

Arts & Entertainment

"Connections" With Textiles

Stephanie Livesay, layout editor



photo via Julia Dent

On Sept. 18, the Connections exhibit opened in the Frankie G. Weems Gallery in the Gaddy-Hamrick building. This exhibit features fiber and textile pieces of art from a group of women that are close to Meredith College. This group of women includes former Meredith students, artists who have taught workshops at Meredith and current or former Meredith faculty.

Gallery assistant Leanna Pai, says, "It was a group that was created in order to further their education about fibers and surface design and also to help encourage each other. They eat together, create together and critique together to encourage one another with their work." The idea for the exhibit was born from the gallery director, Lisa Pearce, and gallery assistant wanting to "create an exhibition that would have educational merit for our current art students," Pai said. "The fibers class on surface design and dyeing is a more advanced class that doesn't

run as often as others, so we thought this would be a great opportunity to bring in some fibers artists who are also very close to Meredith's heart."

The exhibit has a variety of work to view. It was very interesting to see fiber pieces and learn all the ways one could create art with fibers and textile. I loved the various textures, colors and patterns in the art. It was incredible to see a collection of work that had similarities in the materials used but were so different from each other. The exhibit is very meaningful to the members of the group because in the past year, one of the members, Cheryl Harrison, who was a former Meredith student passed away. She had an unfinished piece and all the group members came together to add to the piece, completing it. This piece is included in the exhibit and is a testament to the friendship and bond shared amongst the group.

"Shored Up" Encourages Students To Be Environmental Advocates

Katrina Thomas, Staff Writer

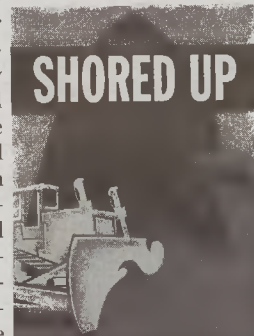
Environmental discussions sometimes do not consider the serious impacts made by ordinary citizens, but "Shored Up" takes a different approach. Filmmaker Ben Kalina touches upon some close-to-home coastal issues. From moving sand to banning the acknowledgement of scientific studies, this shocking documentary examines disastrous attempts to fight nature and deny science, and it challenges us to step up.

"Shored Up" opens with footage of Union Beach, New Jersey in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. While coastal counties account for just 20 percent of our nation's land, they are home to 50 percent of our population. Nevertheless, loosely enforced laws and low insurance rates have blinded people to storm risks and encouraged continual construction in already-overcrowded areas. The resulting struggle against nature has made once-wild land square and ugly, and beach filling, a popular restoration method, has resulted in reduced waves.

During a lecture on Sept. 16, Kalina said that he was originally planning to use North Carolina as the better standard, and indeed, "Shored Up" does

applaud the Banks' 150 undeveloped miles of beach, along with our state's ban of many of the sand-shifting "restoration" techniques seen elsewhere. The issue is that many residents and developers no longer think as highly of these laws as the film crew does. People are starting to clamor for nature-fighting structures such as walls that would, in theory, hold sand in place but could also lead to downhill erosion.

One of the topics addressed in a post-film interview with Dr. Erin Lindquist, Biology professor and coordinator of the Environmental Sustainability major, was climate change and its long-term effects. After discussing sea level rise, she mentioned other habitats' waves of change. Salinity is rapidly increasing in formerly freshwater wetlands, disrupting their uniquely rich ecosystems. Furthermore, she explained, these areas' sponge-like absorbercy could wreck fishing profits under salty conditions. Although conservation is a complex issue, there is agreement on one idea: students shouldn't be afraid to be involved advocates both on and off campus.



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North Carolina Dance Festival Meets High Expectations

Kiara Glover, staff writer

Beauty, elegance, grace, passion and power are all words that can best describe the dancers and choreography at the 24th annual North Carolina Dance Festival. The dance festival was held at Meredith College on Sept. 20 and 21 at Jones Auditorium. The festival showcased touring artists, local artists, dance theaters, high schools, middle schools and dance programs from Meredith and throughout North Carolina. Some of the companies and dance theaters that performed throughout the two day event included Meredith College Dance, Gaspard & Dancers, Black Box Dance Theatre, Diego Carrasco Dance, Tapestry and Ligon Dance Company, Broughton High School, Raleigh Dance Theatre and North

Carolina State University Dance. Founded by Jan Van Dyke, the festival had first began in 1991 in Greensboro, North Carolina by a non profit organization called Dance Project. Since then, it has spread to four more cities in North Carolina.

The beginning of the festival gave high expectations for the next day, opening with creative and imaginative performances throughout the night. The first day included choreography based around dramaz such as "Rubix" by Gaspard & Dancers and "Mess" by Leah Wilks. "A Place Apart" by Diego Carrasco Dance included romance, complex relationships and the struggles of living in an overwhelming world.

The second day lived up to the ex-

pectations made by the first, with marvelous performances even better and more inspiring than the day before. Some of the performances included "Shortest Distance Between Two" choreographed by Megan Marvel of Raleigh Dance Theatre and "Brushing Past" by Eleanor Smith. A staff of Arts Together and part of the Meredith College Dance Program's faculty put together "Dystopian Conformity: Do Not Go Gentle" choreographed by Elizabeth Friedman, which was performed by the Meredith College Dance Program. With so many beautifully choreographed pieces and extravagant dancers, it was one of the unforgettable events to happen on Meredith's campus so far.