

Alumnae Share Stories over Breakfast

Sarah Kiser, Staff Writer



Barbara Medlin Raynor of '60 & Mary Cole Snotherly of '59

here at Meredith."

After undergraduate studies she taught English as a foreign language to students for two years at a prep school at a university in Ankara, Turkey. "The one thing you find out in the Peace Corps is our common humanity. They might not look exactly like Americans look, but they were warm and friendly and full of mischief. And wanting to play pranks on the professor," she said. "They were good students. I thoroughly enjoyed my students."

"Then I took a detour and decided to go to law school," said Parker. Then she practiced law for 15 1/2 years. Then served on North Carolina's Court of Appeals for eight years, and after that served on the Supreme Court of North Carolina for 21 years, the later eight of which she served as the Chief Justice. "And then I retired. I reached the point where the statute said 'you must go,'" said Parker.

"When I campaigned I had a little card that had my bio with bullets on the back," said Parker. "And the two things that people were most likely to react to were 'oh, you went to Meredith'... and secondly 'you were in the Peace Corps.'"

Surprises while Traveling Close to Home

Like generations of students before and after her, Frances Cuttle Newby, Class of '78, came to Meredith as a freshman after she "fell in love with the campus." She came from Danville, Virginia to double major in home economics and religion. After

graduating and getting married, she went to work for the First Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh as the Food Services Director, a job that used both majors. She worked there for ten years, then retired to raise a family. Now her work takes her in a direction she probably did not expect. For the past 20 years she has worked as an "independent contractor in group ticket sales exclusively for Feld Entertainment" in Raleigh and Fayetteville.

Newby said "I really do think that people usually do end up doing things that weren't really the title of their degree, but in other ways, college always prepares you for future life, whether it be in marketing that I'm in now or sales. Which is not really what I ever dreamed I'd be doing, but that's what it is."

Times Have Changed

Peggy Nicholls, Class of '84, came back to Meredith from Mechanicsville, Virginia and Beth Stabler, Class of '84, returned from Williamsburg, Virginia to hear Dr. Crook speak at the convocation following the breakfast. "Dr. Crook was one of my favorite professors. He and his wife were our sponsors for study abroad in London. [They] invited us into their home and shared a little bit of the English culture with us before we left. Then we went off and stayed in Scotland part of the time and London part of the time," said Stabler.

When asked about what courses stood out in memory the most, Nicholls named Dr. Rosemary Hornak's psychology classes.

"There were two Dr. Grubbs. Both taught in the history department. I wasn't a history major, but I could've taken every class they ever taught. They were fascinating and challenging. They challenged you to think and articulate that back into the person who you were learning about," said Stabler, who majored in psychology.

"Things have changed a lot, for the better for y'all," said Nicholls, who majored in home economics with a concentration in family and child development so that she could teach kindergarten.

For the dorms, "you could go in and out no problem," said Nicholls, as opposed to the card scanning we do habitually today. But "at a certain hour they locked all the doors so the security guards had to come let you in," said Stabler. Both remembered Heilman as a senior dorm.

"Your dates always had to call from Johnson Hall... and there was a receptionist who would call down to tell you that your date had arrived," Stabler recalled.

"Boys are on the hall now. We didn't have boys on the hall unless they were totting refrigerators," said Nicholls. She also mentioned something that must be a foreign concept to students today: College enforced curfews. 2:00 am on the weekends and 11:00 pm on weeknights for freshmen.

Regardless, some things never change. Nicholls said "What I remember most is the camaraderie of the girls on the hall."