
HONORABLE MENTION

December 2004

Dr. Cynthia Edwards, Director

Newsletter of the Meredith College Honors Program

Editors: Britney Carr and Manisha Panday

A Senior's Look Back at Honors

Allison Clapp '05

Looking back on the past four years at Meredith, I have come to realize the impact that the Honors Program has had on my experience. Much of what I have done has been in relation to Honors. And the honors experience has heightened my college life.



Allison in Belize

Because of Honors, I have been able to take classes that are tailored to students such as myself. In these classes, I have been able to interact with fellow Honors students in a learning environment. It has been an experience even better than normal classes.

Although college consists of many many classes, it's not always these hours spent sitting behind a desk that we remember the most fondly. The Honors experience has allowed me to participate in trips with fellow students. I've been on three trips with the Honors Program, and it is during these weekends that I have been able to gain fellowship with other students and make wonderful friendships. These times outside the classroom are the ones that I hold dear to my heart.



Allison in Thailand

The Focus on Excellence Program has also made my experience at Meredith very enjoyable. I have become a more cultured person through seeing plays such as *Aida* and *Cats* and going to events at the Art Museum and History Museum. I've been able to have fun with other students at picnics and play days.

Overall, the Honors Program has been an excellent addition to my college experience. The Honors students are some of the best friends that I have at Meredith. Honors isn't strictly about schoolwork and extra classes. Rather, Honors incorporates many fun-filled events that add to college life!

Second Intercollegiate Student Conference on Homelessness

Gail Kenyon, Ph.D., Department of Sociology and Social Work, 919-760-8142

Meredith College is proud to host the Second Intercollegiate Student Conference on Homelessness, to be held April 8, 2004, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The City of Raleigh has formed a partnership with Wake County, Triangle United Way, and the Raleigh Continuum of Care to develop a strategic action plan with the goal of eradicating homelessness in Raleigh within the next decade.

In light of this 10-year plan to end homelessness in our community Meredith students are encouraged to make some aspect of homelessness a topic of their work next term. Then join students from NC State, St Augustine and Wake Tech to present your work at this conference. Papers, posters, and other forms of presentation are invited. Presentations will be in round table format.

Watch for the call for presenters early in 2005.

For further information contact:

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or

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Dr. Judith Bennett speaks at the Five O'clock Scholars

Brent Pitts, Ph.D., Department of Foreign Languages, 919-760-8335

A few Honors students recently attended a Five O'clock Scholars lecture by Judith M. Bennett, followed by dinner with her. Dr Bennett is a distinguished professor of history at UNC-CH and co-author of the textbook used in MRE 201 Pilgrims, Poets, and Prophets.

Dr. Judith Bennett



Dr Bennett spoke on 'Punishing fornication: Leyrwite in medieval England.' As Honors students now know, leyrwite was a tax collected from women guilty of extra-marital sex. Dr

Bennett discussed what leyrwite meant, why it was levied on women but not men, and what the practice tells us about sexual mores and gender rules in the Middle Ages.

At the dinner, Dr Bennett said that, for their work in the archives, researchers need knowledge of Latin and a good set of earplugs. It's very common for big university libraries to require researchers to wear special gloves when they consult medieval manuscripts, to protect the manuscripts from undue wear. Dr Bennett does much of her research not in big archives but in small county record offices in England, because that's where a lot of the medieval manorial and church records are. Most of the records she consults are in Latin. Very often, the only other people working in the small rooms where she examines these precious records are 60+-year-old married couples doing genealogical research. Dr Bennett says she rarely wears gloves to handle manuscripts. Since her tablemates are often hard of hearing and tend to 'whisper' too loud, Dr Bennett says she considers earplugs, not gloves, a must if she expects to do a good day's work. This year, Dr Bennett became a fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. You can learn more about Dr Bennett, her research, and her many other awards by visiting www.unc.edu/depts/history/faculty/bennett.html, her UNC-CH web page.

From Military to Meredith

By Kathryn Maitrejean '05

Annapolis?!? I couldn't believe it. Just the thought of it made me homesick for my life in the Navy. For years the Navy was home. It is a family, a culture, and a whole lifestyle. You live, work, and play together, and you never know what the next day will bring. Every few weeks or months I was off to a new place and every couple years I packed up everything I owned and moved across the globe. I loved it, but like anything, you don't appreciate it until it is gone. Giving up my "haze gray and underway" life was hard for me when I became a K-9 officer and had to leave the ship. This adjustment was nothing compared to what I gave up several years later to come to Meredith College.

Every job I had in the Navy was the same in one aspect. I was almost always the only female. I had to learn how to be strong, assertive, and bold in order to succeed in a male dominated career. Coming to Meredith was a shock. I was facing a new, foreign culture that I knew nothing about. Not only was I coming to the South, but also I was

(gulp) facing a school full of women. (How do I work with or socialize with them???) For some reason, I knew this was where I needed to be, and I am thankful every day that I am at Meredith. I knew it would be tough to be away from the ocean, to adjust to life in the South, and to live through cold winters (below 60 degrees!). I have even accepted the hardest sacrifice of all. I gave up my beloved nomadic life to stay in one place for three whole years.



Kathryn Maitrejean (left) with Mary Lacey in Annapolis

In spite of these things, my experience here has been better than I could've imagined, and a big part of that has been because of the Honors Program. Without it, I would have missed out on getting to know some truly wonderful students and professors. The people I have met have been the best part of my experience here and getting to know them has been an honor for me. I have enjoyed the Focus on Excellence opportunities each semester, but the Honors classes have given me new challenges and interactive learning that isn't always found in the college classroom. Traditional courses don't give you the experience of understanding how intertwined disciplines are once you leave college, but Honors courses give you a taste of how "interdisciplinary" life really is. These precious semesters before I return to active duty have been a challenge, but I wouldn't trade them for anything.

Focus on Excellence

Mary Ann Beam, Office of Student Development,
919-760-8350

Despite the rain that forced the opening event for Focus on Excellence to move inside, about ninety students still turned out and had a great time! The Mexican Fiesta was the perfect atmosphere for meeting and greeting new friends while welcoming back the old ones.

On October 13th, two packed buses shuttled students, faculty, and staff to the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium to enjoy a marvelous performance of Broadway's longest running musical, *CATS*. And enjoy they did – just ask any one of them!

Also, twenty-eight students, faculty and staff enjoyed and reveled in the annual trip to Washington, DC. Keep an eye out for them, and be sure to ask about their favorite parts of the trip.



Washington, DC trip

The last event for the semester was the Art Exhibition and Dessert at the Museum of Art on Sunday, November 14th.

Next semester also is full of exciting events. You will go to the symphony, *Miss Saigon*, a ballet, and a day trip to the zoo. Be sure to check out your brochure for full details of these wonderful events for next semester.

I hope you have enjoyed the events this semester, and hope you will enjoy all the great events planned for next semester.

Summer Research

The following honors students participated in summer research for the summer of 2004.

Kelly Beth Smith '06 with Professor Jack Huber: Cultural Expectations of Thinness in Women: From the 1920s to 2000s: Spreading Ourselves Too Thin

[We] extended past research on evolution of the idealized female body over time. Our research compared the time period 1989-2000 to the previous two time periods studied by past researchers, 1959-1978 and 1979-1988. The first part of the study was a qualitative analysis of magazine articles. How have popular women's magazines changed over time in terms of frequency of articles dedicated to dieting and exercise for weight loss? There was not a significant increase in the number of diet and/or exercise articles from 1989-2000. However, there are many new popular magazines in circulation that are dedicated solely to weight loss in women.



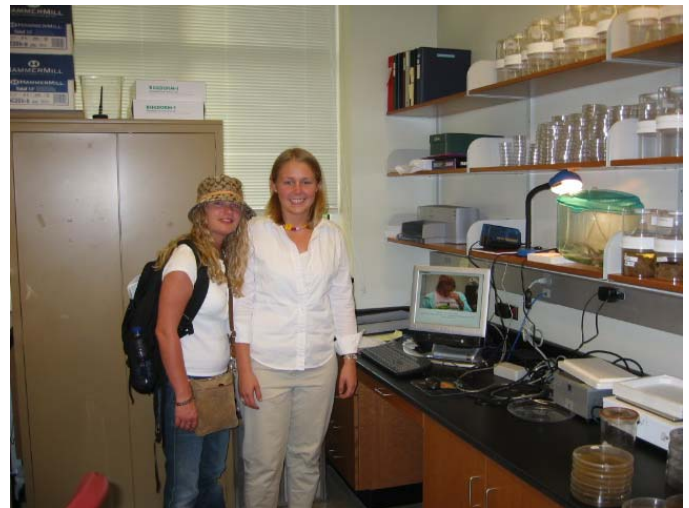
Kelly Beth Smith (center) with Professor Huber

For the second part, we calculated BMI's (body mass index) for Playboy centerfolds since the beginning of the magazine in 1953 and for Miss America pageant winners since the origins of the pageant in 1921. The present study determined that this trend in decreasing thinness began earlier than expected in the 1920's-1930's. Results indicated a

strong correlation between decreasing Miss America and Playboy BMI's for comparable years (1950's-1989) $r = .86$. Results also demonstrated that the ideal female body shape has evolved from curvaceous to tubular.

Lauren Thie '07 with Professor Larry Grimes: Examining the Ovipositioning Preferences of the Aedes albopictus

This summer, I had the privilege of engaging in eight weeks of full time research at Meredith College. Elaborating on work I had done in the spring in Research 299, I performed a series of experiments on what factors influence the female *Aedes albopictus*, or Asian Tiger mosquito, as it searches for the location where it will lay its eggs. My research involved these experiments, performing routine egg collections on the Meredith College campus, and expanding the collection of resources in my lab about the *Aedes albopictus*. My summer of research created the basis for my research this fall in Research 499, and also for my spring research as I compose my honors thesis in Research 498. My stipend experience with my faculty advisor Dr. Larry Grimes gave me an invaluable learning opportunity which I will use as I pursue a career in medicine.



Lauren Thie (right) in lab

Rose Wilson '06 with Professor Cynthia Edwards: A Comparison of the Nonconformity and Self-Constraint Scales

Smith (1967) developed the Nonconformity Scale after researching conforming and cooperating

behavior in adolescent males. Recent research examined a related set of constructs, independence and interdependence (Singelis, 1994). The current study is a comparison of the two scales. The researcher hypothesized that non-conformists would have higher independence scores than others, and that conformists would have higher interdependence scores than others. Participants were 40 undergraduate female students obtained from introductory psychology classes at a private women's college. There was a significant interaction for interdependence ($F(1,37)=80.79, p<0.01$) and independence ($F(1,37)=106.87, p<0.01$). The results suggest that independent and interdependent self-construals are related to conformity type, indicating that conformity and nonconformity scales measure the same variables as independence and interdependence scales.



Rose Wilson

*Erika Snitzer '04 with Professor Mark O'Dekirk:
The Effect of Directed Forgetting in Different
Presentation Modalities*

This study examined the effects of directed forgetting on learning. We expected to find that instructions to forget would have different costs and benefits for retrieval when information is learned in different modalities. This experiment is a 2 x 4 independent measures factorial design (memory instructions x information source). We measured the effects on learning across presentation types: auditory verbal, visual verbal, visual line drawings, and visual photographs. Each group was presented

two lists including fifteen noun items each. Groups 1 and 2 were read lists of nouns by an administrator. Group 1 was instructed that the first fifteen words were "just for practice". Group 2 was informed of the midpoint after the first fifteen words. The same basic procedure was followed for other conditions. Data is still being collected, and results are pending. Generally, found that there is a difference in memory/scores over different presentation modalities. There is no significant difference in the directed forgetting effect, but the effect did occur consistently in all presentation modalities. We plan to run another version of the study in the spring to examine whether any differences emerge when recall and recognition tests are delayed. In the current study, we tested subjects immediately following presentation of the information. We plan to delay testing 2 days to see what happens.



Erika Snitzer (speaking)

Honors Trip to Annapolis

Rebecca Ann Lewis '08

In September, the Honors group embarked on an adventure to take on the town of Annapolis, MD despite the threat of hurricane Ivan. Some of the best bonding time took place on the bus, and with faces pressed against the windows, we finally arrived at the Naval Academy, where classes were just letting out and hundreds of blue and white uniforms flooded the campus. As we toured, we learned about the French architecture and the monuments and history, and many of us gained a greater respect for those who are selected to

complete the rigorous requirements to graduate from the Naval Academy. After a quick trip to our Irish-themed hotel, we feasted on very delicious Irish cuisine while gazing at the bay through the windows of the lovely Carroll House dining room. Our speaker, Mary Lacey, was truly impressive, and she not only told us very valuable information about her own fascinating career as Program Executive Officer of the National Security Personnel System, but also tried to help us learn from her experiences and apply them to our own lives.

Although it was rainy on Saturday morning, our fearless seafarers were not daunted. We proceeded to learn more about the Annapolis area through our mini courses, and some groups took treks through the morning rain showers to complete their tasks. For the rest of the afternoon (thankfully it stopped raining), we explored the charming shops and streets of the town of Annapolis (there was even a pirate store!) and spent valuable time building friendships and getting to know one another better. Some of our more brave adventurers left the landlubbers behind to go sailing in the bay. They witnessed a magnificent sunset, and thankfully no one fell overboard. A large group then waited until dark and went on a spooky historical ghost tour through the town.



Honors in Annapolis

The next morning we ate a refreshing breakfast and though many of us were sad to leave, we were soon uplifted when we arrived at the National Cathedral; those of us that chose to worship found ourselves in awe of the majesty of the place. Interestingly enough, we were told that there was a Darth Vader

gargoyle on the top of one of the towers. On the way back to Meredith, we drove past the embassies and several monuments, and, much to my delight, we added to the nautical theme of our trip with a viewing of Pirates of the Caribbean on the bus. I am sure that most of us will always remember our trip to Annapolis as a wonderful voyage because most everyone made new friends and strengthened older ties as well. Annapolis only strengthened the bond of the Honors community, and therefore we are very grateful to the girls who worked so diligently to make our experience so very memorable and enjoyable.

Dr. Webb's "What's News" class

Britney Carr '08

Dr. Webb's "What's News" class made presentations about female journalists to the university community on October 26th. Some of the presentations included Barbara Walters, Renee Montagne, Katherine Graham of the Washington Post, Mary Garber an NC local, and Diane Sawyer of ABC. All of these presentations were very well done and intellectually informative. All of the students were very professionally dressed for such an occasion and were well prepared with speeches and presentation materials.



Presenters at What's New(s)