

Dean takes helm of library school Reading talks lack past fire

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

José-Marie Griffiths officially became the dean of the School of Information and Library Science on Monday.

"I am delighted to be joining the distinguished faculty, researchers, leadership and students of UNC," Griffiths stated in a press release. "I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to build on the accomplishments of the school."

Gary Marchionini, a professor in the school and a member of the dean search committee, said it was Griffith's extensive experience that made her an ideal dean for the school.

"She understands the emerging trends and development in the world of information science, as well as the great tradition and scholarship of libraries," he said. "She bridges both the scholarly, technical and intellectual realm that SILS represents."

Marchionini said the application



Dean José-Marie Griffiths takes control of the School of Information and Library Science.

process was competitive because a number of qualified candidates applied for the job.

"We had an amazing applicant pool," he said. "I would have been extremely pleased and proud to work for anyone considered finalists."

After receiving a bachelor's degree in physics in 1973, Griffiths earned her doctoral degree in information science from University College London in 1977.

Before taking the position at UNC, Griffiths served as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh and held the top post in information science.

Griffiths also has been involved in information and library science

projects in more than 35 countries and has worked with corporations including Apple Computer Inc., DuPont and AT&T.

She was appointed to serve on the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Sciences from 1996 to 2002 and has served on the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee since 2003.

The library science school comprises about 22 full-time faculty members, 280 graduate students, 50 doctoral students and 65 undergraduates.

The school offers a master's of science degree in information science and library science, a doctor of philosophy in information and library science, an undergraduate major in information science, an undergraduate minor in information systems and a certificate of advanced study.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BY CLAIRE DORRIER
STAFF WRITER

Controversy was not an issue in Monday's summer reading discussions as incoming students and University leaders dissected David Lipsky's "Absolutely American: Four Years at West Point."

UNC has endured much criticism of its Summer Reading Program during the past two years.

But even though this year's book selection process was under careful scrutiny, incoming students participated in active discussion.

Lipsky's book documents the lives of students as they complete four years of rigid military training and academic coursework at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

During a discussion in Bingham Hall, Chancellor James Moeser said UNC does not strive to make headlines when making its summer reading selection.

"Our intent is not to be controver-

sial, but to provoke discussion and to be an intellectual catalyst," he said.

Student Body President Matt Calabria agreed that the lack of a controversy did not take away from the quality of the conversation.

"The discussion met my expectations," he said. "Students came unafraid to express their beliefs."

After introductions, Calabria sparked discussion by asking students what "Absolutely American" meant to them.

Students volunteered ideas such as the need for pride and faith in one's country as well as the privilege of freedom. The discussion soon turned to a comparison between life at West Point Academy.

Students noted that the most obvious differences between the two institutions were that UNC encourages individuality, while West Point demands conformity.

Freshman Mark Burns said that conformity is a quality necessary for the military to work effectively and that the hierarchy of commands is vital for success.

Several students agreed that it takes a certain personality to prosper at West Point and that many of them would not fit the bill.

In contrast, they said UNC students have the opportunity to express themselves through many outlets and maintain their individual values.

One example showed how West Point students cannot tolerate those who break their honor code, while UNC students are expected to encourage others to follow it.

As he wrapped up the discussion, Moeser asked students if they enjoyed the book. All students agreed that after reading Lipsky's work, they acquired more respect for military officers.

Even so, freshman Matt Baldiga said the discussion was not as stimulating as he had expected.

"Most of us generally agreed on all topics," he said. "It didn't make me think more about my own opinion."

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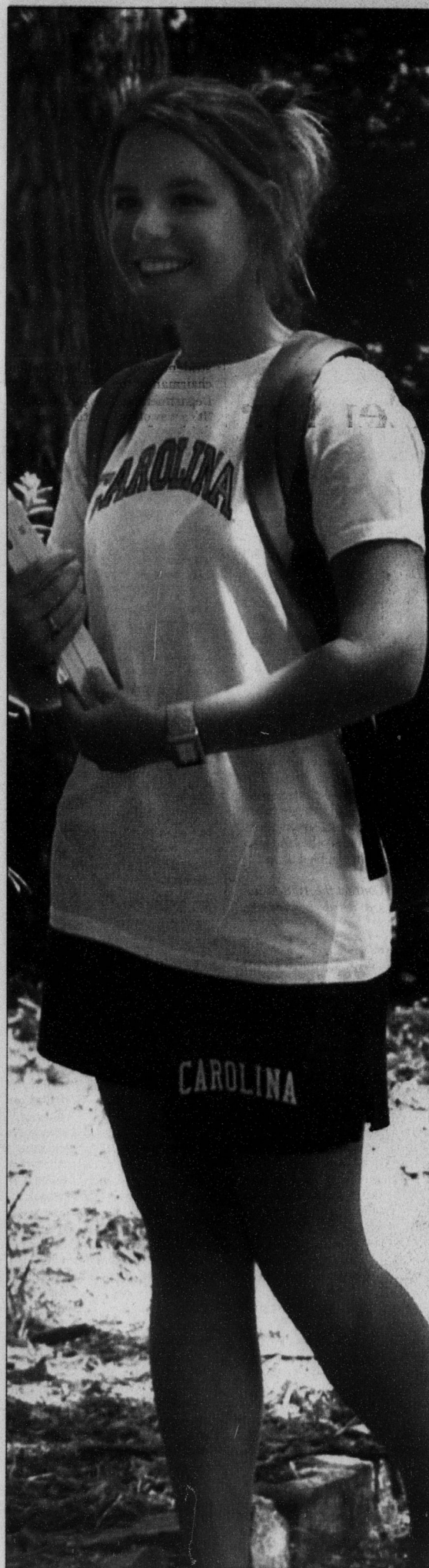
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Business Journal, March 15, 2002

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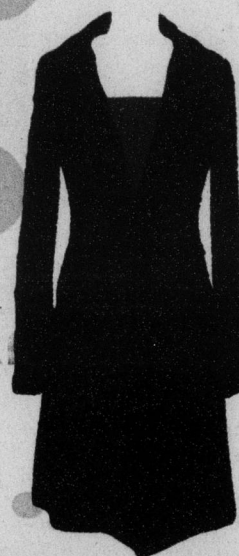
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