

## Office of Volunteer Services welcomes Amanda Ross

**JACKIE BULLOCK**  
Staff Writer

Since 1965, VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) has worked to eliminate poverty in America. In 1993, VISTA merged with the newly created AmeriCorps in an expanded effort to provide new and innovative programs to communities nationwide.

At Meredith College, AmeriCorps\*VISTA member Amanda Ross supports the service learning program and the Office of Volunteer Services. Ross, a 2002 graduate of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, came to Meredith in July through Meredith's relationship with NC Campus Compact. Ross works with students, faculty, and staff to make connections with non-profit organizations;

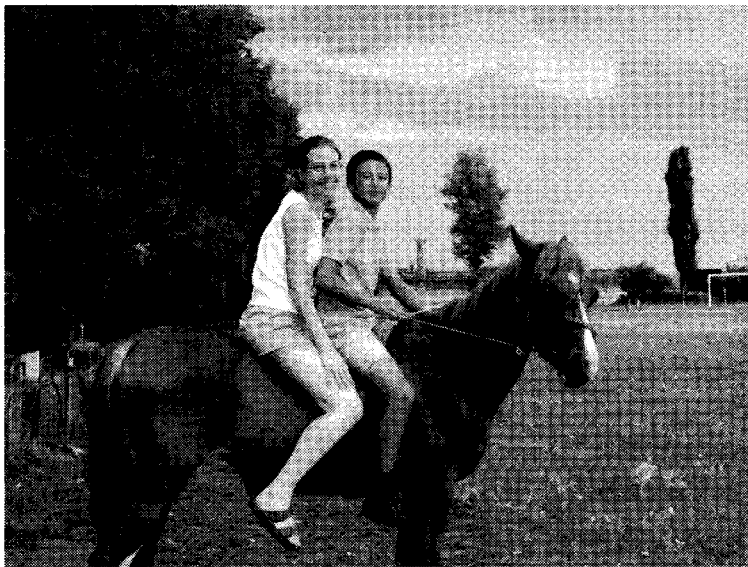


photo courtesy of Amanda Ross

Ross and friend Iogen in Sarata Galbena, Moldova in 2003

she says that it is her desire to work in a field where she is helping the community, as well as helping students to see the possibility to make a difference. Ross says, "Everyone has a skill or a talent; it is not neces-

sary to be a tip-top student."

In 2003, Ross served with the Peace Corps in Moldova, a former Soviet Republic, nestled between Romania and Ukraine. Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. Moldova's major eth-

nic groups include Russians, Romanians, Ukrainians, and the Gagauz (Christian Turks). Moldova is an agricultural community whose main export is wine. Ross recalled living in a village during the summer months and having to walk a mile for water because the well near her home dried up. Ross said during the winter it was often colder inside than outside due to poor construction materials and lack of heating. Ross says that she would like to return to Moldova one day – the children are "amazing...generous and loving, but with very real disadvantages in terms of resources and opportunities."

Ross says that she has felt very welcome at Meredith. She says that she enjoys the efforts that Meredith is mak-

ing towards inclusiveness, and that she wants to "promote the equality of people through service learning." Part of an academic course, service learning allows students to address community-identified needs through course-related service projects. Ross notes that "service is reciprocal; the person performing the service receives so much more." Ross would like to have more interaction with students in helping to coordinate activities. Ross says that she has enjoyed the interaction that she has had with WINGS students and likes that "the bonds of sisterhood are not restricted to one group. Women are helping women."

## David Faber to visit Meredith

**AMBER LITTESY**  
Layout Assistant

David Faber, Polish-born Holocaust survivor, will be speaking to the Meredith community on November, 10 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the Chapel Commons room. Faber is the author of *Because of Romek*, a book inspired by the struggles he went through to survive the Holocaust. Faber, who survived eight concentration camps, was a witness to the Nazi murders of his parents, older brother, and five of his six sisters. At age 18, weighing 72 pounds, Faber was liberated from Bergen-Belsen in 1945.

Faber's upcoming appearance is his second visit to the Meredith. Faber came to campus in the fall of 2002. Students, faculty and staff heard Faber speak on his first visit and commented on Faber's stories and personality:

**Dr. Carolyn Happer, faculty:** "When I asked Mr. Faber who received the roy-

alties for his book, he looked at me and said without pausing, 'Of course, the Disabled American Veterans; they saved my life.'"

**Elizabeth A. Meier, faculty:** "David Faber is an incredibly moving speaker. It is a rare privileged to be able to hear a concentration camp survivor's story first hand. He is wise and has insights to share about the importance of being engaged, knowledgeable and passionate about the state of the world today."

**Lacey Anne Carothers, student:** "Dr. Faber was a true example of inspiration. I was amazed by his courage and determination. It was a pleasure to meet him in person after reading and hearing of his struggle for survival."

**Mary Clarke Shuff, student:** "Dr. Faber had suffered much during the Holocaust. He is an intriguing man. People should see him because he is one of the few Holocaust survivors we have

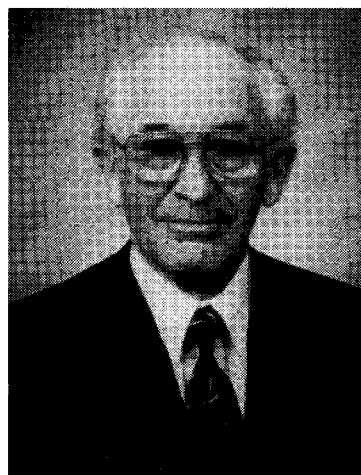


photo courtesy Carolyn Happer

David Faber, Holocaust survivor, to speak at Meredith.

left today. He is full of real life stories and events; his stories really touched my heart while listening to his life accounts in a concentration camp. I think the Holocaust was a fascinating time in history and more so than studying the books and watching the movies about the suffering of the Jews, we have a real life man who lived through some of these events and can tell this story exactly from his perspective. His real life accounts make the Holocaust come alive with facts, feelings, and figures."

**Paula S Stewart, student:** "I felt that Mr. Faber telling us his powerful story was not only a gift to us, but also a tribute to the millions who did not survive. Despite the horrors he has been through, Mr. Faber is remarkably not at all bitter or hardened, and it's inspiring to hear him preach tolerance in an age of renewed fanaticism."

**Sarah Margaret Tulloss, student:** "I still consider my opportunity to meet with Mr. Faber an honor. I was privileged enough to be able to have lunch with him last year. It was really amazing that at his age, he is still able to tell his story so movingly. He was incredibly generous and very sweet, very reminiscent of one's own grandfather. My favorite memory of Mr. Faber was at lunch. I had been viewing him as a rather fragile old man, then all of a sudden his cell phone rang and it was his wife. I just thought that was funny! He also has great stories and not just about the Holocaust."

"One will learn from Mr. Faber that Holocaust survivors had a life before the Holocaust and they have one after it!! So often it seems that the majority of a holocaust survivor's life is overlooked because all one focuses on is that he/she lived through the carnage of the Holocaust."

"I think so often the Holocaust is generalized and commercialized. As one studies the Holocaust he/she can stay in the narrative of the events, simply memorizing dates, numbers, and places without ever assigning a personal aspect to the atrocities of the Holocaust. Mr. Faber puts a face, for so many, to the Holocaust. One is able to study the Holocaust in a different light, simply because he/she now has a personal connection to the event."

Students, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to attend Faber's speech. Please contact the *Herald* at [herald@meredith.edu](mailto:herald@meredith.edu) for more information.