

## News Briefs...

Kelly Wallace, staff writer

### Oldest-known Holocaust survivor dies at 110

Alice Herz-Sommer was believed to be the oldest-known survivor of the Holocaust. MSN reported that Herz-Sommer died Sunday morning in London—she was 110. Herz-Sommer was sent to the concentration camp in the Czech city of Terezin in 194, along with her husband and her son. As an accomplished pianist, she was allowed to stage concerts at the camp along with other inmates. Herz-Sommer and her son, Stephan, were freed when the camp was liberated by the Soviet Union in May 1945. Her husband died of typhus at Dachau. After being freed from the concentration camp she moved to Jerusalem and taught at the Jerusalem Conservatory until 1986, when she moved to London. According to MSN, a film about her has been nominated for best short documentary at next week's Academy Awards.

### Reducing the US military

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel proposed shrinking the Army to the smallest

size it has been in 74 years. According to The New York Times, Hagel commented on unveiling the department's \$496 billion budget for the 2015 fiscal year: "Readiness is not the same standard. Of course there's going to be risk." General Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, mentioned that a smaller Army must not only serve the needs of the country, but also provide battlefield support to other segments of the military. Hagel said that the nation can afford a smaller military as long as it retains a technological edge and the agility to respond on a short notice to crises anywhere on the globe.

### Noah Spivey

As a part of an Eagle Scout service project in Raleigh's Troop 364, 17 year old Noah Spivey began planning and building a garden at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. His plan was put on hold though when he was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer called Ewing sarcoma. WRAL reported that Spivey is now receiving hospice care to relieve the effects of the cancer. He was presented last week with the Heart of the Eagle Award,

an honor never before given to a local Boy Scout. After Noah's story was on WRAL News, thousands of people offered donations and time to help Noah with his garden. After a team of volunteers spent the weekend working on the garden, Spivey was surprised on Sunday with the unveiling of Noah's Prayer Garden.

### Fear of Designer Babies

The New York Times reported that the F.D.A. is monitoring a controversial fertility treatment that will involve combining three people to make a baby that is free of certain defects. Critics of the therapy say that this is an ethical minefield and could lead to the creation of designer babies. A panel of experts was asked to summarize current science to determine whether the fertility treatment will safe enough to be used in people. Although not yet tested on humans, the procedure has been successfully performed in monkeys. The F.D.A is meeting on February 25th and February 26th to discuss the scientific issues about the procedure not the ethics of it.

## Kappa Nu Sigma Welcomes New Members

By Alla Akiyeva, staff writer

Thirty-three high-achieving students were inducted into Kappa Nu Sigma honor society on Thursday, Feb 20. A formal dinner in Belk Dining Hall preceded the ceremony, and a guest speaker presentation followed it. Along with the thirty-three inductees, five Helen Price scholarship recipients were also announced during the ceremony. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Amie Hess, Meredith Assistant Professor of Sociology, who delivered a report called "The Status of Girls in North Carolina 2013." In her report, Dr. Hess shared about the progress North Carolina girls have made in areas such as education and health in the past year.

Invitation to join the society came as a sur-

prise to some students, including Hawa Tuli'14, Mollie Melton'16, and Allison Adams'14. Tuli shared that, during her time as a Meredith student, she was only doing what she thought she was supposed to do, unaware about the existence of Kappa Nu Sigma. Adams joined the society last year, this year serving as the vice president of Kappa Nu Sigma. Friends and family members of the inductees were able to join the ceremony and share the proud moment with the students.

The purpose of Kappa Nu Sigma, a scholastic honor society created in 1923, is to promote and recognize academic excellence. Students must achieve total GPA of 3.9 after completing 75 hours or 3.8 after completing 90 or more hours in order to qualify for membership.

The Colton Review is now accepting submissions!

Send your poetry, short stories, and experimental pieces to:

coltonreview@email.meredith.edu.

# Appropriations Act Affects Teachers

Katy Koop, staff writer

Through the Appropriations Act of 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly has brought forth change that has upset current and future North Carolina educators. This new legislation ended salary benefits for teachers. In addition, the General Assembly directed school boards to identify the top 25% of teachers and to give them the opportunity to either keep their career status or exchange it for an annual \$500 addi-

tional income for four years.

Mary Delaney, the Meredith Education Department head, explained that "career status," which is being referred to interchangeably as "tenure," is "not the same as tenure for college professors. Career status gives teachers the opportunity to have a say and requires school systems to base firing and demotion decisions on fair reasons. For teachers who have career status, for example, a school system could not fire a teacher arbitrarily or reduce salary and

benefits arbitrarily."

According to the legislation, teachers that do not have career status can only be offered one year contracts and may be terminated at the end of the contract with no explanation. Institutions such as the Guilford County School Board have voted against the law. This act also prohibits raises in teacher salary and eliminates the pay increase for teachers with master's degrees.

Current Meredith M.Ed student Erica Elrond stated, "I knew it wouldn't be

an extremely well-paying career, but I thought my hard work and developed expertise would be rewarded -- rewarded with respect, admiration, and proper acknowledgement of experience and further study. I feel like all of the politics right now are just turning people off to education [...] the young people who want to make their futures in education, are being hurt by seeing so little promise in our field".

With growing concern, Governor Pat McCrory responded with a recent an-

nouncement to increase the salary of beginning teachers. Yet the proposal, which would have to gain approval from the General Assembly, does not address experienced teacher's salaries. Delaney stated, "One teacher I talked to described this proposal as a "slap in the face" of experienced teachers. Another said that the proposal was like "cleaning the floor with the experienced teachers. Teachers feel disrespected and confused."

# President Allen Implements Second Year of Strategic Plan

Julia Dent, managing editor

The three year strategic plan for Meredith College is "designed to be a road map for the future of Meredith, for going strong and going strong in the future," said President Jo Allen. The plan, named "Meredith Forever," to improve Meredith for current and future students, faculty, staff and outside community went into motion in October 2012 after the Board of Trustees approved the first phase. The plan is focusing on six areas, or "pillars": educational excellence, enrollment, financial strength, facilities and technology, visibility and quality of life.

The phases of the plan will be laid out in three year increments because "historically, a lot of institutions have done [increments of] five or 10, and we decided higher education is

volatile right now and it is more important to lay out pillars that would be critical for a lifetime so we would never have to change them, and a three year increment is better to push on those pillars," said Allen.

While researching what to include in the plan, ideas came in from the community, faculty, staff, students, alumnae, donors and trustees to get a variety of feedback to better serve the Meredith community. "One of the things that Meredith wants to be is open and a really fluid part of the community we serve, so having voices from everybody is really important," said Allen. An outside firm was brought in to research and collect data about Meredith and analyze people's ideas for it. "We decided philosophically and intellectually that we needed to be working from data, not just assumptions based

on how we behave," said Allen. "How are we really doing? For example, we say that we are committed to diversity, what do we really look like in terms of diversity? What can we do more of or less of?"

Once the "foundational data" was established, they examined priorities and pricing, and one of the first items on the agenda was to come up with a new branding. "We felt that Meredith is a bold place and we need to claim that a little more and turn away from the softer 'I Believe,'" said Allen. "It was based on six months of research and the one word that kept coming up about Meredith was 'strong.'" And so, "Going Strong" was born, and the branding of Meredith got a new look. "From the initial 'Going Strong' video, I think I saw it about a hundred times before I stopped crying," said Allen.

"Finally, this is really us, and this is really the right message."

After a year of the Meredith Forever strategic plan, there has been good feedback about the Going Strong campaign, enrollment is higher, more inquiries and applications are coming from out of state, retention rates are stronger, new academic majors are going through the process of being added and the quality of life has improved. "We added quality of life as a pillar, and I don't know of any other institution that's done that," said Allen. "It really speaks to the culture of Meredith and shows that we care deeply about each other, whether it's finding the right kind of career opportunities for students, looking out for their health and well-being or improving our sustainability efforts to help the environment."