

# Exclusive: The *Herald* gets up close and personal with Judy Woodruff

**Woodruff, a former student at Meredith, reflects on her time at the College and her current role as a woman in the media.**

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News Editor

I was recently given the privilege to speak to Judy Woodruff, CNN anchor, senior correspondent and class of 2003 commencement speaker. I first asked her if she had decided on a topic for her commencement speech. Woodruff said she had not yet decided on a direct topic but wants to address the challenges and opportunities that await us.

Many are curious about her time at Meredith and what activities or events she was passionate about being involved in.

Woodruff participated in student government and was her sophomore class-president. She recalls May Day, which sounds similar to our current Spring Fling.

The memory she recalls vividly is freshman biology. She was involved in many extracurricular activities and didn't study for her upcoming exam. During her time at Meredith, the residents had lights-out at 11 p.m. She remembers going into her closet in her fourth Stringfield dorm room and cramming all night. The next morning she stared at her test for 10 straight minutes while her mind went completely blank. She had to approach her professor and confess her mistake and he allowed her to take the exam later.

Woodruff says she also remembers great times with great friends, some of whom she still keeps in touch with today. Her other

memories include late nights at the library and dates with the NCSU, Duke and UNC men.

With so much news occurring worldwide now, I asked Woodruff how she felt about her profession during such crucial times. She responds, "I love what I do... It has been very intense and sometimes disturbing." Woodruff adds, "The nation has accomplished an enormous undertaking and I have been very affected by it and I am glad it is over."

One of the most controversial issues with the war is embedded journalism, or journalists who are in the units at battle. They are with the soldiers in the desert and are sending reports and video footage of live combat. Woodruff recalls wondering if it was a good idea. She says, "the journalists depend on the units for their safety and

many have performed well."

"They must maintain their distance in order to have accurate perspectives," she says. She adds, "Inevitably it colors the world's views of the war." She says the issue raises many questions regarding objectivity and that everyone should consider their views on the subject.

She mentions that many commentators across the globe are saying that the United States' media is too patriotic. She says, "It is hard to be objective."

...Being at an all-female college we learn about the trials awaiting us being women entering the occupational world. Regarding discrimination against women in the work force, Woodruff says she has definitely seen it. "I was hit by a hockey stick when I first left college," she says. "I was fortunate because I

directly benefited from the women's movement....

Managers had mandates to hire more women."

Woodruff adds, "there is still discrimination today it is more subtle but it still exists." "We have made a lot of progress...we just need to keep at it," she added. She says Meredith College "makes you believe all things are possible and that women can do anything."

If you want to see her before commencement, "Judy Woodruff's Inside Politics" airs weekdays from 4-4:30 p.m.

In addition to her show, Judy also anchors a half-hour news show from 3-3:30 p.m. titled "Live From Washington."

## The following students received academic or leadership awards during ceremonies held on April 24:

Aline Naomi Washington  
Kelly Beth Smith  
Bethany Mariam Brown  
Megan Alessi Chaney  
Jamilah E. Chadwick  
April Joy Graham  
Natasha Dawn Matheny  
Constance Christy Dale  
Meredith Patterson Parker  
Lora Elizabeth Tillman  
Margaret Ellen Thompson  
Karen Sue Bobinyec  
Sarah Elizabeth Wilson  
Amanda Paige Denny  
Sara Gordon Junker  
Megan Marie Coleman  
Rebekah Joy Heath  
Sarah Caroline Hook  
Catherine Segner Bridge  
Carolyn B. Clark  
Anne Malloy Latour  
Erika Reid Parquet

Polly Dawson Doliner  
Margaret Ellen Thompson  
Jeanne Rose Flynn  
Erika Lee Snitzer  
Sarah Melody Olson  
Holly Michelle McGhin  
Christy Lynn Sadler  
Victoria Kay Bunch  
Macie Gordon Jochem  
Karen C. Sampson  
Merrily Jan Strickland  
Christina Shawn DeWees  
Kimberly Ann Turnage  
Anne Fountain Hamrick  
Bailey Guthrie Rich  
Joni Marie Smith  
Beth Marie Jarvis  
Erin Elizabeth Taylor  
Ann Marie Winterton  
Hannah Dawn Flauaus  
Amanda Rane Austin  
DeLynn Taylor

Jaime Nicole Mewborn  
Jacquelyn Nicole Helms  
Lariza Miranda Chalfant  
Stenisha Danette Green  
Sharla Jean Smith  
Heidi Nicole Brown  
Jessica Mollie Sheppard  
Lara Kristen Stroud  
Kimberly Denise Pearce  
Sandee Jene Bizzell  
Emily Daniel Haley  
Rebecca Anne Perkinson  
Tara Baker Dew  
Emily Lambert McLendon  
Elizabeth H. Hughes  
Kari Anna Blankenhorn  
Rebecca Smith Johnson  
Sarah Kathryn Watson  
Lena J. Brooks  
Jacquelyn Leigh Cole  
Alisa Kathleen Zuburg  
Kristen Lee Tripp

Mary Kathryn Schreier  
Michelle Lynn Scott  
Elizabeth Ann Crowder  
Taryn Elizabeth Slozak  
Kristen McNeill Spell  
Meredith Miller Tuck  
Rachel Louise French  
Satina C. Smith  
Leslie Scott van den Berg  
Amanda Lynne Bordeaux  
Amanda C. Beasley  
Amanda Scott Warren  
Megan Butler Deane  
Kelly Elizabeth Cain  
Allison Amelia Shivar  
Beth Kathleen Miller  
Dori M. White  
Ashley Denyse Dews  
Elizabeth Holden Burke  
Tiffany Sheree McKinnon  
Erica S. Moorefield  
Christelle M. Geisler

Lauren Elizabeth Highfill  
Heidi Leigh Turlington  
Susan Laine Edwards  
Minoti Bhupendra Amin  
Crystal Devon McLeod  
Ashley L. Brown  
Amber Michelle Brock  
Jennifer M. Noel  
Sarah Margaret Gransee  
Katie Leistra Fuller  
Emily Jane Bennett  
Sonja Kristen Turner  
Whitney C. Crowder  
Mary Kathryn Hardy  
Jenny Ruth Sloop  
Blair C. Briggs  
Tamar Norlena Harris  
Jennifer Schwachenwald  
Angela Dawn King