

Campus Faces: Garry Walton

JESSIE WILLSON
Staff Reporter

Few men are so daring as Dr. Garry Walton, English professor and Honors Program director. His ties are a bold leap into the depths of art and literature. And when he doesn't have a camera around his neck, it's because he's holding it up to capture a perfect "Meredith moment." For those students in the Honors Program and the English department, Walton has become a true guide and friend. As he moves on to become the dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, even more Meredith women will be able to gain insight from Walton. Until then, here is a glimpse into his interesting life.

Positions: Professor of English, Honors Director
Hometown: South Boston, Va.

Best advice ever received: "Have fun." Walton notes that he was a very straight kid and has been trying his best to outgrow that.

Family: Walton has a "wonderful wife" and two sons, one a junior at Oberlin College and the other a high school senior here in Raleigh.

Education: After considering chemical engineering, psychology, religion and history, Walton eventually majored in English at the University of Virginia. He then went on to receive his M.A. and Ph.D. in English. For his concentration, he says he initially chose William Faulkner, but decided on Shakespeare because the Elizabethan period was as far back as he could go without having to learn any foreign languages.

Favorite class taken: A graduate seminar in

Shakespeare - the students made the professor sit in the back of the room and stay silent for the first hour so the class could discuss the works. Calling it the "Dead Shakespeare Society," Walton explained that the students would meet before the class to dissect the plays and assign parts, making the class a true experience.

Why he chose Meredith: He began working in university administration; however, his desire was to be a teacher and scholar. Because Meredith was close to home, was in a nice, "attractive" area and produced such fine alumnae, he settled here.

Years with Meredith: 20 years, with the last four serving as Honors Program director

Favorite book: *Haroun and the Sea of Stones* by Salman Rushdie

Best part about Meredith College: The people

Favorite play: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

Favorite author (other than Shakespeare): "William Faulkner.

Maybe," he says.

Favorite food: Pizza on Friday nights with his family

Favorite movie: Because Walton doesn't care to watch movies more than once, he answers with a laugh, "Whatever I haven't seen yet."

If he could live anywhere else: Boulder, Col., because he wants a college community with a mix of mountains

Three things he'd need to have on a deserted island: "My beloved, duct tape and a volleyball named Wilson," he says.

Dream vacation: Inspired by the previous question, Walton says a deserted Caribbean beach.

Role models: "My parents and my wife.... Much of what I've learned, I learned from them," he says.

Hidden talent: Walton plays the guitar when no one is looking.

Words to the students: "Take time to get to know your classmates and faculty. Those relationships matter more than anything," he says.

What people weren't looking for on the first Easter.



EveryStudent.com

Instead people were searching for the body of Jesus of Nazareth. A man who claimed to be God. A man who said he would prove his deity by bodily rising from the dead. No other religious leader has made such a claim and backed it up with such an event. For an article that gives the reasons that Jesus really is God and wants to have a relationship with you, see the feature article "Beyond Blind Faith" on the Web at EveryStudent.com.

Student life forum addresses concerns about war, housing

KATELYN GORDON
Staff Reporter

SGA held a "Free Your Mind" forum on Tuesday, April 8, in the Stringfield side of Belk Dining Hall. Approximately 50 Meredith students, faculty, and staff attended the last forum of the year, which was led by sophomore SGA Executive Board Secretary Sarah Wilson.

The majority of the forum was spent discussing the war with Iraq, and history and politics professors Michael Novak and Jim Piazza led the discussion. Students and faculty had the opportunity to ask questions from the floor and hear Novak and Piazza's opinions on the war.

Students and faculty expressed their concern about what will happen after the war is over. According to Piazza, the diversity of Iraq will make post-war events interesting. There are three distinctive groups within Iraq that have been kept from fighting because of Hussein's harsh leadership. The Kurds in northern Iraq want their own country while the Shi'ites in southern Iraq want a fundamentalist Islamic government. The United Nations will be involved in the establishment of Iraq's new government even though a definite plan has not been decided upon.

Another question raised was how the United States is being perceived around the world. Novak explained that the U.S. will not be "judged on what happens during the war but what happens after the war." If the U.S. occupies Iraq for a long period after the end of

war, it may appear that oil was a main motivation in the attack on Iraq.

College President Maureen Hartford asked about the treatment and education of women in Iraq. Piazza responded that Iraqi women are actually thought of as independent and modern, especially in comparison to Saudi Arabian women who are not allowed to drive. In the early years of his regime, Hussein was considered a feminist.

The intensive media coverage and its effects on viewers and children was another topic of discussion. This is the first war where viewers have been able to watch the events as they unfold and coverage has been intense. Novak encouraged students to "base their reaction on as full an understanding as they can manage" when they hear about war events.

The other issue discussed was housing for next year. Rising sophomores will be allowed to live in Poteat, which had been closed this year for renovations. Because of limited time and money, Poteat was not renovated, but it was cleaned up and slightly refurbished. Sophomores who will be living in Poteat next year will have an opportunity to see the rooms during an Open House on April 27. According to Hartford, the College is considering whether it is worth it to make the renovations to Poteat or if they should tear it down and rebuild.