who contributed to the scholarship they received. Senior Meredith Tuck, recipient of the Wachovia Scholarship for Excellence, attended the dinner. "I thought it was a great opportunity to meet my sponsors," she said. "We talked about everything from jobs, to families, to weddings, and everything in between. It was not just a time for me to be formal with people who have given me money, I think we all genuinely had a nice evening."

Senior Aundrea Hildreth, recipient of the Broyhill and Anne C. Dahle Scholarships, as well as the Ledford Service Award, spoke at the dinner about

how the scholarships she received help her achieve a dream she did not always think was possible, receiving her bachelor's degree.

"Tonight was wonderful," she said. "I in no way, though, wanted my speech to just reflect me but all the scholarship recipients. As I said in my speech, there is nothing I have done that others in the crowd had not also accomplished. I just felt honored to be asked to speak tonight."

Senior Amanda Austin, also spoke at the dinner about service learning, a factor that has added to her overall college experience that she would not have had if she had to go to another school. Austin commented, "In my speech I hope my appreciation was evident to all of the contributors to scholarships. I feel that my experiences here would not be have been the same, had it not been for scholarships. They allowed me the opportunity to remain at Meredith."

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## Forum tackles academic dishonesty

**LADONNA  
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News Editor

Meredith's Student Government Association, Student Life Committee, and Honor Council sponsored the Got Integrity? Forum last Wednesday to gather student and faculty input on a severe increase in academic dishonesty cases on campus.

The Honor Council said it reviewed 18 total academic dishonesty cases last year, and 14 of those were for plagiarism.

One attendee suggested that perhaps the increase in cases of plagiarism was the result of heightened awareness or sensitivity to the issue rather than an increase in dishonesty.

However, the main question addressed to faculty, staff and students was: "what steps can we all take to improve academic integrity in the classroom, in the dorm rooms and off campus?"

Some of the students who attended the forum stated that they would be more likely to confront a dishonest student rather

than to turn her in to a faculty member because they believe going directly to the Honor Council or the teacher would be unfair to the student. However, Honor Council wants the students to realize that not turning a student in for academic dishonesty is also a violation of the Honor Code.

Some people also mentioned that some faculty members have neglected their responsibilities to the Honor Code and have not turned in dishonest students to the Honor Council.

Dr. Betty Webb, English professor and director of study abroad, has been a character witness at Honor Council trials. She said, "I feel like my judgment is being questioned when I speak at the Honor Council."

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