

# New developments in undergraduate research program

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The Undergraduate Research Program hosts a day for "Celebrating Student Achievement" each spring that showcases students' research projects ranging from the fine arts to the natural sciences.

Last year marked the beginning of this annual event. With the growth of research projects and plans to initiate undergraduate research in more programs across the campus, the Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee has recently implemented rolling deadlines for submissions.

The rolling deadlines for research grant and travel grant requests are September 15, November 1, January 20, 2004, and

May 1, 2004.

"[The deadlines] represent a new approach to funding for us, based on our experiences from 2001 and 2002," said Dr. Rhonda Zingraff, Director of the Undergraduate Research Program.

She said that some requests are seasonal, and the program needs to be aware of ways to divide the budget so that no one is left out at the end of the year.

"In the past, we responded to requests anytime they arrived, but without knowing what else might show up within days or weeks we were always taking some risks in deciding how much to deplete the budget. With the rolling deadlines and the patterns from past years, we have a system to help us match needs and

expenditures in a more predictable way," she added.

Members of the Advisory Committee who reached the decision regarding the rolling deadlines were Drs. Rhonda Zingraff, Cammey Cole, Chris Eschbach, Jim Fogle, John Mecham, Jim Piazza, Walda Powell, Jody Roubanis, and Susan Squires and Meagan Chaney ('03).

The program will present its first event entitled "A Taste of Research" from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on October 2 in the Science and Mathematics Building.

This event will showcase summer research stipend recipients' projects. "A Taste of Research" began last year after the first summer of stipend awards for research.

Zingraff said that the program hopes to continue this event each year because it provides an opportunity for Meredith to appreciate the accomplishments of summer.

She also said that this is a great way for students who are curious about research opportunities to see actual projects here. The event is informal and informative.

There is no doubt that doing research as an undergraduate student offers many benefits. Some of those include gaining confidence in one's own academic strengths, clarifying career interests, and developing relationships with faculty.

Zingraff said Meredith students who have participated in research in the past

have reported gaining all of these benefits. Although the program is still young, research projects at Meredith have launched study abroad plans for some, graduate study aspirations for some, and impressive presentations at research conferences throughout the country.

"When students who are still undergraduates can learn how to transform their research into a polished presentation for a conference of scholars, they are developing a savvy that will benefit them beyond graduation in multiple ways," said Zingraff.

Students who are interested in the Undergraduate Research Program can find more information at [www.meredith.edu/urp/](http://www.meredith.edu/urp/).

## Jewish trio performs at Meredith

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On Tuesday, September 16, Meredith College hosted one of the most acclaimed musical trios in the world. The Jerusalem Lyric Trio performs at Meredith as part of the festivities surrounding the speech of Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel on Wednesday, September 17.

The trio is composed of two women, soprano Amalia Ishak and flutist Wendy Eisler-Kashy, and a man, pianist Allan Sternfield. Ishak is from Israel but grew up in Italy while Eisler-Kashy and Sternfield are from the United States, though all three now reside in Israel. Eisler-Kashy and Sternfield formed The Jerusalem Lyric Duo in 1989. Ishak joined the group in 1995

and the trio has been performing ever since.

The Trio's performance highlights the cultural and

musical heritage of the Jewish people and their faith. Performing classic literature in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino, and new pieces, the group takes the listener on an adventure through Judaic history and into the modern Israel.

Often representing Israel in International music festivals, the group has been much acclaimed around the



Wendy Eisler-Kashy, Allan Sternfield, and Amalia Ishak perform at Meredith

world. They have performed in Western and Eastern Europe, Russia, South and North America and Israel. The *Westdeutsche Allegemeine Zeitung* of Germany says "The trio convey[s] the multi-faceted Israeli landscapes and intense feeling of life of its inhabitants...a fascinating effect, irresistible."

Jewish composers who perished in the Holocaust. Some of the more famous composers involved were Gideon Klein and Ervin Schulhoff. Klein wrote most of his best work while in the Czech ghetto of Terezin. He was sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944. This is also the time that Elie Wiesel was sent to Auschwitz.

The group has six different programs that it can perform. It's "Out of the Whirlwind" show is dedicated to the Holocaust and includes songs written by

The Jerusalem Lyric Trio performs at many universities not only in the United States but all around the world. This is not a surprise considering that all three musicians are supremely educated. Eisler-Kashy has a Masters Degree of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, Ishak has a Master of Music Degree from Tel Aviv University, while Sternfield studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music and now is a faculty member at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Due to the significance of this week, the sponsors of the event, Meredith College, the Raleigh-Cary Jewish Federation, and the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, arranged for this concert to be free to the public.