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Campus Celebrates Student Achievement

Students Present Scholarly and Creative

Activities to the Meredith Community

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On Thursday, April 28, 2005, Meredith College held its third annual Celebrating Student Achievement Day. It is an annual event focusing on the academic, artistic, and leadership accomplishments of students. There were 147 oral presentations given in addition to the poster presentations. An awards ceremony recognizing accomplishments in a variety of areas was held later in the afternoon. Dr. Rhonda Zingraff, Director of the Undergraduate Research Program, explains that Celebrating Student Achievement Day featured "a good representation of disciplines."

Celebrating Student Achievement Day began at 7 a.m. with the Tide of Hope Walkathon, followed by chants from the Navajo Blessingway Ceremony and Tai Chi morning movements. An organic breakfast was later served. In the Jones Chapel parking lot, an all day exhibit entitled "Looking Back; Moving On: The U-Haul Project" featured installations in three U-Haul trucks representing the past, present, and future.

The morning sessions consisted of a wide variety of fields of study, ranging from "Breakthroughs in Biology" to "Reading Women's Lives." The latter included presentations by Paula Stewart and Teresa Nichols. Stewart presented an abbreviated version of her English thesis paper, "Tracing Blanche Dubois' "Journey: From Nymphomaniac to Tragic Hero." Her lively reading not only gave listeners a strong interest in reading or re-reading Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," but also showed students what a well-written thesis paper should sound like. Nichols presented in a morning session and afternoon session. Her morning presentation, "Deficient Sisterhood: The Conflicting Lives of Black and White Women During 19th Century Slavery" depicted the often contentious relationships between black female slaves and their white mistresses. Her afternoon presentation, "Obesity Among America's Poor Women: Solutions to the Problem," discussed the results of her research on obesity among America's poor women. She looked at some of the solutions that have been proposed by government agencies and then added her own suggestions for dealing with this growing problem.

The late morning focused on special events such as Exercise and Sports Science Senior Portfolio Presentations, Interior Design Senior Showcase, "You Better Belize It, Part III!" and "The Scanning Electron Microscope and the World of the Very Small: A Merger of Science and Art." Also included during this time was "Tides of Hope: Images and Personal Reflections from Tsunami Affected Sri Lanka." Rebekah Ann Meek gave a particularly riveting reflection on her experiences in Sri Lanka. Dr. Zingraff said, "There was not a dry eye in the house."

Lunch was held in Belk Dining Hall and The Courtyard, where a Drum Circle featured student performers from T.E.A.M. Poster presentations in Belk Dining Hall followed lunch. Research varied from disease epidemiology to the meaning of word 'feminist' to Meredith students. Among the poster presentations this year were poster clusters: Cluster I: Research in Chemistry, Cluster II: Research in Exercise and Sports Science, Cluster III: Research in Nutrition. The mid-day special event was "Celebrating 100 years of Student Government: Student Achievement in Leadership Awards Ceremony and Induction of 2005-2006 Student Government Officers."

Afternoon sessions ranged from "Weighting for Things to Change" to "Lessons from Europe in Courage and Community." Following the afternoon sessions was the Academic and Leadership Awards Ceremony, which recognized intellectual and social achievements of students currently enrolled. A reception in the courtyard served as an intermission of sorts until the next honors and awards ceremonies for school, departments, and programs.