

Meredith Chorale performance a success

JENNA CHAMBERS
Staff Writer

The Meredith Chorale, an auditioned ensemble of approximately 30-35 outstanding women, had their annual spring concert Tuesday March 15. Embarking upon a spring tour each year, the chorale, is called upon to sing at various off-campus events as well as on-campus concerts, convocations, and Chapel services. Meredith's premiere performing ensemble is conducted by Dr. Lisa Fredenburgh, director of choral activities.

This spring semester, the group was honored to have composer Dr. Gwyneth Walker as the guest director of six of her own works. Walker is a graduate of Brown University and the Hart School of Music. She holds a B.A., M.M., and D.M.A, Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of

the Oberlin College Conservatory, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Vermont. Walker's catalogue of music includes 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Shirmer of Boston (choral/vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral/instrumental music). Dr. Walker also received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2000 from the Vermont Arts Council.

Dr. Walker came to Meredith to premiere her Songs for Women's Voices, a six movement piece of work featuring poems of inspiration. Combining the music from members of the Raleigh Orchestra and the voices of Meredith College's Chorale, Dr. Walker



photo courtesy of Lisa Fredenburgh

Meredith Chorale members pose together before their concert Tuesday.

was proud to hear Songs for Women's Voices premiered at the concert. She told Dr. Fredenburgh that the choir sounded beautiful along with the orchestra. Audience members were also impressed by the sounds of the

orchestra and choir together, "The orchestra with the choir was beautiful. It was unexpected. I'm used to listening to a piano accompany a choir when I go to a concert," said one audience member.

Chorale will be taking

Walker's series of songs over to the NCSU campus to join more women in a concert dedicated to women's music on Tuesday March 22.

Balancing Family and Career panel helps students understand flexibility and a balanced life

SYDNEY SIMPSON
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Meredith students learned last Wednesday that it is possible to balance a successful career and family. The Dialogue Series presented the panel discussion "Possibilities: Career, Family, Balance," which was sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development and the Career Center. The panel featured four women who each found a different way to balance a career and family.

Amy Losordo of the Career Center said she got the idea to have the panel because of student concerns in her Career Planning Seminar. She said students would limit the careers they were thinking about choosing because they wanted to raise a family too.

These are legitimate concerns that many women have.

According a recent Newsweek article on this issue, 70 percent of American mothers feel that motherhood is very stressful in today's time, and 30 percent of mothers with young children are depressed. Losordo said balancing career and family is a top concern among students today. She wanted to students to know they have options.

The panel featured Becky Ogburn of the News & Observer Publishing Company, Beth Ann Gargan of McKeeman Communications Group, Mary Nash Rusher of the law firm Hunton & Williams, and Dr. Rosalind Reichard of Meredith College.

Becky Ogburn has worked for the News & Observer's research department for 10 years. She has one 4 year old daughter. She said that daycare is so expensive that she cannot afford to put her daughter in there all week. She said her and another col-

league put in a proposal for a job share, in which one person works for one-half of the week and the other works the second half, but they get paid like they are one person working full-time. She said she works from 9-5 on Wednesday through Friday, and that her job can be very flexible. She said she likes to spend time at home with her daughter, but that she enjoys her time in the office too.

Beth Ann Gargan is a public relations consultant for McKeeman Communications Group. She has three children and works part-time from her home. She does most of her work through telecommuting, and says that even though her schedule is busy, it is much easier to work from home because of better technology. She said it is very challenging to find a professional job on a part-time basis, "but I know they're out there; compa-

nies are more flexible."

Mary Nash Rusher is a partner in the law firm Hunton & Williams. She has been there about 20 years and has three kids. She said she had to work full-time because her husband decided to go to medical school later in life. She continued to work full-time until her husband became a doctor, then she went part-time. She said promotions in her job made her go back to full-time. She said that she has to schedule time to be with her family. "I hope we have gotten past the expectation of being perfect," she said. "You don't have to be perfect all the time."

Dr. Rosalind Reichard has been at Meredith for five years; she is the Vice President of Academic Affairs. She said she always knew she wanted to have kids and that she wanted to stay home with them. She was a traditional stay-at-home

mom for 10 years before she went back to work. She said that her husband has a job at UNC-Greensboro, so for the past four and a half years she has had an apartment in Raleigh and a house in Greensboro. She said that students must remember that it's "important to find what's right for you."

The second part of the Dialogue Series will feature a panel of stay-at-home dads who will discuss how their spouses' share their lifestyles and how they manage career and family. It will be held Wednesday, April 6, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

Losordo said anyone interested in taking the Career Planning Seminar should sign up when registering for classes. Freshmen and Sophomores should sign up for CPS 101 A, and Juniors and Seniors should sign up for CPS 301 A.