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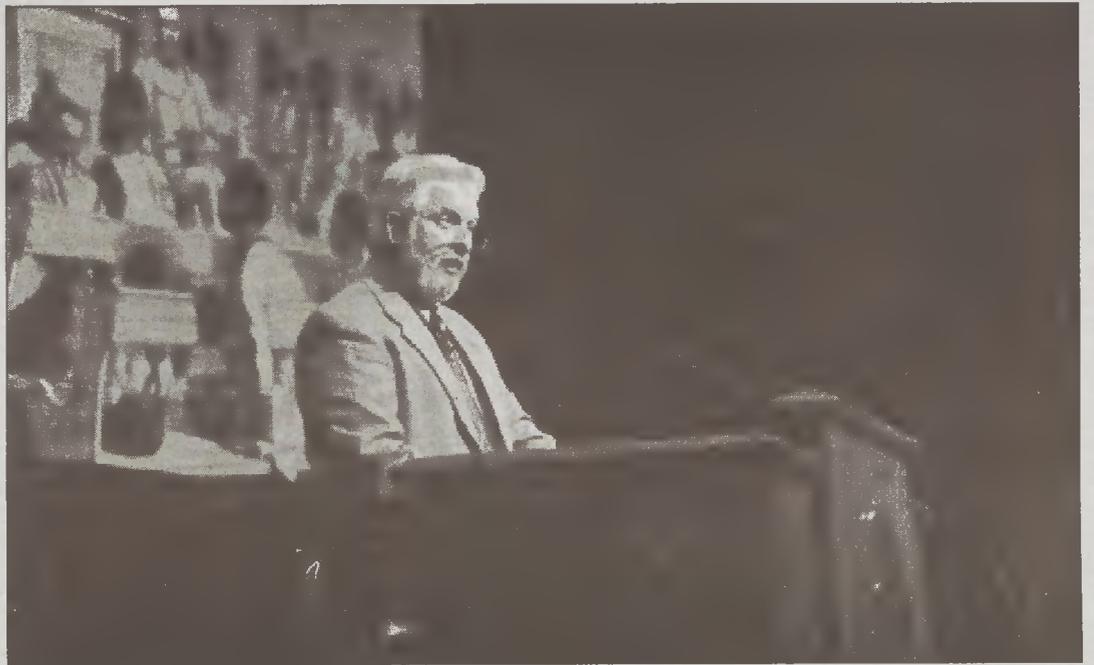
2014 Faculty Distinguished Lecture: Dr. Fountain Brings New Insight to Common Conceptions of American Slavery

Bri Crumbley, contributing writer

Faculty, staff and students alike gathered in Jones Auditorium to hear Meredith College's 2014 Faculty Distinguished Lecture on Wednesday, March 19. This year, the honor was given to Associate Professor of History, Dr. Dan Fountain. The presentation, entitled "Slavery, Civil War, & Salvation," focused on the religiosity of pre-Civil War African Americans. Sponsored by Meredith's Convocation Committee, the Faculty Distinguished Lecture is always free and open to the public. Starting in 1964 with a lecture by then Professor of English Norma Rose, the Faculty Distinguished Lecture is held at least once each academic year to give recognition to research and achievement by a current faculty member.

The audience was greeted by a slideshow of images reflecting the topic with accompanying music. The crowd was then welcomed by Meredith's Senior Vice President and Provost, Dr. Matthew Poslusny who gave a brief history of the Faculty Distinguished Lecture. The welcome was followed by former Meredith Professor of History Dr. William S. Price Sr., of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, who gave the formal introduction of Dr. Fountain.

Opening with thanks, and welcoming the audience into his thought process with a bit of stand-up style humor, Fountain's focus was dispelling the commonly held notion that the majority of slaves during America's antebellum period practiced Christianity. Fountain's research, published in a book of the same title as the lecture, looks into the ideas that the nature of the institution of slavery made it more difficult for slaves to embrace the Christian message preached, but not necessarily lived, by their owners. Christianity, and the ability to understand and embrace it, was used among the slaves as a way of creat-



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ing identity, and by the slave owners as a bargaining tool. He also discussed how the concept of Church was held completely other, as nothing more than a social gathering for some slaves, and an excuse to escape the dreariness of slave-life for others. Fountain's research concludes that a majority of the conversions that happened among African Americans took place during and after the Civil War in the wave of hope brought about by the idea of freedom.

After a rousing round of applause many tran-

sitioned to the Johnson Hall Rotunda to celebrate Dr. Fountain's research and successful presentation in a reception, organized by Meredith Professor of History Dr. Carolyn Happer, complete with ham biscuits, sugar cane sodas, sweet tea, and cakes sporting typical southern phrases such as "Bless Your Heart" and "Y'all Come Back." The evening ended on a high note amongst the delightful chatter of congratulations and cheerful discussion.

"Prepare to Get Involved": Ann Michelle Roberts is Ready for a Strong Start as SGA President

Alla Akiyeva, staff writer

Ann Michelle Roberts, Class of 2015, was elected as the Student Government Association (SGA)'s president last February. During her three years at Meredith, Ann Michelle has been involved with a variety of organizations, including the White Iris Circle and Spectrum, and has served as a Resident Assistant (RA), earning herself the nickname "Ms. Meredith."

Roberts shared with the Herald facts about herself and her ambitions to make a difference and celebrate student successes for next year.

On Her Plans for Next Year: Roberts emphasizes the importance of celebrating student achievement not only

on CSA Day in April, but throughout the whole year. She plans to set up a "Student of the Week" Award that would celebrate successes of different students every week. The Student of the Week Committee would make decisions regarding who receives the award. Celebrating achievement will inspire students to work even harder, believes Roberts.

Another goal is to have more on-campus events during weekends that would attract both commuters and resident students. An example of such an event will be a carnival week taking place in August at the beginning of the academic year. Roberts' priority is to make sure that students' voices are being heard, and that all events and initiatives are supported by students.

Besides campus-wide events, expanding parking lots and improving lighting in the parking areas are on Roberts' agenda as well. Another bullet point on her list is to increase the variety of food choices in the dining hall. "I've spoken to the [Belk Dining Hall staff] several times and they are eager to know [students' opinion]," says Roberts. To be able to do everything that is planned, Roberts expects a lot of input from fellow students. "Even as an RA, I do not make decisions based on what I like, because I am not the only person. We are a team. Everyone is a member of SGA." So, expect more surveys and prepare to share your opinion.

On Support: Roberts gives a lot of credit to the support she has received from Meredith faculty and staff, and

admits that hearing fellow students saying "you can do it" makes her feel even more special. "When you have so many people saying positive things, you believe in it... And I am ready to prove them right."

On Herself: "I am personable, approachable, and confident in what I have to say... The real 'me' is goofy," laughs Roberts, "and I am obsessed with Meredith."

On What We Should Prepare for: "You need to prepare for greatness," shares Roberts. "If you want to have your voice heard you've got to get involved... I am pumped to make a difference."

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