

## Dual degree program to be offered by Meredith and NCSU

LUCINDA WARD  
Staff Writer

Meredith is set to begin a five-year Dual Degree Program in engineering in the fall of 2005. Students will be able to attend Meredith College for three years and then attend North Carolina State University for two years to receive two degrees. Dr. Virginia Knight, Dean of the School of Natural and Mathematical Sciences at Meredith College says, "Women are under-represented in the field of engineering and more women are needed. Students will be able to get a broader

education from Meredith and a technical education from North Carolina State."

In the Dual Degree Program, students will be able to receive two degrees in five years. Students in the program who receive a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Meredith will then be able to receive a degree in civil, computer, electrical, or industrial engineering from North Carolina State. When the program is successfully completed, students enrolled in the program who receive a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Meredith will be able to receive either a chem-

ical or an environmental engineering degree from N.C. State. Knight says, "North Carolina State is right up the street from Meredith and that is a plus for the program; there are students that are interested, and students should sign up as soon as they are accepted at Meredith." North Carolina State's Engineer Transfer Advisor Michelle Koehler adds, "After 3 years in the 3 + 2 Program the student will apply and transfer to North Carolina State and after 2 years at State and the culmination of five years the student will receive a second degree from

North Carolina State in engineering." Koehler also says, "North Carolina State would look forward to an increase in their female enrollment in the school of engineering."

Scholarships from the National Science Foundation Grant are available for students enrolled in any of the following programs: Computer Science, Computer Information Systems, Engineering and Mathematics programs. Scholarships will begin in the fall of 2005. Dr. Charles Lewis will be the advisor for the program at Meredith College. Meredith College and North

Carolina State University are participants in the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges Agreement. Courses from the two schools can be interwoven to offer this joint program. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has approved the program.

For more information go to <http://www.meredith.edu/academics/dual-degree-agreement-ncsu.htm>.

## World News Briefs: Palestinian leader, Arafat, dies

AMANDA SMITH  
Contributing Writer

### Afghanistan:

The former leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, vowed to free Afghanistan from the United States. He claims that America is destroying the Islamic culture fundamental to Afghan daily life while installing a puppet government and western culture, and promises that the stronger and more organized Taliban will act.

### China:

Retail sales have increased substantially in recent months due to higher wages. The government is trying to stabilize the economy so they can maintain the economic boom.

-Fake baby milk powder has killed at least 12 babies and made 200 sick. Officials are being accused of not fully investigating the sale of baby milk powder.

### European Union:

A commemorative service was held Sunday in Berkshire for the seven victims killed earlier this week when a man ran his car into a train.

-There have been several instances of attacks by armed gangs on migrant workers in Armagh County.

### Iran:

Iran has made an agreement with the European Union to freeze its uranium production until further resolution can be made. The European Union has offered support for both the trade and energy industry in exchange for the production freeze. Iran still feels they have the right to enhance uranium due to its claims that the uranium is only used as a source of fuel. The US intelligence is still skeptical about the intended use for the enhanced uranium and prefers that Iran not have any possibility of arming themselves with nuclear weapons.

### Iraq:

Insurgent leaders who were working in Falluja most likely fled before the American-led offensive arrived. The leaders may be responsible for attacks coordinated in the area targeting American troops.

### Israel/Palestine:

Arafat died of a brain hemorrhage at 3:30 a.m. Thursday,

following a battle with a mysterious illness. Palestinians poured into the streets with wails of sorrow and grief and volleys of gunfire. The funeral took place in Cairo, and Arafat was buried in Ramallah.

- Hamas political leader Khaled Mashal accused Israel of poisoning Yasser Arafat. Although doctors ruled out poisoning this week, the cause of the Palestinian Authority chairman's death yesterday is still unknown.

-The United States will press Israel to allow East Jerusalem residents to participate in elections for a new Palestinian Authority chairman and Palestinian legislature. Elections are expected to take place in January.

### Korea:

Thousands of South Korean farmers have fought battles with riot police in the capital of Seoul in protest against foreign rice imports. The World Trade Organization pressured South Korea to ease its rice import restrictions. The South Korean government is close to an agreement which would give foreign rice produc-

ers a greater market share. Imported rice will be significantly cheaper than rice grown by local farmers. The price cuts will threaten the livelihood of about a million farming families.

### Pakistan:

Along with helicopter and artillery support, 7,000 Pakistani troops, began an operation against foreign militants in the South Waziristan region. Military officials believe that hundreds of foreign militants including Arabs, Afghans, and Central Asians are hiding in the mountainous, tribal region. Some U.S. officials suspect that Osama bin Laden may be among the militants, but Pakistani officials are doubtful. During the last six days of fighting, 30-40 militants and six soldiers died.

### Sudan:

UN envoy said last Tuesday that they found evidence of violence against the Darfur people and more peacekeeping efforts are needed. A 3,000 strong African Union Peacekeeping force is due to arrive in Sudan at the end of November and the AU has stated that it is willing to

send more troops, as long as the international community provides the funds. A larger number of troops would help prevent Sudanese police forces from conflicting with humanitarian efforts. Recently Sudanese police forces have been accused of spraying refugee camps with tear gas and pulling doctors away at gunpoint from their refugee patients.

### Zimbabwe:

The Zimbabwean government has announced its plans to open four more government-run youth camps, increasing the total number to ten. The Movement of Democratic Change claims that these camps are used to train youth to threaten and attack government opponents. These camps will be in effect before the March election, reducing the chance for a fair and free election in Zimbabwe, while ensuring President Mugabe another term.