

MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XXVII, Issue 22

Educating Women To Excel

March 30, 2005

ON THE INSIDE:

- FMLA event
Page 2
- Disabilities
Panel
Page 3
- Student pro-
file
Page 4
- Diversity
Column
Page 5
- Movie Review
Page 7
- Classifieds
Page 8

Meredith's Weekly Weather

- WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 75/ Low 52
- THURSDAY
Isolated Thunderstorms
High 78/ Low 59
- FRIDAY
Thunderstorms
High 72/ Low 53
- SATURDAY
Showers
High 60/ Low 41
- SUNDAY
Sunny
High 68/ Low 46
- MONDAY
Sunny
High 70/ Low 51
- TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 72/ Low 51

Meredith dolls viewable online

TED WALLER
Carlyle Campbell Library

Until now, the beloved Meredith class dolls could be seen only by those willing to climb to the third floor of Johnson Hall where they are on display. Soon they will be available to anyone with a connection to the internet. The College Archives is in the midst of an exciting project to bring the Meredith class dolls to the world wide web in 3-D.

Since 1936, graduating seniors at Meredith have presented the College with a class doll. The dolls are dressed and displayed to represent memorable aspects of each class's college experience. They are a unique portrayal of the history of the College, and an important tradition for alumnae. When the custom began, alumnae who graduated before 1936 were recruited to prepare dolls for the earlier years. Every class is represented, for a total of 105 dolls. In recent years Martha Fonville and Ted Waller, who administer the College Archives, have become aware of the keen interest engendered by the dolls. This interest goes beyond Meredith to the public at large. Unfortunately, awareness of the dolls has been very limited by their location. One solution to this problem was to make the dolls available on the world wide web. Martha and Ted wanted to make the web pages something special, however, and hit on the idea of creating doll images in 3-D. This approach, also known as virtual reality, results in images that can be rotated 360 degrees with the computer mouse. The 3-D

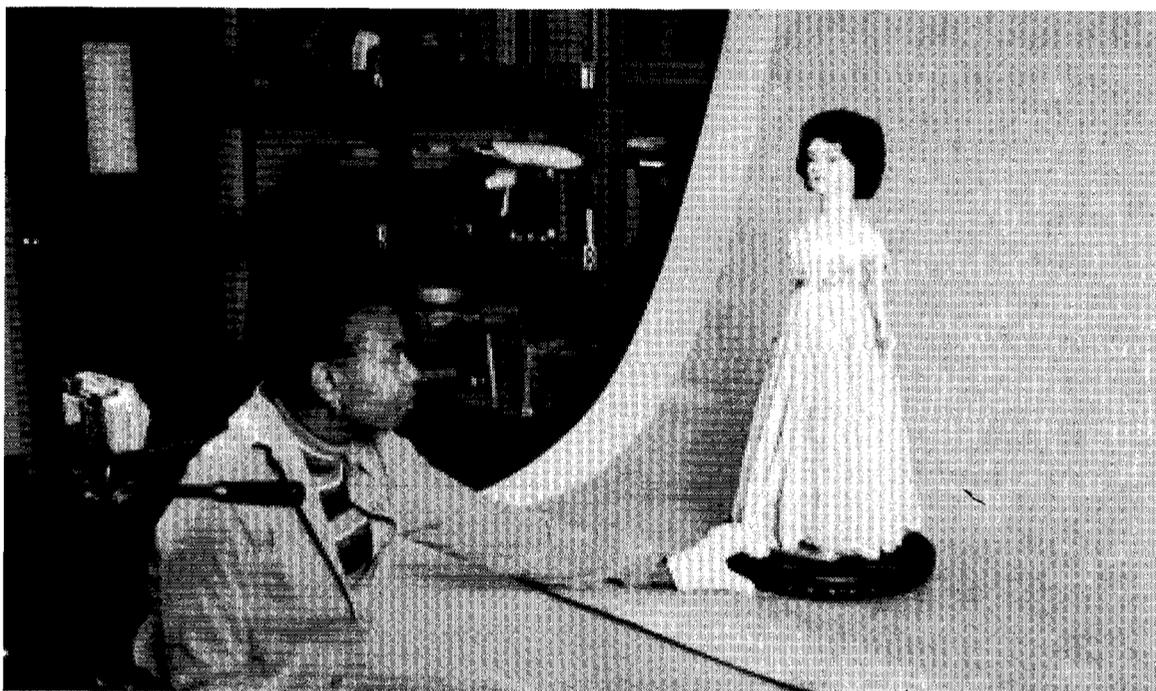


photo courtesy of Ted Waller

Johnson, senior art major, arranging a Meredith doll for photographing

aspect of the project is the "hook" that gets users' attention. Once users are on the web site they experience the primary goal of the project: telling the story Meredith and the lives of college women over the past 105 years.

The project requires some expensive specialized equipment. Fortunately, each year the State Library of North Carolina offers Digitization Starter Grants through the federal Library Services and Technology Act. The library applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$7,025 for a camera, computer, software, turntable, and other equipment. A storage room in the library was converted into a temporary photo studio, and the project was off and running.

The procedure involves shooting 36 digital pictures of each doll (rotating the doll 10 degrees on a turntable between pictures), converting them to a QuickTime movie, and putting them on the Archives pages of the library web site. With over 3,600

pictures needed, the entire project will last well into the summer. As of March 28, photography for 72 dolls has been completed. Charlene Johnson, a senior art major, is doing the photography.

The initial response from the public has been very encouraging. Feedback has been uniformly positive, and the number of hits on the doll web pages has jumped 300% without any publicity. The work thus

far can be seen on this web page: http://www.meredith.edu/library/archives/dolls/doll_listing.htm. To view the dolls, simply click on any small doll image to open up a large virtual reality image. Users may be prompted to download the QuickTime program from Apple Computer to be able to view the pictures, and Windows XP users will have to click on several boxes to get past Windows security.



photo courtesy of Ted Waller

Miss 1906