

Women's studies major inaugurated

ALLIE HORTON
Staff Writer

On Monday, October 18, faculty associated with the Women's Studies major at Meredith College met in 144 Martin Hall to recognize those who have made recent contributions to major.

Dr. Sherry Shapiro, Director of the Women's Studies major, asked the faculty members to say a few words about the accomplishments to the new major by those being recognized. Following each short acknowledgment speech, Dr. Jody Roubanis, professor in the Human and Environmental Sciences Department presented each member with the "Meredith Matriarch" pins she handcrafted.

David Heining-Boynnton, professor of Psychology, began by noting the accomplishments of Blue Greenberg of the Art Department. Greenberg, said Heining-Boynnton is a 30 year faculty member of Meredith College and was one



photo courtesy of Allie Horton
Dr. Hornak, Dr. Jackson and Dr. Greenberg

of the founding sisters of the Women's Odyssey Program. Greenberg then acknowledged the contributions of Rosemary Hornak, professor of Psychology, also part of the Women's Odyssey program. Hornak, according to Greenberg, has conducted research on the responses of women to success and how the responses contrast with the responses of men.

Rhonda Zingraff of the Sociology Department recognized Dr. Jean Jackson, the Vice President of Student Development and English Department. Zingraff noted that Jackson has "been providing an awakening

in [the Women's Studies] course for over two years." Jackson spoke about Dr. Susan Gilbert of the English Department as well as Zingraff who, says Jackson, "has coordinated the course for over a decade" and by "keeping us on track with the major for years."

Shapiro then introduced guest speaker Dr. Susannah Heschel, religion scholar and associate professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Heschel spoke about her experiences with teaching women's studies courses. Heschel received questions from faculty members at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Religious scholar speaks on politics in Nazi Germany

NINA BORUM
Staff Writer

In honor of the new Women's Studies major, The Gullick lectures and Kenan fund made it possible for Susannah Heschel, holder of the Eli Black Chair at Dartmouth College, to lecture at Meredith concerning the issue of Jesus Politics in Nazi Germany.

Before introducing the guest speaker, Director of Women's Studies Sherry Shapiro recognized Tiffany Stokes and Hunter Galligan. These students are currently the only declared Women's Studies majors at Meredith College.

Applause welcomed the well-known lecturer to the stage where she delivered her lecture entitled "When Jesus Was an Aryan: Protestants Theologians in Nazi

Germany". Heschel passionately spoke to the audience about the attempted use of Christianity as a support to National Socialism. Heschel commented that her research on this topic was difficult and unpleasant. During her search, she came across anti-Semitic propaganda writing during World War II. Disturbed to learn that these were Protestant writings supported by the Institute for the Study and the Elaboration of Jewish Influences on German Church Life, Heschel decided to dig deeper and learn more about the Institute.

Heschel described being told that all archives and records were lost concerning the Institute, but a year later came across records that proved that some sects of the Protestant Church financed the Institute. These

particular Protestants supported Adolf Hitler, argued that Jesus was Aryan and tried to eliminate Jewish elements in the Bible.

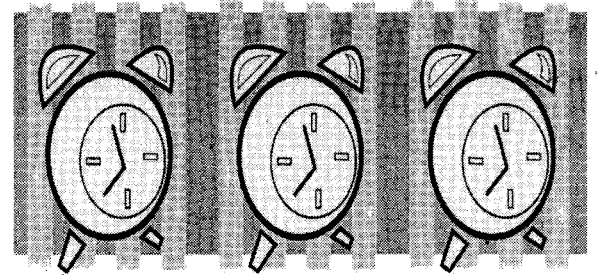
According to Heschel, the Germans were pressed to make Jesus an Aryan because of the focus in the 18th and 19th centuries to contextualize him. When faced with the historical data, Germans Protestants would possibly have to believe that Jesus was a Jewish Pharisee and this was something that made them uncomfortable. In response to this idea, some German Protestants turned to racial theory in the 20th century. These German Protestants removed the Old Testament, took Hebrew words from Hymnals, highlighted New Testament books, like John, to support anti-Semitism

and made the weak argument that was Jesus Aryan.

Following the lecture, Dr. Cokley, professor of Sociology, stated "I thought her insights on the way religious ideologies fueled the propaganda of the time interesting." Dr. Zingraff, professor of Sociology at Meredith, commented on the lecture by saying "It was a reminder of how powerfully society can be influenced through arguments about Jesus and questions about God's intentions". Dr. Allen Page, professor of Religion, was very familiar with the former blend of Christianity and National Socialism and was impressed by the "degree to which this was formalized with in the German Protestant Church"

Religion professor, Dr. Winfield stated that "although Heschel's argu-

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ment was compelling and showed historical symbiosis of religion and politics, she called for a separation of contemporary religion and political arenas" this was perceived as sending mixed messages to the audience.

During the reception Heschel mentioned to a student that she hoped that after her lecture the audience would keep in mind the danger of fascism; "and how easily people give up justice, liberty and equality and how they find religious ways to justify abandoning democracy." This point of view was repeatedly highlighted in Heschel's lecture when she said "I've learned from this that it's dangerous for religion to play an active role in the political realm, religion is too precious to get messed up with politics".