

news

STAFF

herald@meredith.edu

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mckinney@meredith.edu

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Ashley Everhart

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Suzanne Britt

Design Advisor

Dana Gay

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NEW DISPLAY FROM MEREDITH ARCHIVE

Martha Fonville
Contributing Writer

Question: What's a beanie?

Answer: a small, close fitting cap, either with or without a brim, often made of wool.

Many colleges and universities introduced freshman beanie caps during the 1920s, and it was often required that first year students wear them at all times when on campus. As Alice Elizabeth Reagan writes in *North Carolina State University: a Narrative History*, beanies were mandatory from 1921 until 1930 for N.C. State freshmen. By 1930, 75 women students were enrolled at N.C. State, and, according to Reagan, "student leaders expressed dismay because many of the coeds refused to wear the freshman cap." However, at Meredith in 1929, Martha Abernathy, president of the incoming class of 1933, was so enamored with N.C. State's freshman caps that she designed one for her Meredith classmates. It is believed that this freshman class was the first and last to wear beanies at Meredith.

Come to Carlyle Campbell Library and enjoy a collection of Meredith memorabilia from the College Archives. Many other treasures are online at <http://meredith.edu/library/archives>. ■



Photo courtesy Martha Fonville

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