

## Hege, Hottel each want to serve Meredith as 2003-04 SGA president

REBECCA BARRINGER  
Staff Reporter

Student Government Association (SGA) presidential candidates spoke in Kresge Auditorium on Monday at 10 a.m. to help inform students of their platforms.

"I thought the speeches were really great," said current SGA president Lora Tillman. "The candidates did a great job articulating who they are, what experience they have, and what they can bring to the position of SGA president."

Presidential candidate Jenna Hottel emphasized her "dedication, loyalty, and integrity" to the student body and to Meredith College.

"I will be committed to representing Meredith and I

will always be here to listen and stand up for the issues of the student body," Hottel said.

In addition to these qualities, Hottel said that she has shown a leadership role through her position as a resident assistant for a freshman hall.

She has shown her dedication to the school through her two years on the volleyball team. Hottel cites athletics as a great way to unite students of different backgrounds and interests.

"By uniting together to stand behind the athletics, we stand together behind our college name," she said.

Her campaign tag, Jenna "Full-Throttle" Hottel, stems from an old volleyball nickname, she said.

"That's how I approach

life," she said. "If elected, I would show passion for students and my desire to make a difference."

Candidate Erin Hege focused on her experience, including her current position as SGA vice president.

Hege discussed a current project she is working on to create a SGA Web site, complete with comment boxes, a photo gallery, and online voting for future elections.

Hege said the research she has done indicates a 25 percent increase in voter turnout once a school implements this online voting system.

"It will be able to raise student participation while also accommodating to student convenience," Hege said. "It's a win-win situation."

If elected, Hege proposes to encourage diversity among the student population by giving diversity-related issues more attention. She proposes creating an additional seat for the executive board to advocate diversity-related issues.

"It's too large an issue to include under student life," she said. "It should be included on the executive board."

Hege said that she would like to build on her current role in the SGA as vice president.

"I feel I would be dedicated, committed and passionate as president of the SGA," Hege said. "I believe in the integrity of the student body and the power of each individual student. That is the reason I am running."

Both candidates said they are looking forward to the last week before the election.

"It will be intense but that is the way a political race is suppose to be," Hege said. "I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging week ahead."

"I think this race has been a big learning experience," Hottel said.

"Regardless of the outcome, I've had a great time."

Current SGA President Tillman says she will also enjoy the race. "I've run in the last three elections," she said. "It's nice to watch everyone else run around and be able to just sit back and get educated."

## Honors students enjoy a mountain excursion

JESSIE WILLSON  
Staff Reporter

Meredith Honors students were offered the chance to climb up a mountain of discovery this past weekend as they traveled to Black Mountain, N.C., to learn about the former Black Mountain College and its contributions to the arts.

Vans left Meredith at 8 a.m. on Friday carrying the 29 students and a handful of faculty. As an extra inspiration for the weekend, the group stayed at Blue Ridge Assembly, a YMCA/conference center that once served as the original campus for Black Mountain College.

Established in 1933, Black Mountain College lasted just over two decades, promoting radical experimentation and mod-

ern artistic conventions. While testing the limits and often crossing the lines of societal norms, the students and faculty considered each other as equals and shared the desire to find new ways of creating and expressing themselves through the arts.

The revolutionary ideas developed at the college became popular nationwide. Unfortunately, those once interested in attending the school eventually left Black Mountain for bigger markets, such as New York and San Francisco.

Dr. Garry Walton, English professor and head of the Meredith Honors Program, chose Black Mountain College as the subject of this year's Honors retreat for a number of reasons. "The college was made in a kind of rev-

olutionary moment," Walton said. He also said Black Mountain College had contributed unique styles and creativity to the artistic world.

Walton, who said he admired those who endeavored at the former college, told his Meredith group, "I hope that we will be able to re-create some of the moments that they had here."

Dr. Janice Swab, a professor in Meredith's biology department, led the herbs group, describing the environmental atmosphere in which the Black Mountain College community lived. Pointing out the foliage within the campus grounds, Swab shared with her group the origins and utility of everything natural that the eye could see, as well as how fragile it all could

be. Swab said, "We refuse to control our automobile traffic...it will do the [environment] in eventually."

Dr. Jack Roller of instrumental music teamed with Alyson Colwell-Waber from the dance department to lead the music/dance group. The duo guided their group to an understanding and appreciation of Black Mountain College's unorthodox views of music and dance. Roller and Colwell-Waber exposed them to Merce Cunningham and John Cage, whose raw techniques transformed everyday sounds and movements into choreography and compositions.

Suzanne Britt, a professor in the English department, inspired journaling to help her students express themselves through writing, just

as the Black Mountain College students once did.

Sophomore Allison Clapp said, "It was a great way to get to know everyone in a way you wouldn't normally do."

Reflecting the basic lesson of the exercises, Freshman Kelly Beth Smith said, "It's not just who I am, but how I express myself."

Art professor Carol Hayes inspired the crafts group by supplying everyone with clay to make a personal tile. Hayes taught her group how to do positive and negative casting, enabling them to create a mold for their tiles so they could make replicas. The theme Hayes chose for the project was the idea of one's sacred space, and