

New Professor has High Expectations for Meredith Students

AMY KAY NICKERSON
Contributing Writer

Flipping through the books he has assigned his students to read, Dr. Daniel Fountain comments on how full his day has become. "I'm really enjoying my classes, but I'd rather have my students talking more." A professor of early American history, Dr. Fountain leans over his desk in his office on the first floor of Joyner Hall and says, "I came expecting good students, and that's what I've found."

Natives of Northern Florida, Dr. Fountain, his wife Michelle and his four-year-old son, Tate moved to North Carolina from Louisiana where both he and his wife were teachers. Dr. Fountain taught at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA), which is similar to the North Carolina School of Math and Science in Durham. At the LSMSA,

70 percent of the high school's faculty has a Ph.D. in the field he/she teaches.

"I like teaching. It's why I was there; it's why I am here. I enjoy teaching students to raise their voices. Here I look forward to helping create a generation of female leaders. The LSMSA was 65 percent female, so I'm used to bright, energetic women in the classroom."

Dr. Fountain has a B.A. from Stetson University, which is similar to Meredith in that it is a small, liberal arts school with Baptist roots; an M.A. in American and public history from UNC-Greensboro; and a Ph. D. from University of Mississippi where he studied under Winthrop Jordan, a leading specialist in Colonial American studies.

"I am fascinated by the history around us," he says, "particularly in the South. It shapes who we are. I had a teacher in high school who had high standards and

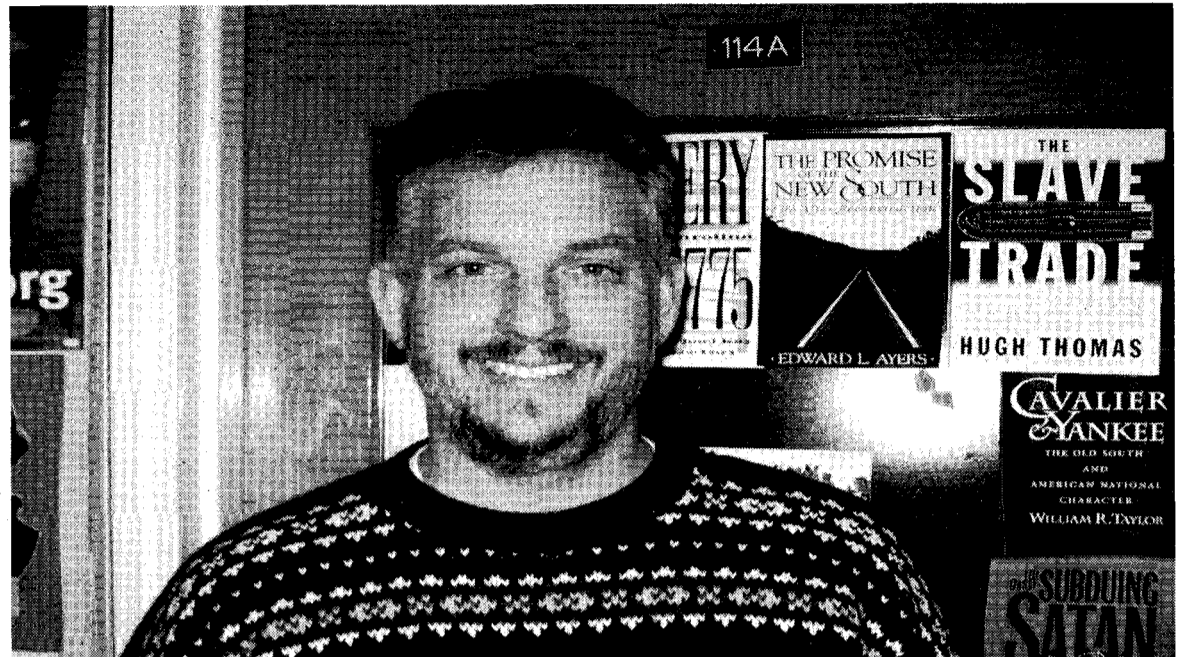


Photo courtesy of Rebecca Duncan

New History faculty addition Dr. Daniel Fountain

was a sort of intimidator. I don't want to be an intimidator, but I hope that I carry on his standard of rigor."

Like his former teacher, Dr. Fountain has high expectations for his students, but he quickly adds, "I don't want hard for hard's sake. I want students to walk out of my classroom with tools, to

have challenged themselves, and to be pleased with their efforts. History may not be everyone's strong point, but analyzing data, critical thinking, and analytical writing will translate across the board."

Dr. Fountain is happy with his new location. From the more definitive seasons to the cultural opportunities the

Triangle area offers, he and his wife are pleased with the more "metropolitan" area.

Dr. Fountain, having attended UNC-Greensboro, is familiar with many of North Carolina's idiosyncrasies, but he hasn't adapted to one thing like most North Carolinians. "Driving on ice; I still haven't mastered that."

Tunnel Enlightens Students

JENNA CHAMBERS
Staff Writer

SGA, Spectrum, Colton English Club, Association for Cultural Awareness and the Women's Studies program assisted in the creation of the Tunnel of Oppression, taking students down a hallway that forced them to face reality about oppressive subjects such as family issues, acceptance, homosexual equality, cultural awareness and women's issues. The hallway was full of facts and portraits of oppressed people within history and in society today. After viewing a slideshow full of historical figures such as Harriet Tubman, Cesar Chavez, Billie Holiday and many others, the students were taken in groups of ten down the hallways of Ledford's basement where they were faced with facts about the different groups

of people. The students were called into a classroom to interact about what they learned while walking the tunnel, where they were given activities to elaborate on what they learned. Sharing questions and situations that helped enlighten and open the eyes of everyone involved.

Even though students have been exposed to these issues before whether on the news, in society or in the classroom, it was still an eye opener for the students. The interaction made it more real for them. "I had heard about female circumcision all ready, but hearing the stories read aloud made it more real," said one of the girls in the group.

The Wall of Shame along the tunnel gave facts about domestic violence against women, facts about the civil rights movement, and same sex marriages. After viewing the wall students were

given an activity in the next room that forced them to stereotype a stranger by asking questions about the person that only someone who knew them well would know. Questions such as "what is their favorite movie?"

The final thought for the evening was how did the students think and feel after going through everything. "I was grateful and disgusted at the same time," said one student. "I think people should treat each other the way they want to be treated, and I do just that. If you treat me badly then that's exactly what I'm going to give to you," said another student in the final interaction room.

The Tunnel of Oppression was featured Thursday February 17 in the Ledford building in order to educate the community on the awareness for diversity.

The MEREDITH HERALD Staff

Editor in Chief.....*Krista Kearney*
herald@meredith.edu

Managing Editor.....*Christy Kimball*
Sports Editor.....*Maria Santore*
Copy Editor.....*Paula Stewart*
Layout Editor.....*Amber Littesy*
Staff Photographer.....*Wendy Gem*
Business Manager.....*Stephanie Harrington*
Advertising Manager.....*Jenna Chambers*
Faculty Adviser.....*Dr. Rebecca Duncan*

Staff Writers.

Nina Borum *Sydney Simpson*
Lacey Maddrey *Robin Gary*
Jackie Bullock *Jenna Chambers*

The *Meredith Herald* is published by the College throughout the Academic Year. The paper is funded by the College and through Independent Advertising.

The opinions expressed in the editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

Published by Hinton Press