

Breast Cancer: A Personal Look at the Disease

ANNA CLAIRE MURNICK

Contributing Writer

Breast cancer has definitely rocked my world. Besides not having a female family member remaining with two breasts, I have grown up with the death cloud lurking over my home. At four years old, I have recollections of visiting my mother in the hospital and seeing her hooked to monitors and tubes. She looked like a decorated Christmas tree as she moved across the room to hold me, to tell me not to worry—that there would be a cure before long and I would never have to endure the pain that she felt.

My grandmother, who also battled breast cancer in her thirties, had told my mother the same thing. All my life I had been reassured that there is no need to worry because this cancer would not affect me. By the time I would have to deal with it, science would be advanced enough that all I

would have to do is take a pill and pray.

It has been forty-three years since my grandmother gave her breast to the disease and fourteen years since my mother did also. The good news is that these women did not lose their lives to cancer, but at twenty years old, I am forced to face the reality that there is still no cure. The only major advancement recently made in breast cancer research is the early detection of the cancer, but still that does not eliminate it. In the past, I felt maybe even a vaccination could prevent it in the future, but as I see more and more women diagnosed, it seems the magic bullet is just not going to happen for me either. Now I am facing the daunting facts of a lifetime of mammograms, sonograms, and testing at the very least just to catch the cancer situation soon enough not to lose my life over it.

I see the fundraising efforts being made every time I spot a pink ribbon, or in the various walks that I have par-

ticipated in, with the hope of that every stride I make on the course is a stride towards a cure.

I believed in the cure. I have gone years trusting science and now I must face the possibility of a breast cancer diagnosis in my future. After living with two generations of women too scared to make future travel plans or order magazine subscriptions without much hesitation, it bothers me to be forced to embark on the same journey as these women. I do not want to live my life scared to plan ahead or too self-conscious to get into a bathing suit, after seeing my mother's fake breast swim away from her in the pool one too many times.

I want to be successful, strong, grow old, and have children who will not have to deal with this cancer. I face the challenge enlightened about the disease, but I will never relinquish a hope for the cure.

Exploring Careers in Television — News Operations

JACKIE BULLOCK

Staff Writer

The daily operation of a newsroom is challenging, thrilling, and exciting, according to Leesa Moore Craigie. Craigie is the Director of News Operations and Special Projects for WRAL-TV. Craigie "directly manages the news photographers, editors, directors, and all aspects of the newsroom." Craigie also coordinates special projects, such as election coverage, the NCAA Final Four and the NC State Fair.

A native of Fayetteville, NC Craigie has been with WRAL for 24 years. Craigie's interest in broadcasting began in high school and continued through college at UNC-Chapel Hill. WRAL is the first and only station at which Craigie has worked; she started as a part-time camera operator and moved on to work in other departments including audio, video, and post-production.

Craigie said that she has been very fortunate in her career at WRAL in that she had people who believed in her. She said that she was not "pigeon-holed" but received encouragement from managers who allowed her to grow. Craigie came to WRAL with a goal that has far exceeded her expectations.

Capitol Broadcasting Company, the parent company of WRAL-TV, is "a progressive

company whose newsroom has a technological edge," said Craigie.

There are good as well as bad days in the newsroom but Craigie says she takes her job very seriously and never loses sight of the impact that the nature of the business has on people's lives.

Craigie is particularly proud of the impact of her first project, the 1999 Special Olympics, for which Craigie won an Emmy.

Craigie said that "it was so worthy to touch so many lives in so many ways."

Craigie encourages those who are interested in pursuing the television field to utilize career fairs but not to forget the basics—that is—having a good command of grammar; one needs to read and write clearly and concisely.

Craigie also says that one should be realistic about the demands of the broadcasting business. One should have a love of news, be organized, detail-oriented, and be able to think quickly and adhere to deadlines. Creativity and a personality that works well in a newsroom environment also are important.

Craigie says that she loves the television business.

Stress, managing people, working weekends, being on call, and staying until the job is done is all a part of the job, but "the rewards outweigh the demands," Craigie said.

Non-Profit Career Fair:

If you missed your opportunity to attend the first Non-Profit Career Fair in Greensboro, you will have another chance at Peace College of Raleigh on Friday, March 31 from 11am-1pm. At this fair, you will be able to gather information from representatives of non-profit agencies. A list of attending agencies will be available from The Career Center prior to the fair.

A Night of Poetry

EMELIA DUNSTON

Staff Writer

Meredith College welcomed the Poet Laureate of North Carolina, Kathryn Stripling Byer, and the Poet Laureate of the United States, Ted Kooser, for a night of poetry Tuesday, March 21.

The reading, held in Jones Chapel, attracted a variety of people including Meredith students, faculty, and staff; Meredith alumnae; local high school students; and poetry fans of all ages. Kathryn Stripling Byer,

named the poet laureate of North Carolina in 1995, was the first to read. In her introduction of Byer, Genevieve Parker, '07, stated that there is "musical power" to Byer's poetry. Byer read a number of her own poems along with the poems of other authors and explained what inspired her to write each of her poems.

Ted Kooser, the poet laureate of the United States, concluded the program. He read a number of poems from his ten books of poetry including "In Late Spring," "A Rainy Morning," and

"At the Cancer Center." During the reading, both poets discussed a variety of topics including love, family, cancer, death, college, and even Valentine's Day. After the reading, a reception and book signing was held in the Johnson Hall Rotunda.

The event was sponsored by the Mary Lynch Johnson Chair of English. Johnson was an alumna of Meredith, a professor in the English Department, and the author of *The History of Meredith College*.