

## HOME ECONOMICS AT MEREDITH COLLEGE

For 30 years (1965-1995), Marilyn Stuber taught home economics at Meredith College, becoming department head in 1967. Under her leadership, the curriculum advanced substantially, with five majors added in 1988.

“Our goal remains to improve the quality of individual and family life, but we’ve added ‘and to make a living.’ Home economics is much more than stitching and stirring.” --Dr. Stuber, 1994

In 1995, she received the Laura Weatherspoon Harrill Presidential Award, given to faculty members for their contributions to the College and its programs. She was recognized for her focus on and dedication to student advising during her long and distinguished career at Meredith.

After retirement, Dr. Stuber wrote the following history of the home economics department, covering 1914 through the mid-1990s.

## THE “NEW” HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT AT MEREDITH

By Marilyn Cook Stuber

### FORWARD

Home Economics/Human Environmental Sciences has a proud history at Meredith College. The Department was added very early in the history of the College and has offered a viable program from that time to the present. In my retirement, it has been my pleasure to summarize the eighty-year history, starting with the one-person department in 1914 to the department of nearly 20 faculty members in the late 1990's.

Perhaps the person who had the greatest impact on the Department was Miss Ellen Brewer, chairman from 1922 to 1966, a period of 44 years. Her graduates are lavish in their praise of her, a dedicated, compassionate person who prepared them not only for professions but for life. The Brewer era reflected a stable curriculum with little change. The turbulent years of constant adjustment and change would come later.

When the Brewer family home was dissolved following the death of Miss Ann Eliza Brewer, the many scrapbooks and boxes of clippings dating back to events prior to 1900 were given to the Department and the College. Before any written history could be attempted, it was necessary to read all of the clippings and place them in chronological order. They were then placed in additional scrapbooks. A tedious task, this process consumed more than a year (to say nothing of personal household space). It is largely from the news events and scrapbooks preserved by the Brewer family, in addition to the carefully written *A History of Meredith*

*College* by Mary Lynch Johnson that the Home Economics/Human Environmental Sciences history emerged.

Special thanks go to Deborah Tippet and Ellen Goode for critiquing the manuscript. Deborah's eighty year history of the department that she prepared for Alumnae College in 1994 was a helpful guide. Orchids to Charlie for his computer expertise and patience.

It should be remembered that the careers of alumnae reflect their responses to the Home Economics newsletters in 1992 and 1995; their careers may have changed in the interim between their response and publication of this history. I would like to invite all readers of this document to help with any inaccuracies, incomplete descriptions or additions of pertinent information that can clarify the history of Home Economics/Human Environmental sciences for future generations.

Read and enjoy!

Marilyn Cook Stuber

## **CHAPTER I**

### **THE EARLY YEARS, 1914**

THE NEW HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT AT MEREDITH appeared as a heading in the May 1914 Meredith College Quarterly Bulletin. This event was to make a profound impact on the small liberal arts college located in the heart of Raleigh. It stated, "As there is a growing demand for college training in Home Economics, both for home-makers and teachers, beginning with September, 1914, Meredith will offer work in that important subject." Thus, Home Economics was "born" at Meredith College.

The college itself was little more than an "infant" in 1914, having opened its doors just fifteen years earlier on September 27, 1899 as Baptist Female University. Although one hundred students were expected, a total of 180 students registered for the first day and by the end of the year, the number had increased to 220. After a decade of being known as Baptist Female University, the trustees voted on May 24, 1909 to change the name to Meredith College. "Its lack of pretentiousness, its brevity, and its beauty of sound were welcome to the friends of a school which had been groaning under too much name (7:106)."

The idea of a college for women had been considered for more than fifty years prior to the actual opening. The thinking of the early Meredith proponents was very progressive for that time in history. They projected that the field of study for women should include three departments: "Literature and Science, Fine Arts, and Technical Training." The technical training was justified by stating: "For too long our girls have been educated with little reference to enabling them to gain a living independent of fathers, brothers, or husbands. Common sense unites with Christian civilization in demanding that they have the opportunity of acquiring such technical and industrial training as shall give them independence and enable them to enter such spheres of activity as their sex fits them for and the scriptures approve (7:32)."

In describing the new Home Economics major, the catalogue of 1914 stated, "In order to put courses given in the Home Economics Department on the same basis as those leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree, a carefully planned course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science will be offered. This degree will represent in quantity as much work as the A. B. degree; but less time will be devoted to Language and Mathematics and more to Science. The outline of the sixty

hours work for the B. S. degree in Home Economics is arranged so that students in their four years are required to take fourteen hours in Home Economics, thirty-five hours of prescribed work in the regular college literary course, and to elect eleven hours in the literary, art, or music courses as described more fully in the catalogue (9) (7:113)."

The 1914 catalogue stated that foods would be the major thrust of the curriculum and would include a strong scientific base. "The courses in Home Economics will be devoted to a study of the fundamental principles of food from the standpoint of their nutritive and economic value; to the preparation of foods; to household chemistry; to household sanitation; and to the art of home decoration (9)." The emphasis on foods was to continue throughout the entire history of the department.

The first courses were listed in the catalogue as follows:

1. Cooking. The course includes the principles of cooking and their application to foods in regard to digestibility, palatability and attractiveness.
  2. Cooking. Prerequisites: Cooking I and Biology. Continuation of the work done in Course 1, with the preparation of more elaborate dishes. Special study is made of the more modern methods and principles applied to this subject, including the use of the fireless cooker and other conveniences.
  3. Food Constituents. Prerequisites: Cooking I, Biology and Chemistry. This course includes a study of the composition of foods in detail, and their source, production and manufacture. It will be a basis for the work in Foods and Dietetics. Texts: Bailey, SANITARY AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY; Hutchinson, FOODS AND DIETETICS; Snyder, HUMAN FOODS; Farmers' Bulletins.
  4. Foods and Dietetics. Prerequisites: Cooking, Food Constituents, Biology, Chemistry and Physiology. The work is continued from Course 3. Foods are studied according to their places on the menu, their dietetic value, their combinations and their cost. Menus are made out for certain prices.
  5. Household Management. This course includes a study of the principles of sanitary science; household sanitation; the best methods for the routine of house work; the study of economic principles as applied to the home; and the division of income.
  6. Home Decoration. The principles of design and decoration as applied to the home are subjects which do not usually receive the attention they deserve. This course includes the study of house plans and room plans in their relation to the work carried on in the home, to the saving of space, and to the development of beauty. (This course was deleted from the catalogue after the first year and did not reappear until 14 years later (1928) as House Planning and Furnishing.)
  7. Lecture Course. Required of seniors in the B. S. course.
- Course open to the women of Raleigh. Details of the work will be announced later (9).

Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, in *A History of Meredith College*, 1972, wrote, "Katherine Parker, '10, was the first head of the department, returning to the College after training in Simmons College and a year's teaching in the University of Puerto Rico (7:113)."

Katherine Parker wrote in her memoirs, "Miss Shannon Smith, my history teacher at Meredith and my good friend, started talking about a Home Economics department at Meredith. She wrote to me and asked me if I would plan a department and come back and teach... . So, I moved back to Raleigh and started making plans... I planned the desks and had a carpenter make them. I varied the heights by two to four inches because I had always had trouble with being too low... . We had 8 double cooking units in the room. We were housed in the former house of a

doctor. The laboratory had been his private office and was well suited for our purpose. We tore out a wall in the main part of the house for a classroom (12)."

"I had one student in interior design who could not see perspective. I tried to show her that lines converge as they get farther away. I even took her out in the street and asked her if the street did not look smaller three blocks away. 'No,' she replied, 'it looks the same size.' She was the same girl who colored gutters of a white house purple."

"Once when we were serving demonstration suppers which were not to cost more than twenty-five cents, a girl had a gorgeous meal of chicken and everything that goes with it, and ice-cream and cake. I told her that she could not possibly have done that for twenty-five cents for each person. She said, 'But Mother gave me the chicken and cooked it, and gave me the ice cream and cake.' I don't think she saw the point. Some of the students were boys, of course, but it is the funny and unusual things that I remember after fifty-five years."

"I attended chapel regularly. Perhaps one day I would find an answer to my theological problems. One speaker, Dr. Freeman of the Department of Religion, appealed to me most of all of those who spoke in chapel. I made an appointment to talk with him. I can't remember the conversation, but I think he helped."

Katherine Parker's memoirs continued, "Mother remarked that I seemed to get interested in chapel more than usual. I confess that I did!" Miss Parker describes walking with Dr. Freeman and taking a buggy ride and then writes, "I knew that Father wanted me to have a career, and Mother did not want to have anything to do with a widower or a minister. So, Dr. Freeman and I met at the corner, out of sight, and rode out in the country, getting back before supper. One night, we walked in the rain. I was afraid that Mother would find my raincoat, so I destroyed it! It wasn't long before we were exchanging notes at the college mail box. The girls soon caught on and the news got in the annual. We had several walks to the lead mines and within a month one night we walked to Pullen Park and there on a little bridge, I said, 'Yes.'"

"Dr. Vann had retired and Dr. Brewer was president of Meredith. I went to him to resign. He asked me to stay on a year on a part-time basis, but still as head of the department. He asked me to suggest two teachers, one to take my place and to be head the following year and one to teach sewing which we were to initiate the next year. I suggested one of my Simmons classmates (Marie White) and one of my Winthrop students (Laura Warden Bailey). Both accepted."

The second year of the Home Economics Department, four hours of textiles replaced four elective hours for students in Home Economics. The catalogue listed the textiles courses as follows:

Sewing 1. This course offers instruction and practice in plain hand and machine sewing; study of textiles, drafting of patterns and the use of commercial patterns.

Sewing 2. This course will be a continuation of sewing 1 with more advanced work. It provides instruction in drafting, draping, and finishing of waists, gowns, and skirts.

In the 1915-16 catalogue, the courses appeared under three headings often used at that time, Domestic Science (for the foods courses), Domestic Arts (for the sewing courses), and Household Management and Decoration (for the remainder of the courses). In 1914 the sewing laboratory fee was one dollar, and the cooking laboratory fee was seven dollars and fifty cents. This charge remained unchanged for the next quarter century. The total enrollment at Meredith that year was 113 students. Tuition and room and board was \$220.50 to \$225.50, depending on the room (9).

Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson described the early Home Economics picture at Meredith (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972), "Since Katherine Parker organized the department of Home Economics in 1914, the position as head has been held successively by Marie White, Elsie Allen (Miss Allen of Manchester, Massachusetts, died suddenly after one month at Meredith), Lydia M. Boswell, Josephine Schiffer, Anne Leaming Booker, and Olive Normington" (7:153).

In the early years of Dr. Charles Brewer's presidency (1915-1939), the clouds of World War I colored the activities of Meredith, as it did those of other colleges at the time. In the fall of 1915 and 1916, faculty concerts were given for Belgian Relief. Clothing drives were sponsored by the Y.W.C.A. The sewing classes bought material and made garments for the Belgian children. In the fall of 1917, a War Activities Committee was organized with Marie White, head of the Home Economics Department, as chairman. A War Conservation Club helped to keep up morale on wheatless and meatless days. "Clean your plate and lick the Kaiser" was a popular slogan. Rolling bandages and knitting sweaters, socks, and mufflers was a patriotic activity. Christmas boxes were packed for soldiers (7:159).

In the fall of 1918 Meredith was quarantined for eight weeks because of the influenza epidemic. City authorities quarantined the College in October—a quarantine which was not lifted until the Christmas holidays (7:160).

The most momentous decision in the history of Meredith since its founding was made on May 23, 1921, when the Board of Trustees approved moving Meredith College to more spacious grounds. "It is the sense of this Board that the site of the college be moved to larger grounds in, at, or near Raleigh," because of the inadequacy of the first location. The move was made to the present location in west Raleigh during the Christmas vacation of 1925-26, one of the coldest holiday seasons on record (7:172, 177).

Typical of most women's colleges in the south, early Meredith College student regulations did not encourage informal social contacts between men and women. The student handbooks from 1915 to 1925—the first ten years of President Brewer's administration, the last ten years on the old campus—show that the regulations at Meredith were conservative. For instance, the use of the telephone was a senior privilege until 1919, when a pay phone was put in for the use of the other students. Until 1919, the students shopped only on Monday and received callers only on Monday afternoons or—provided they had attended the literary society meetings at seven—from eight to ten on Saturday evenings. If they wished to do so, seniors could choose another afternoon or evening rather than Monday or Saturday. Twice a semester on Saturday evenings students could dine with friends in town; twice a semester they could take part in private receptions at school, later called studio parties. So long as there were no Monday classes, the students did not, the handbook records, "attend social affairs or those merely for entertainment on school days." The six-day schedule for classes was put into effect in 1920. Attendance at moving pictures, forbidden until 1919, was then restricted to once a month with a chaperon for the students in general; seniors could attend once a week in the afternoons in groups of three unchaperoned (7:157).

## **THE NATIONAL HOME ECONOMICS MOVEMENT**

Indeed there was a need for a Home Economics program at Meredith College at this time. The first high school Home Economics courses were in Durham in 1900. In 1911 the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Farm Life School Law appropriating money for the teaching of agriculture and Home Economics in county schools. By 1895, ten colleges in the

United States were offering domestic science programs; and by 1917, 318 colleges offered Home Economics programs (3).

As early as 1890, Salem College in Winston-Salem had a department called “The Industrial Department” and this department offered four courses: Educational Sewing, Dress Making, Embroidery, Cooking. In 1908 the Industrial Department was expanded into a larger department which claimed “to prepare women to be dietitians, matrons, skilled housekeepers or homemakers.” By 1918 the Home Economics Department was established. In 1982, the 175 students enrolled in the State Normal and Industrial School at Greensboro were required to take courses in sewing and cooking. In 1905 domestic science was offered at Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School. In 1915, elective courses in Home Economics were offered at Appalachian State Teachers College. A curriculum in Home Economics leading to a BS degree was established 25 years later (1940). In the fall of 1925, Mars Hill opened its Home Economics Department. Thus, the new four-year Home Economics program at Meredith College in 1914 was one of the first four-year programs in North Carolina (1).

A national professional organization, The American Home Economics Association was founded in Washington D.C. in 1909 after a series of conferences held at Lake Placid, New York exploring the possibility. Mrs. Ellen H. Richards, first woman graduate and first woman faculty member of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was the first president of the Association. It began with 700 charter members. The object of the Association was “to improve the conditions of living in the home, the institutional household, and the community.” The North Carolina Home Economics Association was formed on April 14, 1917, although it was not until April 12, 1919 that it was actually named the “North Carolina Home Economics Association” and a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution (1).

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THE 1920's: ELLEN BREWER ARRIVES (1922)**

Dr. Johnson continued (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972), “A warm welcome awaited Ellen Dozier Brewer, ‘18, who came in 1922 after completing two years of graduate work at Columbia. One of the trustees presented her name, and the board unanimously overruled President Brewer’s emphatic protest against the election of his daughter to such a position on the faculty. She had in an emergency served one year as instructor in the department of English. Miss Brewer’s firm foundation in the humanities, which came with her undergraduate major in Latin and Greek, gave her students a breadth of view not narrowed to their specialty; her knowledge and skill in her chosen field assured their professional training; and her rare qualities of character and personality kept before them a pattern of gracious living (7:153).” Miss Brewer was to serve in this capacity for 44 years.

With the arrival of Miss Ellen Brewer in 1922, a new course, Home Appreciation, appeared in the catalogue and was offered for the next 16 years. The description read:

“This course is intended primarily to help students in their adjustment to different kinds of group living. It includes a study of the modern family and its constituent parts, college relationships, responsibility for proper spending of the family income, the individual and family budget, the economics and ethical principles of dress, principles of food selection, and the use of a time schedule under varying conditions (9).”

Two sections of the course were offered, one for freshmen and sophomores in all majors, and a second section for juniors and seniors in all majors.

In 1929 the Meredith College catalogue description of Home Economics read as follows: "Students majoring in Home Economics with a view to teaching it should include in their course, in addition to the general requirements for the degree, Textiles and Clothing 10, in the freshman year; Bacteriology, Chemistry 20, Household Chemistry and Cookery 20-21 in the sophomore year; Physics, Physiology 30, Textiles 33, Art Education, Home Nursing and Child Care, Cookery 30, and Dietetics in the junior year; and Household Management, House Planning and Furnishing, Methods of Teaching Home economics and nine hours of Education in addition to Psychology. These subjects, in addition to meeting the state requirements for an 'A' certificate to teach Home Economics, will complete the two majors required by the college (9)."

In the same 1929 catalogue, a new course in Home Nursing and Child Care was listed (two semester hours credit). The course description indicated that the first semester would be given over to a consideration of home care of the sick. During the second semester a study of the application of the principles of dietetics, hygiene, and psychology to the care of the child would be offered. The nursery school movement began in the United States about this same time and most college programs added courses in child care if they did not already have them. The scope of the Home Economics program was impressive when one considers that the bulk of the teaching load fell on one or two people.

The decade of the 1920's was a time of relative prosperity in the United States. Technology was providing an array of modern home conveniences for those who could afford them: washing machines to replace the wash board, refrigerators to replace the ice box, electric vacuum cleaners to replace the broom, electric sewing machines to remove the drudgery of hand sewing, indoor plumbing to replace the pitcher pump and the "path" and many other labor-saving appliances. More and more products were being produced outside the home, reducing the necessity for extensive home canning and preservation of food (6).

At a national level, it was an era of tremendous growth and activity in the field of Home Economics. The unprecedented "need" for consumer goods created expanding opportunities for home economists. Up to this time, graduates prepared primarily for teaching careers or for work as home demonstration agents. In addition to these fields they now found a demand for their services in public utility companies, advertising firms, food manufacturing plants, banks, magazine publishing houses, and many other types of businesses. Women were finally granted the right to vote in 1920 after a 70 year struggle. However, even though they won the right to vote in 1920, they still left their jobs when they married (6).

## **TEACHER EDUCATION**

A course in Home Economics Teaching first appeared in the catalogue about 1920. The catalogue stated:

"This course is given to prepare Home Economics students for teaching. It includes a careful study of the means and methods of Home Economics instruction, the equipment of laboratories, and plans for practical work. Special instruction is given both in the science and art of Home Economics. Text-book reading, lectures and thirty hours practice teaching. Junior practice teaching will be given in the second semester. Senior practice teaching will be arranged (9)."

With the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 (Vocational Education Act), the entire college education of future teachers had to meet rigid standards. Not only did the students have to have foods and clothing courses, they had to have training in management, family, child care, and sanitation. These future high school teachers also had to have special training in methods and psychology as well as practice in teaching. In addition, they had to have direct experience living in home management house and guiding preschool age children in an approved nursery school setting (3).

High school Home Economics teachers who lacked a vocational certificate were required to get further education at the North Carolina College for Women (later named UNC Greensboro). Graduates of the North Carolina College for Women were automatically qualified as vocational Home Economics teachers. Graduates of the other colleges in North Carolina, including Meredith, had to take six semester hours at North Carolina College for Women in Greensboro to qualify as vocational Home Economics teachers. All vocational Home Economics teachers were required to renew their certificates at the Greensboro campus by earning six semester hours in Home Economics every five years to assure their continuing level of knowledge.

Home projects were an important part of the program at the secondary school level. In 1929, each high school student enrolled in homemaking classes completed four to six home projects. Transportation was furnished so the Home Economics teacher could supervise the work done in the students' homes. This provided not only the opportunity to make a direct application of the principles taught in the classroom, but it also increased the teacher's understanding of the families from which her students came and the economic conditions under which they lived. Therefore, training future high school Home Economics teachers to supervise the home projects required of their students was a necessary part of the teacher training program.

Teacher education remained the choice for the majority of the students until well into the 1960's. By that time there was a greater opportunity for various jobs besides teaching Home Economics. In the mid-1960's all state-supported college Home Economics departments began to receive vocational education funds. By 1974 vocational education funds were withdrawn, therefore teacher education programs had to depend on enrollment for funding. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro lost its status as the only institution of higher education at which a teacher could be qualified for vocational Home Economics. With this change at UNC-Greensboro, Meredith Home Economics graduates no longer had to go to UNC-G for the six hours of additional training to qualify for a vocational teaching certificate in North Carolina. In subsequent developments, the undergraduate teacher education project at UNC-Greensboro was phased out (early 1990's) and Meredith became one of the leaders in the number of Home Economics teachers being trained in North Carolina colleges.

According to Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972), Miss Jennie Hanyen assumed responsibility for the teacher education program in Home Economics when she arrived at Meredith in 1931. In addition, she was responsible for the home management residence experience and the clothing and textiles courses. When she retired in 1965, Marilyn Stuber, who came with several years of public school Home Economics teaching experience in Virginia, Maryland and Nebraska, took over the Home Economics teacher education program.

In 1975, an additional methods course was mandated, OCCUPATIONAL HOME ECONOMICS. The purpose of the additional course was to train high school Home Economics students to use their classroom skills for gainful employment in the fields of foods, child care,



home furnishings and clothing. Katherine Lyons, from the State Department of Public Instruction, initially taught the course. Deborah Tippet who came to Meredith in 1987 with extensive public school teaching experience, assumed responsibility for the teacher education program. She is noted for publishing *YOU; LIVING, LEARNING AND CARING*, a middle school Home Economics textbook that has been adopted in many states. She also directed the home management experience until the requirement was deleted in 1991.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **THE 1930's: JENNIE HANYEN ARRIVES (1931)**

Dr. Johnson continued, "Except for three years, 1915-1918, the department of Home Economics had been a 'flock of one duck,' but in 1929 a second teacher was added, Lois Pearman, who took over the work in textiles. Jennie Hanyen came in her place in 1931. The quality of Miss Hanyen's work had striking proof in the success of her students in the annual style show sponsored by the textiles department of State College from 1929-1944; for in the sixteen shows given, costumes made and modeled by Meredith students won first place ten times. Illustrating an article on the use of cotton, the *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE* featured a full-page picture in color of the Meredith girls making their costumes for the thirteenth exhibit. Miss Hanyen also had charge of the home management house in which each major in Home Economics practiced for a month the art of home-making (7:195)."

If the 1920's were times of prosperity, the 1930's were different. The October 1929 New York Stock Market crash plunged our booming economy into a recession from which it would take more than a decade to recover. Unemployment was high and salaries were low. Nationally, the emphasis in Home Economics shifted from housekeeping to management of time and money, housing and household equipment, and nutritional concerns. Attention focused on the renovation of clothing, home production, preservation and storage of food, low-cost menu planning, and "make-do" strategies. The Home Economics courses reflected the national concern with thrift (6).

The Advanced Foods course description in the catalogue stated, "Special attention is given to the economics of the food situation." The Advanced Textiles and Clothing Course read, "Special emphasis on the economic and social aspects of the clothing situation. Advanced work in sewing, some draping, and simple problems in remodeling and making felt hats (9)." The excessive spending of the 1920's has often been described as a joyride to the Great Depression of the 1930's.

In 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression, the North Carolina Home Economics Association published a booklet entitled, "Home Economics in North Carolina as It Is Related to the Present Economic situation." Miss Brewer wrote in the preface: "According to our national charter, we are organized to bring together those concerned in developing the art of right living by the application of systematized knowledge to the problems of home and the community. At times when such work is so important may we live up to this worthy purpose."

In 1933, Ellen Brewer was president of the North Carolina Home Economics Association and wrote a history of the association in honor of the sixteenth anniversary. She wrote it as a form of a diary, alluding again to the Great Depression, and finished with these closing words:

I. I will not dodge my responsibility in the present crisis. I will face it.

2. I will remember that my education was not for myself alone. I will put my knowledge and experiences at the service of my community.
3. I will be sympathetic, and try to understand the problems of others.
4. I will examine my material approach, and see if I am meeting present-day situations.
5. I will emphasize the importance of keeping up home standards, and will try to put uppermost real values in homemaking.
6. I will do my bit to restore confidence and job by setting an example of poise and contentment myself.

In the early 1930's a course called "Home Cookery" appeared in the catalogue. It was an elective course in food selection, preparation, and service planned for students majoring in other fields. It became known as the "Bride's Course" and remained a popular elective for over thirty years. About the same time, an elective sewing course was added for students majoring outside the Home Economics Department and continued until the 1960's.

Home Management Residence appeared among the Home Economics requirements for the first time in the 1933-34 catalogue. The course description indicated,

"Residence for students in groups of four in the home management apartment for one month. An opportunity for the practical application of the work in other courses in Home Economics, and some experience in the organization and administration of a household (9)."

This course was mandated by the Smith-Hughes legislation of 1917 requiring home management experience for future teachers. The cost of the practice house in 1933 was \$10.00. The home management residence requirement was to remain for 50 years, until the requirement was discontinued for all students in 1988. It remained a requirement for secondary teacher education students at Meredith until 1991.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **THE 1940's**

The Great Depression of the 1930's was brought to a close by the early 1940's with the advent of World War II. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and brought the United States into World War II. A wave of great patriotism could be seen in the United States during the war years.

The impact of World War II dominated the first five years of the 1940's. Many women went to work outside the home to replace the men who left to serve in the armed forces. The need for dietitians in military and hospital food service programs grew rapidly. The focus was on conservation, victory gardens, nutrition education and efficient management practices. The war years were days of war bonds, rations and ticker tape parades. They were also years of scarcity. Many home economists worked with the United States Department of Agriculture to develop and facilitate nutrition education programs. Home economists also assisted with child care centers so that mothers could take over the work needed at factories. Rationing books were used to buy such commodities as sugar and coffee. Women went to work in the factories as men went overseas to fight the war (6).

Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972) described the atmosphere on campus during the years of World War II: "On the campus there were air-raid

drills, blackouts, first aid classes, knitting and bandage rolling, the collection of waste paper and scrap metal, packing of Christmas boxes for soldiers in hospitals, entertainments at the USO centers. Such activities were of value to students in a time when travel restrictions limited visits to and from the campus and when many were anxious about relatives, friends and fiancés overseas (7).”

A humorous note appeared in a Raleigh newspaper during the World War II years: “Among the Raleigh residents absently minded caught last evening in the air raid practice were Mrs. Charles E. Brewer, wife of the late president of Meredith and her daughter, Miss Ellen Brewer, out for a stroll near their home. ‘Anyway,’ commented Miss Brewer gaily, when ordered to seek shelter, ‘We were glad to see that our men were more on the alert than in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There one man designated to act the part of the victim waited in vain for first aid, so after a while scribbled on a note, BLED TO DEATH, pinned it to a telephone pole and went on home.’”

There was marked growth in Home Economics both at the secondary and college levels during this time. By the end of the 1940's, major programs in Home Economics were offered at 372 colleges and universities in the United States.

The 1941-42 Meredith catalogue included a total of 15 hours of foods and nutrition courses and the total clothing textiles offerings reached 12 hours. Thus the foods and clothing areas received the major emphasis in the curriculum at that time. An additional 12 hours of course work was available in management, house planning and furnishings, and child development/home nursing. These offerings remained constant until the mid-1960's. In 1950, the Meredith catalogue required 24 hours above the freshman level (or 30 hours) for a degree in Home Economics. Also required were three semesters of chemistry. For students planning to teach, two semesters of biology, physics, sociology and art were also required.

According to records left by Miss Ellen Brewer, Home Economics graduates were working in the following fields in 1944:

High school teachers	130
Homemakers	108
Home demonstration agents	14
Dietitians	10
Home economists for service companies	8
Farm security agents	6
Government workers	6
Laboratory technicians	5
Heads, college Home Economics departments	4
WAVES	3
Nurses	1

## **CHAPTER V**

### **THE 1950's**

The 1950's can be remembered as a happy decade. World War II was over and the baby boom generation was emerging. The role of homemaker was idolized by society. Women who entered the factories during the war moved back into the home, into the profession of

homemaking. It was an exciting period in American history. Suburbia blossomed, the baby boom resulted in a birth rate never before equaled in modern history. The economy was healthy, the Gross National Product was expanding, and America was becoming a nation of two-car families. Home economics was contributing to a group of professionals that matched Ellen Richards' dream, a group of professional homemakers. But as Margaret Mead pointed out, "Never in the history of the world has motherhood been a full-time occupation." However, it certainly came close to that ideal at that point in history. Schools, colleges and Home Economics departments developed their programs in response to this demand, and in response to positive reinforcement from the general public (16).

The decades of the 1950's and 1960's into the early 1970's were growth years for Home Economics, with enrollments burgeoning, new buildings being erected, and increased funds going into laboratories and equipment. Approximately 800 colleges and universities in the United States had Home Economics programs. There were more than 20 in North Carolina (16).

The addition of new facilities was also reflected at Meredith. The year 1959 was an exciting year for Home Economics. The new science building, Hunter Hall, was completed. It housed Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Business, and Home Economics. The new home management house was also completed a short time later in 1960. Talcott Brewer, cousin of Ellen Brewer, donated funds to build a home management residence in Miss Brewer's honor. The house featured state of the art equipment and furnishings, and would remain in operation as a home management residence for more than 30 years.

Miss Brewer was ever the gracious hostess, entertaining countless groups of faculty and professional friends in the Home Economics facilities. Some of the extra-curricular activities of the 1950's are revealed in news clippings carefully saved by Miss Brewer. MEREDITH IS HOST TO HOME ECONOMICS TEACHERS described the April 1953 meeting of the Home Economics teachers of the Baptist Colleges in North Carolina. Guest speakers who told of the work they were doing were Jolene Weathers Edwards, head of the Home Economics Department at Hugh Morson High School; Mrs. Betsy Jordan Goldston, assistant home demonstration agent in Wayne County; and Albertine Rogers Hooks, homemaker and former assistant dietitian at Rex Hospital.

Miss Brewer was innovative in securing community professional experiences for her students. The Extension Service Reviews for February, 1955, described the college seniors who spent the summer as home demonstration trainees. Five fourth-year college girls majoring in Home Economics worked for a two-month period this past summer in North Carolina counties as trainee home demonstration agents. Among the 1954 trainees were Virginia Mumford, who worked in Rowan County, and Patty Melvin, who worked in Wayne County.

MEREDITH SENIORS TOUR WAKE HOME PROJECTS described an excursion to view home demonstration projects in Wake County. The first stop on the tour was the Wake County home demonstration curb market in the basement of the County Building. Next the girls went to the home demonstration specialists' office at State College to learn of special projects. From there the group visited the home of the Millard Ferrells and the Swift Creek community Center where the home demonstration women served them lunch. They also visited the home of Mrs. J. R. Atkins and Joseph Stephenson. Among the Meredith seniors were Joyce Herndon, Kitty Holt, Betty Frances Smith, Pat Swann, Sally Everhart, Shirley Spoon, LaRue Taylor, Melinda White and Jeanne Tong.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE 1960's

The 1960's brought a significant change to the Home Economics Department. Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson wrote in *A History of Meredith College*, "In two years, the department of Home Economics had a double loss. Miss Hanyen after thirty-four years of valuable service, retired in 1965; Miss Brewer who came to the faculty in 1919, retired the same year; but when it seemed impossible to find a capable successor, at the insistence of the administration she consented to stay another year. Only her deep self-sacrificing love for Meredith made her willing, and only heroic will power made her able to continue her work in spite of arthritis which made every movement difficult and painful. In 1969 the North Carolina Home Economics Association named its scholarship fund (the Ellen D. Brewer Scholarship Fund) in recognition of her "distinguished leadership of the Home Economics profession (7:257)."

Dr. Johnson continued, "In 1966 Callie Hardwicke succeeded Miss Brewer as chairman of the Home Economics department, coming from a position with the Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina State University. The next year when Mrs. Hardwicke accepted a similar position in Virginia, Marilyn Stuber—who two years earlier had taken Miss Hanyen's work in textiles—became acting chairman (7:342)." She was to remain as chairman for the next 28 years. Virginia Swain and Kay Ann Friedrich assumed Miss Brewer's work. Mrs. Swain taught House Planning and Furnishing while Mrs. Friedrich taught the foods courses. Mrs. Friedrich very capably continued teaching the foods courses for the next twenty years until her retirement in 1987. Olivia Bennett taught the foods courses one year (1973) while Mrs. Friedrich was on leave to complete her MPH Degree.

Dr. Johnson continued, "When Mrs. Swain left in 1970, Ruby T. Miller, who had come the year before as a part-time teacher, began full time work. Ruth Current, who had recently retired as Head of Home Economics Extension at State College, for a year and a half after Miss Hanyen's retirement was in charge of the seniors in the Ellen Brewer House. After Miss Current's sudden death late in 1966, Margaret Clarke, retired from the Agricultural Extension Service of State University, assumed the responsibility (7:342)." Others who later had responsibility for the home management residence were Martha Bankston, who also taught at Peace College (1972); Sands Gresham (1973); Carolyn Jarmon (1974); Janet Johnson (1975); Betty Cook (1976) and Deborah Tippet (1987).

The social scene of the 1960's influenced Home Economics profoundly. A difficult conflict for home economists to resolve evolved in the late 1950's. On the one hand, they were committed to the concept of Home Economics as education for improved family life, but on the other hand, they saw that in order to be competitive in the world of business and industry, highly specialized and technical skills were required. The end result was a major shift in focus toward vocational/professional preparation for gainful employment outside the home (6).

The late 1960's and early 1970's were a period of social unrest for this country. In 1957, Russia launched Sputnik, the first man-made satellite, and the space age began. Who can forget John F. Kennedy's funeral cortege in 1963 or the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy in 1968? U.S. troops were sent to Vietnam and the 60's were years of protests, riots, curfews, marches, sit-ins and Woodstock. The Civil Rights Movement and the Women's Movement began to have an impact on the work place, the academic community, and the home. Women began to move into professional areas that had not been open to them before. They

began to leave those fields that had previously been defined as “female-dominated”—fields such as nursing, education, secretarial and Home Economics. They began to define themselves in ways other than as somebody’s wife or somebody’s mother. In the late 1950’s, one-third of all women worked for pay outside the home and women made up one-third of all workers outside the home (16).

Meredith students were changing, as was the Home Economics profession. The late 1960’s initiated what would become continuous modifications and additions to the Home Economics curriculum at Meredith College to keep it current and up-to-date. In 1965, Home Care of the Sick was deleted from the catalogue and Child Development became a full three-hour course. Charlotte Barnes, director of the Raleigh Preschool, adjacent to the campus agreed to allow Meredith Home Economics students to schedule laboratory periods with the preschool age children, a practice that continues to the present, a period of more than 30 years. Many child care settings in the community also continue to serve as placements for the various courses and internships in the Child Development curriculum. The 1968 catalogue listed a new course, Marriage and Family Relationships. These two courses, both taught by Marilyn Stuber, provided the nucleus for the child development major that emerged 20 years later.

A course in Home Decoration was included the first year the Home Economics Department was established in 1914. It was deleted the second year and did not reappear until 1928 as House Planning and Furnishing. An Art course, Interior Design (Art 362), was cross-listed with Home Economics and moved to the Home Economics Department about 1967. House Planning and Furnishing then became Housing and Equipment. A new course, Household Furnishings Laboratory, was also offered for the first time, capably taught by Ruby Miller who also taught many of the clothing courses. The Household Furnishings course gave the students skill in refinishing and reupholstering furniture, and in drapery making. From these modest beginnings, the eventual Interior Design major emerged.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **THE 1970’s**

The seeds of protest and rebellion that were planted in the decade of the sixties reached a peak in the early 1970’s. It was an era characterized by the Beatles, sex and drugs, and a cynicism provoked by the Vietnam War. Parents of the 1950’s wanted their children to be courteous, correct, well-mannered and properly socialized. Instead, the examples set for the next generation were embodied in a massive assault on the goals and values of the traditional society. On many college campuses, students began to protest dormitory rules and regulations; they protested course requirements, assignments, grades—in short, all of the standards that were controlled by the faculty and administration. The excesses of the counter culture slowly began to wane, but the repercussions were felt throughout the decade of the seventies (6). Meredith experienced only minor protests at this time, and the spirit of rebellion was never as severe at Meredith as it was for the country as a whole.

The issues of the late sixties and early seventies became the catalysts for self-examination within the Home Economics profession as a whole. Rejection of “The Establishment” included everything from social codes of behavior to the institution of marriage. This spilled over to the values that had been attached traditionally to the concepts of “family” and “home.” It was in this

same atmosphere that some academic units of Home Economics throughout the United States began to change their names to titles that avoided the use of the word “home.” The name change at Meredith would not take place for another 25 years. The problem of identity was increased by the influx of faculty from other disciplines, many of whom lacked a commitment to the goals of Home Economics. By the 1980's, many of those raised in the spirit of protest as students were faculty members. It marked the beginning of a national era of greatly reduced harmony and less cooperation among faculty members (6).

In the 1970's one of the buzzwords of the decade was “image.” Every organization became concerned about its “public image.” In 1974, the American Home Economics Association commissioned the Yankelovich Corporation to conduct a qualitative investigation of its image. Findings of the study indicated a “lack of identity and fractionated image.” The report indicated that Home Economics subsumed so many different and unrelated sub disciplines that there was no known focus upon which a clear identity could rest.

Prior to the mid-1970's, the growth rate for baccalaureate programs in Home Economics surpassed the rate for higher education in general, but by the end of the 1970's, enrollment began to decline. In the decade from 1973 to 1983, undergraduate enrollments in Home Economics decreased 16% while higher education enrollments in general went up 21%. Many undergraduate programs in Home Economics were discontinued completely (6).

When the American Home Economics Association began to accredit programs in 1970, there were 390 institutions in the United States offering degrees in Home Economics. Twenty years later there were 310 institutions with degree programs, representing an attrition rate of approximately 20% over two decades or 1% per year. Over that same twenty year period, the enrollment of students at the undergraduate level declined nationally (5).

Although the national picture of Home Economics appeared bleak during the twenty year period from 1970 to 1990, the Meredith picture was far brighter. In 1970, Meredith had 29 Home Economics graduates out of a total class of 216 graduates, or about 13% of the Meredith graduating seniors. In 1990, there were 167 Home Economics graduates in a class of 553 graduating seniors at Meredith, or about 30% of the graduating class (17).

The decade of the 1970's is distinctive for the fact that during this period Home Economics moved from a generalized field of study to specialized areas of professional education. Degrees granted in specialized areas of study (nutrition, child development, interior design, fashion merchandising) increased by overwhelming percentages—some fields increased by as much as 300%. In 1969 only 40% of the degrees granted in Home Economics were in specialized fields of study, whereas in 1979, 75% of the degrees granted were in these specialized areas. The field indeed moved away from the earlier generalist focus to specialization (16).

Meredith experienced a surge in Home Economics growth at this time. Dr. John Weems, who became president of Meredith College in 1972, noted, “Another department experiencing notable growth is Home Economics which is now largely perceived as career preparation in such areas as clothing, merchandising, and dietetics” (President’s Notebook, Volume 5, Number 5, 1977-78). In 1978-79, he stated, “Home Economics is experiencing a surge of growth as the image of the Home Economics degree expands to include careers in food services, textiles, and fashion merchandising as well as homemaking” (Volume 6, Number 1, 1978-79). In 1979, Meredith had 297 graduating seniors, 58 of whom earned Home Economics degrees (about 20% of the total graduating class).

In order for Meredith Home Economics graduates to be competitive and move toward specialization in the professional world, it was necessary to make further adjustments and additions to the curriculum almost every year. When Dr. John Weems became president of Meredith College in 1972, he lifted the “no new courses” ban imposed during the previous administration, making it possible to make the necessary additions without dropping existing courses. A course in Advanced Interior Design was added in 1978 to augment the Interior Design curriculum. The same year, a new course in Institutional Food Management was added. Several modules were also created: Food Conservation, Experimental Foods, Creative Foods, and Household Equipment. A course in Fashion Fundamentals was added to introduce students to the world of fashion merchandising. Art in Costume, a study of design principles applied to clothing, was added about five years earlier. A one-hour Senior Seminar, required of all majors was added to the curriculum about 1977. It was initiated and taught by Janet Johnson who became Dean of the School of Human Resources and Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia (1997).

Other changes in the curriculum to allow more flexibility in major fields of study were made in the 1970's at Meredith. Community internships and cooperative work experience were programs initiated to achieve this goal. Two Home Economics students, Annette Rountree and Margaret Ann Parker were the first Meredith students to participate in the co-op program. Annette's work experience was with Carolina Power and Light Company in Raleigh and later with Erwin-Lambeth Furniture Manufacturing Company in Thomasville, NC. Margaret Ann Parker had consecutive work experiences with Miller and Rhoads in Richmond, Va.

Among the significant extra-curricular activities of the 1970's were the J. C. Penney Home Economics Seminars for area home economists held on the Meredith campus for several years. “The Future: Implications for the Family,” was the theme of the April 8, 1976 seminar presented to a crowded audience in Jones Auditorium. The seminars were designed for the professional enrichment of persons involved in the Home Economics field.

In 1971, Marilyn Stuber was invited to give the Distinguished Faculty Lecture. She chose as her topic, “Fate of the Family in the Year 2000.” Projections for the future included: less sex-role stereotyping with fathers perhaps choosing to stay home with the new baby while the mother worked outside the home; a more permissive society, with the advent of safe, reliable contraceptives; genetic advances that would make it possible for women to bear children from genetically superior ovum. These were revolutionary concepts for the early 1970's. Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972) described the series as follows: “The introduction of the Distinguished Faculty Lecture in 1964 gave the Meredith community and the general public an opportunity to add to their knowledge and interest in various fields. These lectures were given each semester through 1966-67; since then they have been yearly events (7:269).”

Mary Lou Jernigan ('75), a Home Economics graduate, worked from October to May on a handmade replica of the original flag of the USA, sometimes called the Betsy Ross Flag. The flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes. She made the flag as a special project while serving as the student member on the Meredith College Bicentennial Committee. The flag hung in the rotunda of Johnson Hall through 1976 as one of Meredith's contributions to the nation's observance of its two-hundredth birthday.



## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **THE 1980's**

The 1980's were a time of world change. Probably the biggest change came in 1989 when the Berlin Wall fell and the end of the cold war occurred. The field of Home Economics continued to change from a generalized program to a field in which specialized areas of study grew and flourished and developed as disciplines and professional career options in their own right. A survey conducted by the American Council on Education of freshmen students entering college in the fall of 1981 revealed that only .2 of one percent of those students intended to be full-time career homemakers. This indicted a significant change in career orientation from one generation to the next (15). Meredith was no exception to the national trend.

A dramatic change in the Home Economics curriculum is reflected in the 1982 catalogue. In an effort to move the department from a general focus toward greater specialization, six concentrations were added to the Home Economics area for the first time:

- Child Development and Family Relations
- Clothing and Fashion Merchandising
- Consumer Resource Management
- Foods and Nutrition
  - Food Service Management Option
  - Nutrition Option
- Interior Design and Housing
- General Home Economics

Students were required to earn a concentration in one of the areas. They were also required to earn 36 hours of credit in Home Economics including a core: Marriage and Family Relationships, Consumer Economics, Nutrition, Home Management Residence, and Senior Seminar. Eight hours in either biology or chemistry were also required in addition to the general college requirements. A total of 36 courses in Home Economics were available. New courses in Preschool Activities and Infancy augmented the Child Development curriculum. Additional courses in Clothing and People and Advanced Fashion Fundamentals were added to the Clothing and Fashion Merchandising concentration. Food Service Equipment, Advanced Nutrition and Diet Therapy were added to the Foods and Nutrition concentration. Advanced Residential Design was added to the Interior Design curriculum. Internships were strongly recommended for all areas (9). These additions greatly enhanced the Home Economics curriculum and afforded students greater depth in their chosen areas of specialization.

In 1982-83, the enrollment at Meredith was 1493 students and tuition, room and board was \$4400. The Home Economics Department had 80 graduating seniors out of a class of 356 seniors, or about 22% of the graduating class. In 1987, there were five full-time faculty members in Home Economics: Sylvia Howey Byrd, Ellen B. Goode, Diane R. Hicks, Deborah Tippet and Marilyn Stuber (17).

### **NUTRITION PROGRAM APPROVED BY AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION**

The 1987-88 Meredith catalogue reflects another significant accomplishment for the Home Economics program: the nutrition program was fully approved by the American Dietetic Association to meet the requirements for Plan IV. A course in Food Service Systems

Administration and Nutrition, During the Life Cycle, was added and other courses were expanded in content to meet the specific competencies required by the American Dietetic Association. Sylvia Howey Byrd, a registered dietitian who joined the Meredith faculty in 1986, deserves much of the credit for making Plan IV a reality at Meredith College. Betty Cook, a capable, popular teacher who originally came to Meredith in 1976 initially taught the basic nutrition course (although her major teaching assignment was Child Development and Home Management) and stimulated interest in the nutrition area. Others who taught nutrition courses were Joan Cassilly (1982-84) and Lynn Benton Hoggard, '80 (1985). Adjunct faculty who added strength to the nutrition program were Gwen Reives (1974), (1978), Ceil Will Buck, '78 (1981) and Samantha Vacendak (1987).

The Nutrition Concentration was designed for students interested in clinical dietetics, while the Food Service Management Concentration was designed for students interested in careers in food service management in restaurants, hotels, country clubs, nursing homes and related areas. It should be noted that the Food Service Management Concentration was revised and updated in 1997. Commercial Food Management Field Experiences and Hospitality Management Field Experiences were added to the curriculum at that time (9).

“One of my fondest memories of Meredith is Betty Cook at the podium saying, ‘Now girls ... .’” --Elizabeth Gupton '84

## **MAJORS APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

Perhaps the most significant event in the seventy-five year history of the Home Economics Department occurred in 1988 when for the first time majors were added to the Home Economics curriculum, replacing the concentrations added six years earlier:

- Child Development
- Clothing and Fashion Merchandising
- Foods and Nutrition
  - Food Service Management Concentration
  - Nutrition Concentration
- Interior Design
- General Home Economics

With the addition of majors, students' diplomas reflected their major area of study, and the words “Home Economics” did not appear on their diplomas. This satisfied a concern expressed by the students who strongly identified with their area of specialization rather than the general Home Economics program (9).

Although fewer students chose General Home Economics as a major, it still remained a viable option for students entering careers that called for a broad knowledge of all Home Economics areas, such as the Extension Service, secondary and adult education. In 1997, the major entitled “General Home Economics” was officially changed to “Family and Consumer Sciences,” which reflected the name chosen by the national organization.

The curriculum was appropriately expanded to include the necessary course content to support each major area of study. Preschool Administration was added to the Child Development (1987-88) and Parent Education was added the following year (1988-89). Several new modules enhanced the Clothing and Fashion Merchandising curriculum: Fashion Display, Fashion Illustration, and Fashion Advertising (1987-88). History of Costume and Nutritional Assessment were added in 1988-89. The Interior Design curriculum also added new courses

(1987-88): Computer Aided Design, Commercial Design, History of Architectural Interiors and Furnishings, and Special Problems in Interior Design. Interior Lighting Design and Professional Practices in Interior design were added the following year (1988-89). Drafting and Presentation Skills and Construction Technology were added to the catalogue in 1991-92.

The addition of majors within the General Home Economics area was not without its detractors in the Meredith community. When the proposal was presented to the academic council for final approval, some department representatives had reservations about the long-standing underlying question: expanding and strengthening a vocational department in a liberal arts college. After a contentious meeting, the proposal passed, although the vote was not unanimous. Predictably, the majors proved attractive to incoming students and the numbers of students majoring in "Home Economics related careers" mushroomed.

When majors within the Home Economics curriculum were instituted, students were no longer required to take a common core of subjects in the Home Economics area (with the exception of a one-hour senior seminar). Thus, for the first time in more than 50 years, Home Management Residence was not required for all students. Although it was still required for secondary education students in Home Economics, it was determined that the competencies provided by home management residence could be met in other ways. Thus, the Ellen Brewer Home Management Residence, which was such a welcome addition when it was built in 1960, was no longer needed for the purpose for which it was created. Knowing Miss Ellen Brewer's love for children, the department made the decision to convert the home management house into the Ellen Brewer Infant/Toddler Laboratory Home for the child development students.

## **CHAPTER IX**

### **THE 1990's**

The Ellen Brewer Infant/Toddler Laboratory Home began operations during the 1991-92 school year, fully licensed and self-supporting. It currently serves as a laboratory for infancy students as well as a model home child care facility for the community. Rene Prillaman, who joined the faculty in 1989, and the first director, Patti Cruickshank-Schott, deserve a great deal of credit for converting the home management house (with minimum modifications and expense) into a model infant/toddler laboratory home. Pauline Laubinger assisted in the laboratory at this same time. Following the Prillaman/Cruickshank-Scott years, the role of director was filled by Kathy Heller Pomer, assisted by Kimberly Allen, and later by Juliellen Simpson and Georgie McKenzie. Kathryn Clark, who joined the faculty in 1994, served as faculty coordinator for the facility. Betty Cook, who came in 1976, taught many of the child development courses as they were added to the curriculum. When she retired, Deborah Tippet, who joined the faculty in 1987, assumed much of the work in the child development area, along with Marilyn Stuber. Adjunct faculty who added strength to the Child Development area during the 1990's were Donna Kirchner, Nancy Brown and Vickie Brinkley.

Although students could major in Home Economics and earn K-3, 4-9 and secondary teaching certificates as early as 1970, the new Child Development major proved particularly attractive for students desiring elementary certification. Many students chose the Child Development major along with the K-6 teaching certificate. Dr. Weems, president of Meredith, noted this trend in his 1991 Profiles Report (Volume 18, Number 7): "The Home Economics

(and Business and Economics) Department(s) graduated the largest number of majors.....The numbers of students receiving North Carolina teaching certificates increased in the last five years from 54 to 104. The majority of these students (were certified) majored in the area of Child Development. The largest number by far, 52, received certification in the Kindergarten through fourth grade area.”

The mid-1990's brought additional changes to the Home Economics faculty. Marilyn Stuber retired in the summer of 1995 after 30 years at Meredith, 28 of which were as chairperson. The fall semester of 1995, Deborah Tippet, who came to Meredith in 1987, took over the reins of the department. Another visible change, the first full-time male faculty members were hired. Although Alex Poorman and Robert Troxler had previously served as adjunct faculty in Interior Design, Paul Winterhoff arrived in 1995 and William Landis in 1996 to teach full-time in the Child Development and Nutrition areas, respectively.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, a historic costume collection was started by the clothing and fashion merchandising faculty, and interesting Meredith memorabilia as well as costumes from the community have been contributed to the collection. The Clothing and Fashion Merchandising Major was further enhanced by offering two concentrations of study: Design and Fashion Merchandising. The Merchandising Concentration was designed to prepare students for professional careers in fashion retailing, including store management, buying, visual merchandising and consumer services. The Design Concentration was developed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain jobs in the area of fashion design—apparel designer, design engineer, design digitizer, and marketing coordinator for apparel manufacturers. The academic council approved the concentrations in 1994. Faculty members who taught in the Clothing and Fashion Merchandising area following Jennie Hanyen (1931-1965) include Marilyn Stuber (1965), Ruby T. Miller (1970), Sally O'Connor (1972), Nancy Sears (1974), Elizabeth Faulk (spring 1976), Kathleen Colquitt (1976), Susan Meadows (1977), Rosalind Grenfell (1979), and Patricia Roswell (adjunct spring 1979). Since 1982, Diane Hicks Ellis has directed the Clothing and Fashion Merchandising program, assisted by Mary Brainard (1990) and Georgia Mueller (adjunct (1994).

In 1993-94, the enrollment at Meredith was 2,345. The tuition was \$6980. There were 104 Home Economics graduates in 1993 out of a class of 489. The Home Economics Department employed seven full-time faculty members and six part-time faculty members. All full-time faculty members held the doctorate. A total of 46 different courses were offered in the Home Economics area. Child Development had 193 majors, Clothing and Fashion Merchandising had 42 majors, Interior Design had 64 majors, Foods and Nutrition had 32 majors and General Home Economics had 14 majors. In the year 1994-95, Home Economics had 128 graduating seniors, along with a total of 345 declared majors, making it the largest department on campus. This is an enviable accomplishment in light of the fact that between 1970 and 1990, eighty Home Economics Departments in the United States died. To say the Home Economics faculty must have done something right at Meredith is a vast understatement. The success is a testimonial to the vision and hard work of the faculty, unselfishly donating their time to keep the program at the cutting edge. The faculty is also to be commended for careful, sincere advising of students.

## **INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM IS ACCREDITED**

The year 1994 was a land-mark year for the Interior Design program. After a spring visit from an accrediting team from the Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research (FIDER), the program was notified that it had received six-year accreditation—the maximum. Meredith's program was one of two accredited Interior Design programs in the state of North Carolina and one of 100 in the United States at that time. A strong advisory board provided valuable assistance in achieving accreditation. An alumnae chapter of Interior Design students also provides continuing support for the program.

The Interior Design program was planned to provide opportunities for students interested in residential, commercial and institutional design. Students build skills in space planning, programming, computer-aided design and presentation methods, with emphasis on professional practice. Graduates have successfully pursued careers in design firms, retail furnishings and materials stores, corporate, government and institutional facilities.

Ellen Goode, who came to Meredith in 1976, deserves a great deal of credit for successfully completing the arduous task of achieving accreditation for the Interior Design program. She was assisted by a second full-time faculty person, Martha Burpitt, who came to Meredith in 1993. Following Miss Brewer's retirement (she taught the original House Planning and Furnishings course), a series of faculty members guided the interior design efforts until Ellen Goode's arrival: Callie Hardwicke (1967), Virginia Swain (1968), Ruby Miller (1969) and Ann Allred (1974). Ann Thompson taught the Interior Design classes one year while Ellen Goode was away gaining valuable experience in commercial design (1983-84). Ronni Whitman assisted with the program in 1989. Several adjunct faculty members have provided unique expertise to the Interior Design program: Robert Troxler (1987), Leslie Young (1987), Suzanne Andron (1988), Alex Poorman (1988), Charlotte Abbate (1989), Gail Lightfoot (1994) and Jeanne Diehl-Shaffer (1994).

The News and Observer featured the Interior Design program in 1977 shortly after Ellen Goode arrived at Meredith. The headline read, HIGH STYLE FURNISHINGS FOR UNDER \$2000. At the invitation of a Cary builder, Constructive Concepts Company, the students completely furnished one of the homes on the Parade of Homes tour for under \$2000.

Interior Design students and faculty regularly attend the fall International Home Furnishings Market in High Point. During Christmas breaks in 1994, 1995 and 1996, students and faculty participated in a New York Design Study Tour, visiting show rooms, museums and designer shops.

Meredith Interior Design students frequently enter design contests. In 1992, Meredith Interior Design students were awarded the four top prizes in a competitive project with Storr Sales. In addition, Interior Design students won the top prize in the design competition sponsored by the Carolinas Chapter of the International Furnishings and Design Association. Ellen Goode's Contract Design class submitted entries to the "Edible Architecture" competition sponsored by Storr Office Environments in Raleigh (1994) and was featured in a news article describing the contest. The Contract Design class participated in an eight-hour national design competition sponsored by the Interior Design Educators Council. In 1996, one Meredith student was a regional finalist. In 1995, four of the projects juried by the design faculty were sent to regional competition. In the fall of 1996, students from the Interior Design III class participated in ASID competition and won four out of five awards. In June of 1997, students attended NEOCON in Chicago.

The expertise of Interior Design students is readily evident on the Meredith campus. Martha Burpitt's class planned the 1995 renovations of Cate Center and the 1997 students proposed renovations for Hunter Hall. They submitted sketches and worked with the architects to develop feasible plans.

An exciting development occurred in 1997 when the Broyhill Family Foundation made a \$300,000 commitment to the Human Environmental Sciences Department. The gift, to be paid in three annual installments, was used to renovate Hunter Hall, to modernize programs and accommodate student growth. Faye Broyhill, a 1959 graduate of Meredith College, has served on the Board of Trustees.

## **DIETETIC INTERNSHIP APPROVED**

In addition to the exciting news of accreditation of the Interior Design program in 1994, The Home Economics Department received a second piece of good fortune: the Foods and Nutrition area was granted the first Dietetic Internship in North Carolina fully approved by the American Dietetic Association. A post-baccalaureate program that offers supervised practice experience to students seeking registration eligibility, the Internship was granted developmental accreditation by the American Dietetic Association in May of 1994. Meredith's Plan V (formerly Plan IV) program also continues to be approved by the American Dietetic Association as a didactic program in Dietetics. For the first time, it became possible for Meredith students to complete their registration requirements while attending Meredith. Dr. Bettina Taylor, a native of Berlin, Germany who came to Meredith in 1989, was largely responsible for the development of the internship program. Lauree Peterson Holliday, '70, who returned to her alma mater to teach foods and nutrition courses, guided students in the Plan IV and Plan V programs. Lauree is largely responsible for the legislation requiring licensure of dietitians. Debrah Barish (1990), Anne Marie Witkege (1994), Patricia Lynch (1994) and Beth Birdsong Hendricks (spring 1997) have also taught in the Foods and Nutrition area; William Landis joined the nutrition faculty full-time in 1996.

## **CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment at Meredith College during the 1996-97 school year was the approval of the new MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching), a sequel to the undergraduate Child Development program. Dr. Kathryn Clark and Dr. Paul Winterhoff deserve a great deal of credit for developing an innovative program that allows students to earn a Birth through Kindergarten teaching license (formerly called certificate), along with a master's degree.

The Child Development major was designed to focus on the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of children, birth through kindergarten. The purpose was to prepare students for working with children in a variety of programs, including educational programs for young children, early intervention programs, and agencies serving children and families. When combined with the requirements for a North Carolina teaching license, students were prepared to teach in the public schools.

The question of having a child care center on the Meredith campus surfaced many times during the 1980's. Dr. Weems appointed a committee "To study the possibility of establishing a child care facility on the Meredith campus (1986-87)." With Betty Cook as a key member of the

committee, the group surveyed the faculty and students and met with many day care leaders in the area. The conclusion of the study was:

- “1. There is not enough demand on campus to open a campus facility,
2. There is not a need for day-care services to the Raleigh community, except for infant care (birth to age 2), and the cost may be prohibitive.”

Those conclusions make subsequent events all the more noteworthy. Although the committee could not foresee what would take place, the Ellen Brewer Infant/Toddler Laboratory Home would begin operations on the campus less than five years later. The long waiting list of children wanting placement in the laboratory attests to the crucial need for an infant center on the campus. Renee Prillaman and Patti Cruickshank-Schott worked during the summer of 1991 to convert the Ellen Brewer home management house to an infant-toddler laboratory home. It began operations during the 1991-92 school year fully licensed and self-supporting. It currently serves as a model home child care center for both the college and the community. Thus, Talcott Brewer's gift to the memory of Miss Ellen Brewer continues to benefit future generations of Meredith students.

## **FROM HOME ECONOMICS TO HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

The 1970's was the decade that Home Economics educators began to question the term “Home Economics” and names of programs began to adopt such names as “human ecology” and “human development.” Colleges and universities selected a total of 67 different names for what had traditionally been Home Economics Departments. The American Home Economics Association voted to change the name of the professional organization to Family and Consumer Sciences in 1994. After surveying the alumnae and students, the Meredith Home Economics faculty unanimously voted to change the name of the Meredith Home Economics Department to Human Environmental Sciences. This name was previously selected by several of the major colleges and universities in North Carolina. The Meredith name change decision was made at the last Home Economics faculty meeting in the spring of 1995 so the new title could be used when classes resumed in the fall.

It should be mentioned that the Home Economics Department made a conscious decision not to seek accreditation of the department from the American Home Economics Association. The Home Economics faculty felt that FIDER accreditation for the Interior Design program was mandatory, as was approval of the Nutrition program (Plan V) by the American Dietetic Association. The Dietetic Internship was also highly desirable. However, any benefits of AHEA accreditation appeared negligible. Barbara L. Stewart and R. Wayne Shutte wrote in the *Journal of Home Economics* in the summer of 1991 (Accreditation: Historical Perspectives and Current Perceptions), “Those (already) accredited represent a minority of Home Economics programs. Others continue to evaluate the costs and benefits in terms of time, energy and money to conform to AHEA standards and engage in the self-study and review process (14).” The Meredith Home Economics faculty had the same questions and concurred with Academic Dean Allen Burris, who expressed his supportive philosophy on many occasions, “Build the best program you can, but stay away from accreditation as long as you can.” It was a rare student who inquired about Home Economics accreditation, but serious students interested in Interior Design and Nutrition enrolled at Meredith only after receiving positive answers to their questions of accreditation and approval of those programs.

## **SECRETARIAL HELP**

A history of Home Economics would not be complete without mention of the valuable secretarial help provided. Secretarial help for faculty members was almost unheard of prior to the 1980's. Professors had to rely on student help or do their own typing. Rose Hardison was the first faculty secretary for Home Economics as well as the entire faculty in Hunter Hall (Biology, Chemistry and Home Economics). She served for two years during the early 1980's. Alyce Parker Townsend then assumed the secretarial responsibilities for Hunter Hall (1986). To have someone answer the phone, take care of the budget, oversee building maintenance, to say nothing of typing and general office work, took an enormous burden off the shoulders of the department heads and faculty.

## **CHAPTER X**

### **ALUMNAE SEMINAR**

Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972) described the popular annual Alumnae Seminar as follows: "The Alumnae Seminar gives alumnae the opportunity of coming back to Meredith to pretend for a little while that they are students again. The first program, in 1938, was a simple one, a lecture by Miss Ida [Poteat] on Friday evening and three lectures by members of the English department on Saturday. Cooperating with the chairman of the seminar committee, each department, singly or jointly, has sponsored a seminar, most departments more than once. For five years, 1943-47, because of the difficulty in travel during World War II, the seminar was not held."

When the seminar was resumed in 1948, Dr. George B. Cutten of Chapel Hill, president-emeritus of Colgate University, authority on old silver and author of the just-released publication, "Silversmiths of North Carolina," delivered the address of the day to the sixth seminar. Miss Ellen Brewer and Miss Jennie Hanyen, professors in the Department of Home Economics, (News clipping, March 20, 1948) also conducted classes.

In 1952, Home Economics, sociology, and history presented the topic, THE MID-CENTURY WOMAN. The Home Economics Department sponsored the Alumnae Seminar again in 1960. The theme of the eighteenth annual seminar was MID PLEASURES AND PALACES. The theme was especially appropriate because the new Home Economics Department in Hunter Hall and the new Home Management House had just been built and were open for tours.

Dr. David Knox was the keynote speaker for the thirty-seventh annual Alumnae Seminar in March, 1980. He addressed the theme, "Future Family Trends." His wife, Frances Hayes Knox, '68, also spoke at the Home Economics sponsored event.

Home Economics was represented again when Dr. Deborah Tippet narrated a historical slide presentation of the 80-year history of the Meredith Home Economics Department. The theme of the May 20, 1994 event (now called Alumnae College) was HONORING OUR HERITAGE, EXPANDING OUR VISION (15).



## CHAPTER XI

### HOME MANAGEMENT RESIDENCE

Home Management Residence first appeared as a requirement for a degree in Home Economics in the 1933-34 catalogue: "Residence for students in groups of four in the home management apartment for one month. An opportunity for the practical application of the work in other courses in Home Economics, and some experience in the organization and administration of a household (9)."

A Raleigh newspaper clipping from March 27, 1931 described the first home management experience with the headline, MEREDITH GIRLS ENJOY HOME MAKING ADVENTURE; Home Management House Established on Campus as Part of Home Economics Course Under Direction of Miss Ellen Brewer.

"The dishes were washed for the last time and stacked in the ivory and green cupboards, the stove was left bright and shining; the sun shone warmly across the green painted breakfast table by the window. In the living-room the cushions on the old walnut sofa with its pretty blue upholstering were plumped up soft and smooth and the rug was straightened. Initiated into Home-Making: Beulah Byrd, Mary Susan Fuller, Frances Pate and Adelle Rogers are the four girls who have had the honor and the pleasure of initiating, under the direction of Miss Ellen Brewer, head of the Home Economics Department at Meredith, the practical experiment in home-making that is required of all Home Economics students before they can obtain their diploma as full-fledged Home Economics graduates. Housekeeper, Cook, Manager: One girl has served as housekeeper, one as manager and buyer, one as cook and one as assistant cook, for a week each, alternating the jobs so that all four get an opportunity during the month for the well-rounded experience in home-making. The instructor, who is also a member of the group, makes the fifth member, providing the full number of the average American family. There has been plenty of hard work involved fitting the extra activity in with their regular college schedule.

"The problem of how to meet the Home Economics requirements of providing a home management house where the senior can have a few weeks of practical experience before obtaining their diplomas, was met at Meredith by converting three suites of room in Vann Dormitory into two model bedrooms for the four girls with another bedroom for the instructor, a living room, dining room, butler's pantry and kitchen.

"The regular Home Economics laboratories, where all of the students of the department have their courses, are in the science building. There are sewing rooms, kitchen, dining rooms and laboratories there where the students have opportunity to put into practice the theories they are learning of Home Economics."

An October 24, 1952 article in the *Twig* described a later home management experience. "HOME EC MAJORS EMERGE FROM MERE-ELLO HEALTHIER THAN EVER. Beth Ann Dixon, Joan Langley, Jane Cate, Evelyn King and Adrine Lewis demonstrate some of their duties in the practice house. Mere-Ello is the musical name of the three-suites on the first floor of Vann which serve under more familiar nomenclature as the Meredith 'practice house'. The 'Mere' comes from Meredith, the 'El' from the Ellen in Miss Brewer's name, and the 'Lo' from Mrs. Charles E. Brewer, wife of the former president of the college, who donated furniture and china to the house and whose name was 'Love.'"

The new home management residence given to Meredith College by Talcott Brewer and dedicated in 1960 was a genuine prize for the Home Economics Department. Dr. Mary Lynch

Johnson wrote in *A History of Meredith College* (1972), “Before this building [Hunter Hall] was finished, another much-needed one was well under way and was completed in February, 1960—the house in which the senior majors in Home Economics in small groups have experience in home management. When Meredith moved in 1926, three suites on the first floor of Vann Hall were used for this purpose. The arrangement, intended to be temporary, was never satisfactory. Moreover, a steadily increasing enrollment brought urgent need of more room for incoming students; and so a house at 1700 Hillsboro Street was rented in September, 1958, for the home management residence. The house itself was more than adequate, but the expense of renting and the distance from the campus were decided disadvantages. This house was used only three semesters; for an excellent friend of the College, Talcott Wait Brewer, came to the rescue (7:226).

“Until a short time before his death, Mr. Brewer was head of one of the oldest and best known business firms in Raleigh, dealing in farm machinery and supplies. The firm was established in the last century by his father, Samuel Wait Brewer, an older brother of President Brewer and for many years a trustee of Wake Forest and of Meredith. The son, like his father, was also deeply interested in Wake Forest, of which he was a graduate and of which his great-grandfather, Samuel Wait, was the first president. A trustee of long standing, Mr. Brewer was treasurer of that institution from 1912 till his death in 1970. It is fortunate for Meredith that his interest in Christian education was broad enough to include the school which was at one time called “Wake Forest’s sister college.” Recognizing a particular need, he generously contributed \$62,000 which built and furnished the Ellen Brewer House, thus honoring one whose life has been devoted to Meredith (7:226).

“Ellen Brewer House has every modern convenience for a home. A two-story structure, it has four bedrooms and three baths, study room, office for the counselor, living room, family room, dining room and kitchen. A portrait of Mr. Brewer, painted by Isabelle Bowen Henderson and presented to the house by Miss Brewer, hangs over the fireplace in the living room. Miss Brewer’s portrait in the reception room of Hunter Hall, painted by the same artist, was given in 1967 by the Home Economics Club and by the alumnae who had majored in Home Economics (7:226).”

Later news articles praised the excellent home management facility and described in glowing terms the learning experiences for the students. An article in the *Twig* (October 24, 1963) was headlined, **FOUR SENIORS PRACTICE HOMEMAKING IN BREWER HOUSE; WORK BECOMES PLEASURE WITH UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT**. A few years later (November 3, 1967), the *Twig* again lauded the experience, **HOME ECONOMICS MAJORS ENJOY HOUSEKEEPING**, and in 1982, the *News and Observer* headline read, **NO TV DINNERS IN THIS HOUSE**.

When the Ellen Brewer home management house was opened in 1960, no one could foresee that changing life styles and curriculum would render home management residence an obsolete requirement. Although it was a Home Economics graduation requirement for more than 50 years, it was discontinued as a requirement for all majors in 1988. (Many colleges dropped the requirement years earlier.) It continued to be required for secondary education majors until 1991. At that time it was converted to an infant/toddler laboratory home.

Many students expressed fond memories of living in the practice house. “My greatest experience at Meredith was my six weeks in the Home Economics house.

We all became so close and yet we were learning a great lesson at the same time.

I was saddened to hear that the students no longer did this.” --Rebecca Fisher Parks ‘83.

## **CHAPTER XII**

### **FOODS AND NUTRITION/CHRISTMAS FOODS DISPLAY**

A Christmas tradition that continued at Meredith for 35 years was the annual Christmas foods display prepared by Miss Ellen Brewer and the Home Economics students. Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972) aptly summarized the annual event: “The exhibit of Christmas foods prepared by the Department of Home Economics and shown each year in Hunter Hall was first given for the Raleigh Garden Club and was usually held at the Woman’s Club, though one year it was at the Governor’s Mansion. Requests for it to be given outside Raleigh multiplied; one year the traditional cookie tree and the other toothsome dainties must have become travel worn, for the exhibit was moved five times (7:272).”

A news clipping from December 9, 1937 stated: **HOME ECONOMICS CLUB GIRLS GIVE DEMONSTRATION**; Christmas Cookery and Table Appointments to Be Feature of Demonstration. “The seniors in the Home Economics department gave a demonstration of Christmas cookery at the Woman’s Club of Raleigh on Wednesday, December 8, 1937. The title of the demonstration was ‘Christmas Day in the Kitchen,’ and the idea was to add new and interesting Christmas suggestions for meals of the day. Ideas for an afternoon tea and buffet supper were given. Students involved were Carmen Morgan, Emily Thompson, Ella Sue Gravitte, Margaret Grayson, Mary Elizabeth York, Ruth McLean, Ethel Jones, Virginia Penny and Norma Lee Dawson.”

Ten years later the Raleigh Times (Wednesday, December 24, 1947) pictured members of the Meredith College Home Economics Department giving an illustrated lecture on preparing Christmas cookies and cakes for the Woman’s Club. The headline read, **PREPARING CHRISTMAS COOKIES**. Mary Virginia Warren, Frances Williams, Ruth Hall, Catherine Campbell, Hazel Williamson were pictured.

The Twig (December 9, 1949) described another Christmas food production, **CHRISTMAS FOODS ARE ON DISPLAY AT GARDEN CLUB**. The Home Economics students displayed at the Woman’s Club a table of Christmas foods as a feature of the Raleigh Garden Club show. “Of special interest was the arrangement on the cake stand that was used for the College’s fiftieth anniversary birthday cake. Transformed for this occasion to suggest a Christmas tree, its shelves are covered with assorted cookies and it is topped with a cookie tree made of ‘Sugar and spice and everything nice.’”

A news clipping earlier that year (September 28, 1949) described a similar party. The headline read, **FIFTY CANDLE TOWER**. “A huge birthday cake was designed and decorated by Meredith student and faculty members of the Home Economics Department. Its 50 candles marked the anniversary celebrated at the College, and hundreds of tiny candles trimmed the individual cakes served to the hundreds of guests.”

The Twig (December 12, 1952) described a busy holiday schedule entitled, **HOME ECONOMICS STUDENTS DISPLAY TALENTS IN CHRISTMAS COOKING**. “The sophomore foods class is getting ready for their traditional Christmas exhibit and programs in and out of Raleigh. This year, the girls began their travels by going to Campbell College on

December 8 at the invitation of Miss Catherine Campbell. Miss Ellen Brewer led a discussion on holiday foods, while the Meredith students explained the ways in which decorative touches add to the attractiveness of them.....Not content to stop at one very interesting and informative program, our foods experts traveled to Garner later in the week to present a similar program to a group of grade school mothers. From there they journeyed to Smithfield to take part in an exhibit as part of a garden show.”

Christmas 1953 proved to be equally busy. The News and Observer (December 13, 1953) headlined, MORE THAN HOLLY TO DECK HALLS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. .... “Who from her kitchen brings a gift, gives a little bit of self,” was the theme of the display. And nothing would add more beauty to the holiday table than the fancy cookies and candies, decorated cakes and jams displayed. The Twig described the same event, stating that the exhibit was shown first at Garden Club; later at Meredith to the faculty and also the State College Homemaker’s Club.

The News and Observer (December 8, 1958) described the Weekend Garden Club Show. THEY CAME, THEY SAW AND THEY COPIED was the theme of the show. “Country Kitchen” was the Meredith Home Economics Department’s entry into the show. The Raleigh Times (December 11, 1958) further embellished the event: MEREDITH TEACHER SHARES RECIPES. “Not in any city of the United States will there be a more delectable Christmas display of culinary skill than Miss Ellen Brewer and her Meredith College students prepared for the Raleigh Garden Club’s annual Christmas show at the Woman’s Club.” Pictured are Jeannette Worthington, Jenny Lou Taylor, and Helen Boone.

The same year, the News and Observer (December 11, 1958) featured the Meredith college Home Economics Department again. UNIVERSITY’S FIRST LADY DEMONSTRATES OLD RECIPE. “At the request of an old friend, Miss Ellen Brewer, Consolidated University president’s wife, Mrs. William C. Friday (Ida Howell, ‘41), came to demonstrate an old family fruit cake recipe at her own alma mater yesterday to Home Economics classes in the foods lab. Mrs. Friday was honor guest at a faculty coffee hour and stayed on for a meeting of the Home Economics Club.”

KITCHEN CAROLS was the theme of the Christmas display in 1960 (Raleigh Times, December 8, 1960). Two years later, the theme was “CHRISTMAS... CHRISTMAS... EVERYWHERE.”

Miss Ellen faithfully created an astonishing Christmas foods display each year, including her final year at Meredith when she was called back from a health-forced retirement. The theme her final year was THE CAMPBELLS ARE COMING with a display of cookie camels hanging in front of the buffet mirror in the Hunter Hall dining area. The event was intended to honor Dr. Carlyle Campbell who retired that year. Miss Brewer’s firm advice to her successor was to discontinue the annual foods exhibit.

Although Miss Brewer’s successor, Kay Ann Friedrich (1967) did not resume the Christmas foods display, she demonstrated equal talent and skill in the foods area. Each kitchen group in Meal Management class was required to plan and carry out a social function for the College community as part of the course. Mrs. Friedrich soon learned that the recipes must be duplicated in advance and available for guests because they all telephoned her later for the recipes.

Continental breakfasts for the trustees; faculty coffees; teas for non-resident students, continuing education students, local Home Economics groups and Home Economics Career Day were among the many groups the Meal Management students entertained. Each event, complete

with decorations and exotic food, was centered around a specific theme. CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD, GONE WITH THE WIND, BON VOYAGE, WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTMAS, OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, GARDEN PARTY, were themes chosen and expertly carried out by the students. The Meredith faculty especially looked forward to “Kay Ann’s coffees.” They could be seen leaving with “doggy bags” of food for co-workers who could not attend the event. Mrs. Friedrich’s courses on International Foods and Catering were especially popular. After her retirement, she taught a continuing education course, THE 60 MINUTE GOURMET to enthusiastic adults in the community.

Many times Kay Ann was interviewed by the news media on food-related topics. FOODS CLASS DISCOVERS KEY TO CHEAPER BAKING was a feature article in the News and Observer (December 8, 1974). Jan McManus and Frances Ehrlich were pictured with Mrs. Friedrich in the Home Economics foods laboratory.

Another News and Observer feature pictured Mark Boone, a North Carolina State University student who enrolled in a foods class under the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges program. The headline read, BACK FROM SIX MONTHS ACTIVE DUTY, EX-MARINE ENROLLS IN HOME ECONOMICS CLASS. “Having a young gentleman in a foods class made the course even more popular for the Meredith students.” Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972) explained the Cooperative Raleigh Colleges program, “The number of courses open to Meredith students is enlarged by the consortium formed by the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges--Meredith College, North Carolina State University, Peace College, St. Augustine’s College, St. Mary’s College and Shaw University. This consortium began in 1967 as a cooperative venture between North Carolina State University and Meredith. The next year the plan was extended to include the four other institutions now in the consortium.”

Many students expressed fond memories of Mrs. Friedrich in response to the 1992 and 1995 Home Economics newsletters:

“I’ll never forget that Mrs. Friedrich invited Dr. Weems to my big “graded meal” when he first arrived on our campus. She evidently had a lot more faith in my culinary skills than I did myself. All other occasions that I have ever ‘hostessed’ since, have been a piece of cake by comparison.” --Claire DesVergers Bambra, ‘72.

“I remember Mrs. Friedrich bringing a television set to an afternoon foods class in the early 1980’s. Luke and Laura on “General Hospital” were getting married. Mrs. Friedrich wisely knew that half the class would skip if she didn’t join the fun!” --Susan Davis Johnson, ‘83.

“I absolutely dreaded the month I would have to live in the home management house. Looking back, I remember learning so much and having a ball. I also remember dreading Meal Management, knowing that I would have to prepare a meal for a grade. My roommate gave me an easy recipe for mock stroganoff and I had enough nerve to invite my future husband to be my guest. He was very impressed and, for some reason thought he had a gourmet cook for a future wife. However, it did not take long after we were married for him to realize that I was a rookie in the kitchen.” --Dale Hawkins Russell, ‘75.

“I remember Mrs. Friedrich saying, “Be adventuresome...” --Mary Lynn Hinsley Heidinger, ‘82.

Mrs. Friedrich’s retirement in 1987 after twenty years of teaching foods at Meredith, marked the end of an era. The incoming faculty members in Foods and Nutrition were reluctant to sponsor the many social events, believing as did home economists nationally at that time, that it reinforced the cookie-maker image of Home Economics. Many faculty and staff across the campus expressed regret at the loss of the social events. A common feeling often expressed on the Meredith campus was the loss of community that “Kay Ann’s coffees” brought to the college. In many ways, the demise of the Home Economics social functions was symbolic of America’s transition to a paper-plate and cup society. It also represented a major shift from Home Economics as education for gracious living to the training of experts for professional roles in business and industry (6).

## **CHAPTER XIII**

### **CLOTHING AND TEXTILES**

In addition to the outstanding Foods and Nutrition area, the Clothing and Textiles field was equally strong. Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson wrote in *A History of Meredith College* (1972), “In 1929 a second teacher was added, Lois Pearman, who took over the work in textiles. Jennie Hanyen came in her place in 1931. The quality of Miss Hanyen’s work had striking proof in the success of her students in the annual style show sponsored by the textiles department of State College from 1929 to 1944; for in the sixteen shows given, costumes made and modeled by Meredith students won first place ten times (7:195).” Illustrating an article on the use of cotton, the National Geographic Magazine had a full-page picture in color of the Meredith girls making their costumes for the thirteenth exhibit.

Although the original clothing and textiles curriculum was initiated with two courses in 1915, it had expanded to 12 hours by the early 1930’s. The early advanced clothing courses included making children’s garments and drafting foundation patterns for underwear. Completion of costumes by designing and making millinery and accessories was also included in the clothing and textiles curriculum.

Fashion shows have consistently been a part of the clothing and textiles area. A news clipping (May 11, 1928) read HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT HOLDS HOUSE WARMING: Exhibits Much Admired by Guests. “Members of the Home Economics Department were ‘at home’ to members of the faculty, student body and other friends, on Friday afternoon, May 4. Guests were received into the sewing lab by members of the sewing class who were wearing dresses of their own making.”

The Twig (March 10, 1934) described another fashion show. HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT SPONSORS FASHION SHOW. “On Wednesday, February 28, the Home Economics Department sponsored a fashion show at the chapel exercises. Correct and incorrect dress for school, street, church, afternoon, evening and for dates were modeled by various members of the student body. As the models were presented, Ruth Byrd pointed out the faults and the good qualities of each dress and their suitability to the respective occasions.”

HOME EC STUDENTS PRESENT FASHION SHOW was a Twig headline (February 20, 1953). "The Home Economics students presented a fashion show featuring garments made by the freshman and junior clothing classes. Those students participating in the show from the tailoring class were Jane Cate, Ardine Lewis, Joan Langley, Sarah Dale, Millie Green, Shirley West, Shirley Graham, Beth Ann Dixon and Jane Williamson." The next year, (December 14, 1954), Martha Snow was pictured in a news article modeling a black wool jersey blouse and ibis white pinwale corduroy skirt in Autumn Plumage, a fashion show sponsored by the Simplicity Pattern Company.

In the late 1960's, the Twig headline read, FASHION DESIGNERS MAKE READY FOR THEIR SPLASH INTO THE WORLD OF FASHION. Johnnie Faye Lamm, Judy Smith and Suzanne George were pictured in garments they had designed and constructed. Claudia Tutterow and Ruth Ann Walters were pictured modeling fashions they made in their creative design class.

As the Clothing and Textiles curriculum expanded in the 1980's, the emphasis moved away from construction to increased proficiency in the fashion merchandising area. Among the projects in the new courses, students were required to plan and present fashion shows featuring costumes from local merchants. Creating window displays was an additional requirement, enhancing the showcase in Hunter Hall. Fashion merchandising students were required to take only the beginning clothing construction course. (In many colleges, fashion merchandising students had no clothing construction requirement.) With the addition of the Design Concentration in the early 1990's, Draping was reinstated in the catalog (it had been traded for a more essential course during the "no new courses" era in the early 1970's). Electronic Apparel Design and Apparel Design Development were also added. Mary Brainard (1986) has very capably guided the apparel design program.

A historic costume collection was initiated in the 1980's and many interesting costumes have been collected, including inaugural costumes worn by Governor and Mrs. Robert Scott. Dr. Diane Ellis arranged a striking display of costumes from 1850-1950 in the Frankie Weems Art Gallery during the spring semester of 1997.

## **CHAPTER XIV**

### **THE CEDAR CHEST**

A popular retreat enjoyed by generations of Meredith students was Miss Ellen Brewer's country home, the "Cedar Chest." Every senior Home Economics class was royally entertained in the rustic setting and many other groups enjoyed it throughout the year as well.

COUNTRY CABIN IN THE CITY UNIQUE PLACE FOR HOLIDAY was a headline in the News and Observer (July 31, 1949). "With all the comings and goings these days, you might get the idea that the whole of Raleigh is sprawled out along the Carolina coast, or hiking up and down mountains, or traveling off to South America or Europe. But some Raleighans find their holiday fun closer home. Miss Ellen Brewer, head of the Home Economics department at Meredith College, is one of those. She has a private playground all her own.

"The unique "Cedar Chest," her all-cedar cottage, is so screened in by foliage that it seems to be in the heart of the country. Actually, it's just a few winding turns off St. Mary's Street, within the city limits. Set on a slope that drops away to a shady pool, with walkways

marked by log railings or rock, it's a peaceful and secluded spot that can be reached in a few minutes from her town home on Groveland Avenue. Miss Brewer believes in sharing her place with friends in Raleigh and at Meredith. It's in use all year 'round for suppers, picnics and weekend parties. Home Economics students have a house party there each year. 'We come to relax,' Miss Brewer says. During the War, when weddings were hastily fitted into unexpected leaves and it was next to impossible to get reservations anywhere, the Cedar Chest suddenly found itself turned into a honeymoon hotel. 'At least ten couples spent their honeymoons here,' Miss Brewer reports."

"Miss Ellen Brewer was an inspiration to me. I will never forget the influence she had in my life." --Carmen Morgan Dawkins, '38

## **CHAPTER XV**

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Students from foreign countries have greatly enriched the Meredith community by their presence. Among the foreign students who studied Home Economics at Meredith was Kazue Murata. A news clipping described Kazue's experience in the home management residence in 1938-39. "JAPANESE STUDENT HOSTESS AT DINNER. "Kazue Murata, native Japanese student at Meredith College, who is one of the four seniors in Home Economics residing this month in the home management apartment in Vann Hall, was hostess at a formal dinner. She used a doll brought from Japan for her centerpiece. Her guests amused themselves attempting to eat with native Japanese chopsticks."

Jeanne Tong from Singapore studied Home Economics at Meredith about 1955. Lydia Lantin de los Reyes, who studied Home Economics about 1960 planned to return to her native Philippines. Verna Chow joined the student body in 1967 to study Home Economics.

Gertraud Pichler, a Home Economics teacher from Austria and a Rotary Scholar, studied Home Economics at Meredith about 1960. Pauline Njguna from Kenya arrived in 1978. After completing her undergraduate degree at Meredith, she earned a M.S. Degree before returning to Kenya. Liberata Kihohia, also from Kenya, studied Home Economics at Meredith approximately the same time. Afshan Seifmazarandi and Miriam Hoomani came from Iran to study Home Economics in the early 1980's, while Ishen Chen from Taiwan was a Home Economics student in the early 1990's. Rekah Rao, a Fashion Merchandising student, and Tonja Jalil, an Interior Design student studied at Meredith in the early 1990's. Another Interior Design student, Maki Ideguchi, studied at Meredith in 1996. Pauline Le Roux ('86) from Ecuador also studied at Meredith. Cindy Inafuku ('97) from Japan studied Food Service Management.

## **CHAPTER XVI**

### **CAREERS OF ALUMNAE**

Meredith Home Economics students have held notable positions following graduation. Mary Lynch Johnson writes (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972), "Florence Pittman, '37, has been for more than thirty years dietitian at the East Carolina Sanitarium in Wilson. Jeanne Tong



Yeh, '57, until she returned to Singapore, was dietitian at the New York Presbyterian Medical Center. On her return to this country, she went as dietitian to a hospital in Chicago. Verna Chow, '65, cousin to Katherine King, holds a similar position also in a Chicago hospital (7:403).

"Home economists are in constant demand. Some have been employed by public utilities companies; Carolyn Knight Nelson, '49, for several years was a demonstrator and service assistant for Carolina Power and Light Company, and Joan Langley Harrod, '53, had a similar position with the Appalachian Power Company. Martha Ann Riley Fisk, '36, has written several small cookbooks to be used with electric equipment. She was also at one time in charge of the research kitchen of the Hotel Statler system and traveled through the chain, training supervisors (7:403)."

Others have been county, state or federal employees. "Flossie Whitley, who retired in 1970 after thirty years as the Chatham County home demonstration agent, was in 1953 recognized for distinguished service by the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association. Ruby Pearson Uzzle, '37, has for more than twenty-five years been a marketing specialist with the Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina State University. For two years of that time she was on leave of absence in Peru as adviser to the national director of Home Economics. Nancy Duckworth, '50, was the first home economist in the nation to serve on the meat inspection staff of the United States Department of Agriculture (7:405)."

More recent graduates have also held excellent positions. Many alumnae responded to the questionnaires in the 1992 and 1995 Home Economics newsletters. Although it is impossible to list everyone, following are some of the responses. It should be remembered that some graduates may since have changed positions.

Meredith Home Economics graduates have held responsible FOOD SERVICE/MARKETING positions. Susan Ferguson Winstead ('75) and Suzanne Stocks Hawley ('78) served as Executive Director of the Governor's Mansion under two different governors. Susan continues in a private catering business. Bentley Bland ('91), works as Restaurant Supervisor/Catering Service Supervisor at the Research Triangle Park Marriott. Donna John Reynolds ('89) and Jan Gardner Crenshaw ('81) have served as Marketing Home Economist and Executive Director, respectively, of the North Carolina Egg Marketing Association. Lois Hayes ('79) has served as Director of Consumer Information for the North Carolina Cattleman's Beef Council. Laura Leppla Joyner ('79) started as a Laboratory Technician and moved up to Senior Manager of Technical Services with Hardee Food Systems, Inc., in Rocky Mount. Susan Davis Johnson ('83) started her career as a Dining Room Supervisor at the Raleigh Hilton (now the Brownstone Hotel) and is currently a Customer Service Representative at Summit Savings Bank in Raleigh.

Many Meredith graduates have become REGISTERED DIETITIANS and have worked in a variety of settings. Dana Lucy ('91) completed the AP4 program at the University of Massachusetts and is now a clinical outpatient dietitian at Henrico Doctor's Hospital in Richmond. Kim Moss ('91), is a dietitian at Cashwell Center (Spring Lake). Cindy Southern Marion ('87) worked as a nutritionist with the Wilkes County and Surry County Health Departments and is currently Director of Child Nutrition for Mt. Airy City Schools. Nena Warren Felsher ('79) served as clinical dietitian for Duke University Medical Center Cardiac Rehabilitation (DUPAC), and is currently nutrition director for the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Terry Wicker Stokes ('79) has held the position of pediatric nutritionist in several locations, a Medical Center in San Francisco, Boston City Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Massachusetts General Hospital/Shriners Burn Unit. Marilyn Rowe ('75) has been Chief

Clinical Dietitian at Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir; Rhonwyn Curtis ('91) is a clinical dietitian in the same hospital. Ann Rackley Killian ('60) was an Assistant Home Economics Agent with the North Carolina Extension Service and later served for twenty years as a child nutrition director for Warren County Schools. Natalie Priest Bell ('85) began her career as clinical dietitian for North Carolina Baptist Hospital. Betty Davis Ferlin ('56) served as a dietitian for Southern California Gas Company and later as consultant with Hart, Murray and Parks. Sylvia Matthews ('51) served as program dietitian for the Center for Bone Disease in Oxford. Janet Aikman Heilman ('39) began her career as a dietitian and later became a nursing home administrator through the Presbyterian Ministries. Johnnie Faye Lamm Campbell ('71) began her career as a teacher and is currently a dietitian with REN Dialysis Corporation. Ceil Witt ('78) is a registered dietitian currently serving with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. Kay Pollock Bender ('79) has been WIC Director/Nutritionist for Jones County Health Department in Pollocksville.

Unique CLOTHING AND FASHION MERCHANDISING positions appear among the Home Economics alumnae responding to the Home Economics Department newsletters (1992 and 1995). Claudia Tutterow ('69) has had a distinguished career as designer, distribution manager, garment development engineer and patternmaker for a variety of textile firms. She is currently serving as apparel design engineer for Sara Lee Knit Products. Barbara Byrnes Hoenig ('78) started as assistant buyer with Miller and Rhoads. She is currently the owner of Cape Fear Products in Wilmington. Lori Dowdy Cranford ('86) is a human resources manager for Paul B. Williams, Inc. in Raleigh. Kate Duncan ('91) is manager of D.A. Kelly's in Greensboro. Sharon Sasser Avis ('87), started as assistant manager for Ivey's and is now sales manager and buyer for Annie's Children's Boutique and Toys in High Point. Margaret (Mimi) Rogers ('89), has been an assistant buyer of men's sportswear and is currently assistant buyer of ladies junior shoes for Belk Stores Services in Charlotte. Ginger Stallings Wilkins ('86) is manager of Maurice's Inc. The Closet in Elizabeth City. Caroline Bliss Bright Farrer ('85) began her fashion merchandising career as assistant fashion coordinator/manager at Bloomingdales in Dallas. She later worked as assistant buyer at Miller and Rhoads in Richmond and still later as assistant buyer of petite dresses at Ivey's in Charlotte. She is currently buyer of jewelry, gifts, regional food for the Marriott Hotel in Charlotte. Bonnie Scott Truelove ('71), started her career as a buyer for Hudson-Belk and is now owner of Cameron Clothing company in Raleigh. Allison Washburn Edwards ('82) is currently owner of Sew-Precious (hand-made appliqued garments for children). Rebecca Fisher Parks ('83) held several merchandising positions before becoming a Nationwide Insurance Agent in Rocky Mount. Karen McAden Broadway ('84) has held fashion merchandising positions in Wilson, Rocky Mount and Charlotte, and is currently assistant manager for Bedford Fair Industries in Wilmington.

Many alumnae reported challenging INTERIOR DESIGN positions when responding to the 1992 and 1995 Home Economics Department newsletter questionnaires. Mary Rice Seagroves ('92) served as a designer for Southern Carpet and Interiors, while Laura Trollinger Holland ('89), has worked as sales/interior designer for Brodington-Young Galleries, Asheboro Building Supply, Interiors Exteriors. Shandra Lanier Stocks ('89) was formerly employed as a CAD operator for Storr Office Environments and is now owner of Draperies of Distinction. Jodi Buzzard ('88) was a designer for Magpie Interiors in Kill Devil Hills. Lisa Taylor Barnhill ('86) is a realtor for Fonville-Morisey in Raleigh, and Lynn Siceloff Joyner ('86), is a staff interior designer for Duke University. Lisa Than Hauser ('86), began her interior design career at Northern Telecom in Raleigh, and is now president and owner of Modular Office Design in Cary.

Cori Middleton Lindley ('85) and Joy Wilcher were employed as interior designers for Oakwood Homes, Inc. in Greensboro. Patricia Aman Tyndall ('84) is working as interior decorator/sales person at Crawford Furniture in Snow Hill. Martha Wagner Green ('83) started her interior design career at Northern Telecom and is currently serving as space planning drafter for Nortel. Susan Dixon Williams ('82) is interior designer and owner of Williams and Clark Custom Interiors in Holly Springs. Beverly Sales Bland ('74) also has her own business, Finishing Touches: Custom Window Treatments in Wake Forest. Lynn Gorman ('80), has been an interior designer for J. C. Penney and Sherwin Williams, and is currently an interior designer for the Veteran's Hospital in Durham. Anna Comer Stidham ('79) worked as interior designer for ten years at Raleigh Office. Judith Walker Worley ('73) was a Home Economics Extension Agent and later a teacher before becoming the owner and decorator for Decorating Den franchise in Dover, Delaware. Cindy Fouts Sweet ('80) is currently a sales representative for Highland House of Hickory (Barcalounger, Tell City, Leister Furniture). Kitty Sparks Price ('72) held a series of design positions and currently owns her own design business in Rutherfordton. Winn Cuthbertson ('82) is designer/display coordinator and accessories buyer for Cardis Furniture, Inc. in Swansea, Massachusetts.

Other Interior Design majors have also had rewarding careers. Leigh Ann Allsbrook Ellison ('79), an Interior Design major, started at Storr Office Environments and is now the owner of the Catered Cupboard in Chesapeake, Virginia. Laura Prestwood ('91) and Heather Powers ('92) were employed as interior designers by Little Associates and Architects in Charlotte. Laura is currently with Nations Bank in Charlotte. Laurel Lindquist Thompson ('83) started in Interior Design Resort Designs and is now a preschool teacher in Charlotte. Carmel Smith is currently employed as interior designer by Spectrum by Design. Mandy Shelton ('90) owns her own firm, De La Madison, Inc. in Charlotte. Maria Ward ('94) is graphics engineer for the Research Triangle Institute in Raleigh. Susan Oaks Pinson ('85) is an interior designer for Carolina Builders Interiors in Burlington. Kimberly Smith Kinlaw ('89) held several interior design positions before moving into real estate sales for Sea Coast Realty in Wilmington. Kristy Roberts ('94) started as a receptionist at the High Point Furniture Market and is now a technical support drafter for Modern Office Mechanics in Morrisville.

The Meredith Home Economics Department has produced many TEACHERS at every level. Several alumnae reported careers at the college and university level. Dr. Jane Boyd Thomas ('84) started her career at as an assistant buyer at Ivey's and is now an assistant professor at Winthrop University School of Business. Dr. Ginger Woodard ('83) served as assistant professor of Home Economics at Peace College and later at East Carolina University. Dr. Deborah Godwin ('74) began her college teaching career at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is now associate professor of Family Economics at the University of Georgia at Athens. Jacqueline Boone James ('69) is currently research assistant, Radcliff College, Murray Research Center, Boston. She started her career as a teacher in Zebulon and later taught in Massachusetts. Frances Hayes Swanson ('68) is research assistant at East Carolina University Department of Surgery in Greenville. She was formerly a Child Development and Family Relationships instructor at East Carolina University, and later a math/algebra teacher at Arendell Parrott Academy. Jane Lewis Promnitz ('63) has served as a Home Economics teacher, a Home Economics teacher educator, and is currently an instructional designer in Coquitlam, BC. Crystal Riviere Blalock ('76) is a painter and adjunct instructor at Gardner Webb College and Cleveland Community College.

Several students used their Home Economics degrees as spring boards to MEDICAL CAREERS. Tonya Poindexter Carter ('92) started as a rehabilitation assistant working with Developmental Disability Services of Guilford County. Lynn Walker Clark ('85) is a staff occupational therapist with St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Charlotte Wilder ('89) has also worked in physical therapy. Mary Dell Gay Clayton ('87) has been an apprentice optician at Kodiak Vision Clinic in Kodiak, Alaska. Diane Powell Jones ('84) worked with Mobile Mammography at a Regional Medical Center, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Students continue to obtain positions with the COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE. Jan Guyton ('90) is a 4-H Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension service in Bladen County. Jo Ann Yost Williams ('83) is a Home Economics Extension Agent at Wallace in Duplin County. Deborah Corey Straight ('85) was a Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service in New York and is now working with a window treatment business. Katherine O'Briant Hester ('72) has served as Cooperative Extension Service for 25 years and is currently in Lexington. Audrey Stewart ('80) started as an extension agent and moved to her present position as Child Nutrition Director for Lee County Schools in Sanford. Gail Moody Milteer ('79) also started as an Extension Agent and is now Regional Commodity Manager/Marketing Agent for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Sharon Swain ('81) has served as an Extension Agent in Oxford since graduation. Cleo Jones Edwards ('55) worked as a Home Extension Agent in Tarboro and later as a 4-H specialist in Raleigh with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. Martha Branon Edwards ('65) also worked several years as a Home Extension Agent in Randolph, Pamlico and Rockingham Counties and is currently a supervisor of the cashiering department of Boice-Willis Clinic in Rocky Mount.

Several Home Economics graduates have had careers in SOCIAL SERVICES. Verna Dryden Asplen ('62) started her career as a 4-H Extension Agent and is currently a social worker in Cambridge, Maryland at Eastern Shore Hospital Center. Leita Blount Bratton ('62) is currently teaching in the School of Social Work in Greenville. Jane Sicheloff Stokes ('76) began her career in teaching and is currently a social worker with Wake County Department of Social Services. Betty Whichard Hickman ('77) was a Field Service Counselor for the Department of corrections for 13 years before her retirement. Ruth Daugherty Browning ('37) started as a social worker in the mountains of Kentucky. She was later a teacher of the deaf at South Dakota School for the Deaf, and is now a dietitian at Danville Kentucky Hospital.

Many Meredith Home Economics graduates have entered the teaching field at the high school level. Jeanaean Gray ('91) is teaching Home Economics in Franklin County, while Tanya Cook ('81) is teaching at Surry Central High School in Dobson. Kathy Grindstaff Hinkle ('81) is currently teaching Home Economics in Lexington. She started her career as a consumer affairs director for United American Bank and later worked as an interior designer for Ethan Allen before entering the teaching field. Gayle Cooke ('82) has been teaching at Apex Middle School in Wake County since graduation. Valeria Tyndall Taylor ('76) is teaching at East Duplin High School in Deep Run. Ann Dunn Johnson Shields ('72) has been teaching Marriage and Family Living and seventh grade life science at Hobgood Academy in Scotland Neck. Carolyn Barrett Thaxton ('71) has most recently served as Foods and Nutrition/Child Development teacher at Lincolnton High School. She started her teaching career as a fifth grade teacher, later teaching Home Economics and career exploration. She has worked with the grant program (advisor) developing such topics as "Cooperative Adolescent Parenting Service" and "Peer Mentors to At Risk Teens." Marilyn McGoogan Sayler ('67) has been the Home Economics teacher at Valley

Forge Middle School in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Carmen Morgan Dawkins ('38) taught in Winston-Salem and Greenville. Peggy Bryan Cochran ('74) is a Home Economics teacher in Robersonville; Marianne Nifong Raker ('72) is a Home Economics teacher for the Fulton County Schools in Atlanta. Angie Stafford ('80) served as a Home Economics teacher in Wake County and is currently a teacher assistant. Teresa Vaughn Stephens ('75) taught Home Economics in Rutherfordton.

Many earlier graduates reported extended teaching careers. Eva Cotner Wilson ('40) was a Home Economics teacher for 30 years in Pitt, Franklin and Vance Counties. Rovilla Myers Sellers ('56) served as a Home Economics teacher for approximately thirty years, most recently with High Point Public Schools. Jean McLamb Jones ('49) also had a teaching career, initially in Home Economics and later as an eighth grade teacher. Virginia Reid ('49) served as a teacher for more than 35 years, chiefly in Charlotte. Another long-time teacher was Carol Bailey ('47), who gave almost 30 years to a teaching career in Yadkin County, Stokes County and Charlotte City Schools. She initially taught Home Economics and later chemistry. Elizabeth Jacobs Samsa ('36) worked as a Home Economics teacher in Tennessee and later at West Texas University in Canyon, Texas. Carolyn Nance Baugh ('75) taught several years in the Albemarle City Schools and currently is a part-time instructor at Stanley Community College. Sara Davis Koontz ('49) devoted 25 years to teaching, most recently in Burlington, North Carolina. Melver Cheek Neal ('47) spent 35 years as a Home Economics teacher in Franklin County. Zelma Murray Thomasson ('47) began her career as a dietitian for the Dairy Council of Richmond. She later served 30 years in the teaching field in Pender and New Hanover counties, and later at Sampson Community College.

Many Home Economics teachers have moved into other teaching assignments after initially beginning their careers teaching in the Home Economics area. Barbara Blackmon ('78) is a science teacher for the Wake County Schools Redirection Program. Doris Davenport Tucker ('72) began her career as a Home Economics teacher and is currently teaching science in Rutherfordton. Peggy Williamson Wiggins ('72) formerly taught Home Economics at Dorothea Dix before embarking on a new career teaching English as a second language at Wake Technical Community College. Mary Suzanne George Palmer ('70), teaches exceptional children in Edenton. Laurie Cressman Selph ('75) teaches gifted and talented children (grades three to five) in Raleigh. Sandra Watson McDaniel ('81) is a math teacher at Enfield Academy in Whitakers. Mary Beth Pruette Parker ('72), who originally taught career exploration and later served as food service instructor for handicapped students, is currently Vocational Support Services Coordinator for New Hanover County Schools in Wilmington. Evelyn Ballance Creekmore of Moyock ('35) devoted 30 years to the teaching field, most recently as a science teacher. She also served briefly as a Home Demonstration Agent.

Several Home Economics teachers have moved to the COUNSELING field. Virginia (Ginger) Owens Long ('68) is currently a guidance counselor at Mineral, Virginia after beginning as a Home Economics teacher in Durham and Wake County. Amy Kathryn Myers Rudd ('40), taught in Guilford County and served as the first counselor at McIver School for TMR students in Greensboro. Virginia Vaughn Mallory ('39) concluded her career as a middle school guidance counselor in Henrico County, Virginia. She began as a Home Economics teacher in Pitt county and was later and EMR teacher in Richmond. Pamela McCall Coley ('65) also moved from teaching to counseling. After raising two children, she returned to graduate school and now has a private counseling practice. Nancy Yates Dove ('70), taught Home Economics for several years before becoming a Vocational Counselor/Industrial Education

Coordinator for Columbus County Schools. Jane Templeman Lewis ('48) taught Home Economics in Moore County Schools before becoming a counselor and curriculum supervisor for Johnson County Schools and later for Sampson County Schools. Dorothy Weldon Vinson ('46) was a teacher and social worker before becoming an employment counselor and interviewer for the North Carolina Employment Security Commission in Raleigh.

Many Home Economics graduates began their careers teaching Home Economics and have moved on to other interesting careers. Carol Capell Anderson ('67) began her Home Economics teaching career in California and is currently a broker for GRI Plank Road Realty in Wadesboro. Carrie Jo Compton Wintermute ('79) began her career as a teacher and is currently an Instructional Designer for Central Carolina Bank. Debbie Fields Ward ('74) began as a Home Economics teacher and is currently working in real estate sales in Cary. Lois Williams Gerald ('55) served as a Home Economics teacher, food service coordinator and is currently owner of Dale's Seafood in Whiteville. Pam Herndon ('77) taught several years in Swansboro and is currently a State Farm Agent. Eunice (Margaret) Williams Glazner ('40) worked several years as a Home Economics teacher at Hobgood and Weldon High Schools, later as a research analyst in Arlington Hall in Arlington, Virginia and finally as assistant state supervisor of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction School Lunch Program. Pearl Page ('42) began her career as a Home Economics teacher. She later worked as a bacteriologist for a North Carolina State laboratory, and as a serologist/virology technician for the Department of Human Resources. Marion Hayes Edwards Gambrell ('35) taught Home Economics several years before becoming a home economist for Carolina Power and Light Company, a career which spanned 30 years. Ruth Dupree Petra ('77) served as a teacher in Harnett County, Reidsville City and Orange County Schools. She has most recently worked at Northern Telecom. Carolyn Nichols Fitzgerald ('62) taught in Raleigh and Greensboro and has also worked with antiques. Her most recent work has been in real estate in Raleigh. Linda Haigler Marks ('68) spent several years as a teacher of the deaf at the Medical College of Virginia and the University of Denver. More recently she has worked with the Virginia Historical Society and the Barksdale Theater.

By far, the greatest majority of teachers graduating from the Home Economics Department during the 1980's and 1990's are engaged in the EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. Denise Brame Gill ('81) is serving as director and part-time instructor of the Child Care Lab at Vance Granville Community College, while Melissa Johnson ('91), is program coordinator for Glaxo Child Development Center in Raleigh. Denise Reap Smith ('85) is a child care administrator for infants at SAS in Raleigh, and Jane Aycock ('90) is a lead teacher at the same location. Susan Sherron Zaytoun ('80) teaches at St. Andrews Early Childhood Center in Raleigh, while Cinda Tart Bass ('77) is a preschool teacher in Sampson County. Mary Dowell Taylor Hinson ('76) has been a preschool teacher at Trinity United Methodist Church Preschool in Huntsville, Alabama. Elizabeth Robertson Boyd ('74) is a Montessori teacher in Jacksonville, Florida. Terry Yaun Taylor ('83) teaches preschool in Georgia. Cindy Wilder Drew ('82) is a preschool director at All Saints Episcopal Church in Littleton. Marcia Miller Schmid ('72) teaches at Northwoods United Methodist Preschool in Jacksonville, NC. Paula Parker Morris ('93) is director of the Children's Learning Center in Durham. Linda Bryant ('91) is a teacher in Teens and Tots Day Care at NVR High school in Demarest, New Jersey. She started a child care program as part of a Home Economics/child development course.

Many child development majors who chose the teaching field are currently teaching at the kindergarten level. Susan Wichard Tankard ('89) teaches kindergarten at Bath, while Tamara

Swann Whitley ('86) teaches at Liberty Christian School in Songtan, South Korea. Lisa Drake Skeeters ('85) teaches kindergarten in Greensboro, while Elisa Dougherty ('92) teaches in Winston-Salem. Anita Gilbert ('78) and Beth Williams Oates ('89) teach kindergarten at Vance Elementary and Stough Elementary Schools respectively. Cindy Beal Richardson ('72) has held a variety of teaching assignments since graduation and is currently a primary teacher in Thomasville.

First grade teachers include Kristie Morgan Wallace ('92) at Ansonville Elementary School in Wadesboro, Robin Wright ('90) at Penny Road Elementary in Cary. Anne Cutler ('91) and Sandra Phillips ('85) are second grade teachers in Apex. Dawn Pickett Brown ('87) is a second grade teacher in Alexander City, Alabama. Third grade teachers include Edy Speight ('89) in Roanoke Rapids, Jennie Everett ('92) at Middlesex Elementary School in Nash County and Stephanie Long Eller ('93) in Charlotte. Other elementary teachers include Susan Johnson Sherron ('89) in Sylva and Mary Lambert Cottrell ('81) in Rockingham (fourth grade); Melissa Caulbert Plyler ('87) in Apex (fifth grade math and science); Lucy Davis Deeprose ('76) in Wake Forest (third and fourth grade); Martha Millard Worsley ('71) in Wake County (fourth grade). Judith Alexander Bobo ('68) has held a variety of teaching positions in Florida, Texas and Georgia for over 20 years and is currently teaching fifth grade math in Atlanta. Clayta Ann Fender Bryant ('62) has been an elementary teacher for 30 years and is currently in Wytheville, Virginia. Laura Burke Zimmerman ('94) is teaching in the Rowan Salisbury City School System (fifth grade); and Beth Early ('76) in Charlotte (she was named Charlotte-Mecklenburg Teacher of the Year in 1991-92). Helen Booe Marley ('60) taught in Atlanta and Charlotte, and Linda Cousins ('91) teaches in Wake County. Lisa Duke Rezac ('86) has held a variety of elementary positions in Jacksonville, NC and Aiken, SC. Dale Hawkins Russell ('75) has been a teacher for more than 20 years in Guilford County Schools. Dawn Fleming ('94) teaches in Vance County. Linda Cousins ('91) is teaching in Wake County.

Many graduates used Home Economics as a springboard to move into a variety of interesting careers. Lora Shoaf Jeschke ('89) became a flight attendant for US Airlines. Virginia Yarborough ('87) is a publisher's assistant/office manager for "Taste Full" Magazine in Wrightsville Beach. Mary Lynn Hinsley Heidinger ('82) has served as financial planner/office manager for Fidelity Planning and Financial Services in Raleigh, while Sherry Bond Porter ('80) is a sales representative for Roadway Package System. Beth Watkins ('78) is a quality assurance specialist for GE Capital Mortgage Insurance company. Jo Ann Pickett ('67) has held a variety of business positions and is currently regional manager for Peerless Confection Company of Chicago. Jane Osborne Abernathy ('83) was assistant director of admissions at Catawba College. Later she was a consumer education representative with Duke Power Company and currently is owner of Abingdon China Repair in Lexington, NC. Virginia Lancaster ('42) has served on both the Meredith Board of Associates and the Meredith Board of Trustees. She has received leadership citations by two national and three state organizations. She is a nationally accredited flower show judge and received the National American Cancer Society Distinguished Service Award in 1987 for 25 years work with cancer patients and educational programs. She also has worked with the American Field Services Foreign Exchange Program. Genie Dees Osteen ('76) is an Avon representative in Charlotte, and Rita Godwin Dunn ('65) is a horseback riding instructor in Fairfax, Virginia. Betsy Bucks ('64) has been a Peace Corps volunteer, a bilingual home economist for the Arizona Department of Health Services and is currently service coordinator for ARC of Fredrick County, Maryland. Linda Spivey Murray ('80) is an executive secretary for Southern National Bank in Dudley, NC. Frances Jennings Teter ('83) has held

several interesting positions: account executive at WCHL Radio in Chapel Hill; sales associate for Petry Television; broadcast buyer for McCann/Erickson Ad Agency; and sales associate for the Worth Collection. Shiela Smith Greenwood ('77) is currently serving as a missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ, Chandler, Arizona. Beth Narron ('83) was a paralegal with several law firms and now does free-lance law work. Susan Williford ('85) is a staff assistant for the Botany Department at Duke. Olivia Heath ('81) is showroom manager for Ferguson Enterprises in Raleigh. Ellen Davis Frick ('88) is a leasing consultant for Lincoln Property Company in Raleigh. Melanie Miller Plummer ('81) is gift buyer and display person at Fleet-Plummer Hardware and Gifts in Greensboro. Lois Upchurch Jeffreys ('54) was a micro-biologist with the NC Public Health Laboratory in Raleigh. Elizabeth Johnston Arthurs ('78) was a preschool teacher at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Kindergarten before becoming vice president and office manager for Arthur's Sheet Metal Company, Inc. in Mooresville. Mary Tousignant Antoci ('87) has held a variety of business positions in Raleigh, New York City and Atlanta. Georgia Carolyn Moyer ('93) has been employed with IBM in Raleigh since graduation. Susan Tart Edgerton ('87) is an administrative assistant with Eastern Omni Constructors in Greenville, NC. Melissa McLaney Edison ('84) is a media planner/buyer for Creative Dimensions, and Elizabeth Gupton ('84) is business manager for Village at Nags Head. Beth Lewis Trice ('83) has been a consumer education representative at Duke Power Company in Reidsville, IBM sales rep for COECO in Wilmington, and is now outside service/PR marketing rep for James E. Moore Insurance in Wilmington.

## **CHAPTER XVII**

### **CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson wrote (*A History of Meredith College*, 1972), "Coming into existence from 1920 to 1923 were various departmental clubs, which gave an opportunity for the voluntary development of the students' interest in their special fields (7:107)." The Home Economics Club was among them. An article in the *Twig* (December 1, 1922) featured the headline, CLUBITIS' REACHES DEPARTMENT OF H.E. "Club Organized to Stimulate Interest in Home Economics. In response to novel invitations sent out by one of the advanced classes in household science, twenty-five girls met on November 23, at 5 o'clock, in the parlor of the Home Economics building to organize a club for that department.

"Miss Brewer spoke briefly on the nature and purpose of such an organization, and expressed a desire that more girls might thereby become interested in this all too little patronized department of instruction.

"The following officers were than unanimously elected: Miriam Ruffin, president; Lillian Horton, vice-president; and Alice Klutz, secretary-treasurer. The third Tuesday of each month from 4:45 to 5:45 was decided upon as the time of meeting. Miss Welch, the college dietitian, and Miss Zabriski, dean of women, who for a number of years taught Home Economics, were elected honorary members of the club.

"At the conclusion of the business session dainty refreshments were served. With the hearty cooperation of its members, the 'H. E. Club' (as the new organization has been humorously dubbed), hopes to accomplish much of practical value."



Numerous articles from the Raleigh newspapers over the years speak to the many activities of the Home Economics Club. The News and Observer (December 17, 1942) wrote, "Santa Claus helpers at Meredith College will begin their Christmas vacations today, but they are leaving a supply of dolls to help Santa fill the requests of needy youngsters. For some time the members of the Home Economics Club have been volunteers in Santa's Doll Factory."

A May 21, 1948 article on HOME EC CLUB NEWS stated, "A most impressive meeting of the Home Economics Club was held in the Hut on May 3. The mantel, which was decorated with candles and greenery, formed a striking background for the initiation of the senior Home Economics majors in the National Association of Home Economics. During the ceremony, Miss Brewer presented each of the girls with a lighted 'Betty Lamp,' symbol of the American Home Economics Association. Seniors who were initiated are: Iva Hurst, Doris Mitchiner, Ruth Hall, Carolyn Knight, Jane Lewis, Helen Finch, Lillian Swinson, Catherine Campbell, Geraldine Mangum, Mary Virginia Warren, Jolene Weathers, Gayle Wells and Ruth Sears. At the conclusion of the meeting, the new officers for the coming year were installed: Sara Davis, president; Jean McLamb, vice president; Sylvia Currin, secretary; Bethea Danford, treasurer; and Jerry Miller, reporter."

The September 1949 issue of Colhecon described AN ADVENTURE IN FRIENDSHIP whereby the Home Economics Club at Meredith College adopted a Home Economics class in the American sector, Goeppingen, Germany. The students packed and sent small supplies of articles greatly needed for their class work (cinnamon, nutmeg, food items, sewing supplies).

The 1948-49 Home Economics Club enjoyed several interesting programs on timely topics: A film on a new fiber, Nylon, by DuPont, FASHIONS IN FABRICS, was the subject of one meeting. A demonstration by Miss Kathryn Sandmeyer of the Evaporated Milk Association, and a demonstration on THE PREPARATION AND USES OF FROZEN FOODS by the International Harvester Company (a manufacturer of home freezers) were also subjects of programs.

The Twig reported (December 9, 1949), MRS. STEININGER SHOWS HOME ECONOMICS GROUP HOW TO MAKE EFFECTIVE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, "made from old tin cans (with the gold finish on the inside), pictures from Christmas cards, and ingenuity."

The 1954-55 Home Economics Club yearbook listed, OUR HOMES, THE KEYS TO WORLD UNDERSTANDING, as the theme for the year. Among the programs was guest speaker Louise Bennett who spoke on "A Year in Italy." Mrs. Charles Freeman, who was originally from India, spoke on family life in that country. An Easter egg hunt for children from the Methodist Orphanage rounded out the year. In an earlier year, the Home Economics Club made bean-bag clowns to be distributed to the children at the Methodist Orphanage at Christmas. Later that year, students from the Methodist Orphanage, along with students from Needham Broughton and Hugh Morson High Schools, were entertained at Meredith by the Home Economics Department

HOME ECONOMICS; ITS POTENTIAL FOR GREATER SERVICE—TO INDIVIDUAL, COMMUNITY, COUNTRY, HUMANITY, FAMILY, was the theme for the 1955-56 school year. Mrs. L. Hall Swain (who later taught Home Economics at Meredith) was one of the guest speakers, addressing the topic, "Home Economics, Its Potential for Greater Service to the Family."

A GLIMPSE AT OUR NATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS was the theme for the 1956-57 school year. Miss Iola Prichard of the North Carolina Extension Service spoke on the topic, "A

Friend to Arts and Crafts.” The year 1958-59 found the Home Economics Club centering its meetings around the theme, THE WORLD IS OUR HERITAGE. Mrs. Lenore Tuck spoke on “Food from the Islands” for one of the meetings. The group dressed dolls for the Lions’ Club Christmas project.

A headline in a prominent Home Economics publication read A PROFESSION MARKS ITS HALF CENTURY; AHEA 1909-1959. It urged all members to celebrate this important landmark. Membership in the American Home Economics Association in 1959 was 24,000 persons, all of whom were college graduates either in Home Economics or another field, but engaged in Home Economics work. The largest group of Home Economists was engaged in teaching in secondary schools. Other large groups were engaged in college teaching, in business and in Extension Service work. Others worked in programs of social welfare, public health and research. Many were full-time homemakers. Almost 500 colleges and universities granted degrees in Home Economics at this time.

A news clipping (January 20, 1961) noted DEPARTMENTAL CLUBS ENJOY INTERESTING MONTHLY MEETINGS. “Home Economics Club Views Cookery Exhibit. A demonstration on electronic cookery was presented to the Meredith College Home Economics Club on December 8 by Miss Pat Collier from Atlanta, Georgia. Miss Collier, representing Westinghouse, showed the club the wonders of her company’s electronic oven.

“The club was amazed by the speed with which foods might be prepared in this oven; an egg may be cooked in 30 seconds and a cake in three minutes. One of the wonders of this oven is the fact that foods are cooked without the cooking container even being heated. Everyone who saw the demonstration hopes to have an electronic oven of her own someday.”

The Twig reported, HOME ECONOMICS BAZAAR GARNERS FUNDS FOR 1974 PROJECTS, and described the Home Economics Club’s successful effort to raise \$200 for the yearly projects. Beth Kimball, president of the club, was in charge of the bazaar, assisted by Ann Laney, vice-president.

The Home Economics club assisted with the Staley Christian Lecture series in 1982 when Robert and Margaret Blood were invited to the campus for the two-day seminar. The Blood’s text, “Marriage” was being used in the Marriage and Family Relationships classes at that time so this visit to the campus was especially significant.

The Home Economics Club sponsored a booth at the Meredith Health Fair on April 23, 1983 with the theme “Smart Snacking.” The Home Economics Club and the Home Economics Department sponsored Kenan guest speakers during the 1980’s. Mary Beth Keister and Dr. Don Rapp were among the sponsored guests. Dr. Rapp was a visiting Child Development professor from Florida State University, and his theme for the three-day seminar was “Promoting Professionalism in the Home Economics Field.”

The Home Economics Club sponsored CAREER DAY for several years to give students insight into Home Economics related careers. Judith Alexander, president of the club, arranged a very successful career day on February 20, 1968. Among the guests who were on campus to talk with Meredith students were Charlotte Barnes, nursery school teacher at the Raleigh Preschool; Cleo Jones, 4-H specialist for Wake County Extension Service; Gwen Farrier, ‘46, dietitian; Bob Bandsuch, sales promotion at Burton’s; Arliss Moore, interior designer; Marjorie Gilbert, nutritionist with the National Dairy Council; Carolyn Overton, ‘67, home economist with Carolina Power and Light; Elizabeth Jukes, public health nutrition specialist; and Loree Keen, fashion designer with L’ Nan Z.

LOVE YOUR CAREER was the theme ten years later for the February 14, 1978 Career Day. Among the professionals representing the various fields of Home Economics were, Anne Kemp Bancroft, clothing; Anne Edge, '77, extension; Cynthia Bishop, child development, Janet Burke, '77, K-3 teaching; Omega Collins, '77, 4-9 teaching; Nan Simpkins, '72, and Rebecca Cline, '68, secondary Home Economics teaching; Annette Rountree, '76, business.

SUCCESSFUL IMAGES, a symposium sponsored by the Home Economics Club and Tomorrow's Business Women's Club was presented January 25, 1979, with sessions on fashion, hair styles, body language and interviewing skills. Later that year, a bridal fashion show was presented (February 12, 1979) with Angelique's Bridal and Formal Shop loaning the costumes.

In 1930, Home Economics students were first represented at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Home Economics Association. From that date on, college clubs were to become an integral part of the North Carolina Home Economics Association. In addition to the state meeting of professional home economists, the students held an annual workshop specifically for college students. The various colleges took turns hosting the workshop.

News clippings carefully preserved by Miss Brewer describe student participation in the North Carolina Home Economics Association state meetings and the annual student workshops. A 1952 news clipping read, MEREDITH STUDENTS, TEACHERS ATTEND HOME EC MEETING. "The sixth annual workshop of college clubs of the North Carolina Home Economics Association was held at Flora Macdonald College. Miss Betty Rogers, a Meredith student and out-going president of the state clubs, presided at the meeting. Mary Jo Shaw, a Meredith student, was elected to the office of treasurer of the organization."

HOME EC STUDENTS ATTEND STATE WORKSHOP, a news headline introduced the article describing the state student Home Economics Club Workshop on April 17 and 18, 1953. Three Meredith students attended: Celia Wood, Martha Snow, and Jane Williamson. Celia Wook was the 1952-53 reporter and Martha Snow was elected vice-president for the coming year. Jane Williamson served as vice-president of the Province Workshop (composed of four states). She was elected delegate to the National Home Economics Association held in Kansas City in June.

The College Clubs division of the North Carolina Home Economics Association held their ninth annual workshop at Meredith College on March 19 - 20, 1954. The theme was OUR HOME ECONOMICS FAMILY TREE. The Home Economics family tree at that time included chapters at High Point, Meredith, Catawba, Greensboro College, Appalachian State Teachers College, Western Carolina Teachers College, East Carolina Teachers College, Campbell, Queens, Pembroke, Mars Hill, Women's College, Flora Macdonald, Elon and Salem. Meredith hosted the spring workshop again on March 29 and 30, 1963, and on March 21 and 22, 1975. Elizabeth Koontz, special assistant for Coordination of Nutrition Programs, was the keynote speaker for the 1975 event.

Several Meredith students have served in leadership positions in the Student Section of the North Carolina Home Economics Association. Lynn Benton served as secretary of SNCHEA in 1978-79 and Kathy Keith was treasurer. The following year, Lynn was president and Cecilia Foushee was treasurer of the state student group. THE PROFESSIONAL LOOK was the theme of the student spring workshop held at Meredith on January 18, 1984. Robin Biddix chaired the successful event. Among the officers of the state student organization in earlier years were Joyce Herndon, who was president of the state student organization in 1957-58; Joie Brumley in 1968; and Chris Fecho, who presided in 1970. Mary Lynn Burris and Diane Powell were state officers in 1982; Shannon Baynor served as state president in 1994.

## **CURRENT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Meredith Home Economics Club was organized in 1922 (later known as SNCHEA, Meredith Student Section of the North Carolina Home Economics Association), and Kappa Omicron Phi some sixty years later in 1982. No other student organizations were formed until the late 1980's. Currently, each major is represented by a student organization.

### **KAPPA OMICRON NU**

The Kappa Omicron Phi chapter at Meredith (Delta Omicron) was installed by the Appalachian State University chapter during a snow and ice storm on January 23, 1982, when 29 faculty and students became charter members of the Meredith chapter. The purpose of the honor society as stated in the handbook is to “further the best interests of Home Economics by recognizing and encouraging scholastic excellence, developing leadership abilities, fostering professional activities and interests, and promoting fellowship among faculty and students of the profession.” In the first twelve years, a total of 371 faculty and students have been honored by an invitation to join the society.

In 1990 the national Home Economics honor societies of Omicron Nu and Kappa Omicron Phi merged to become Kappa Omicron Nu honor society.

One of the most important programs sponsored by Kappa Omicron Nu was the opening convocation on September 16, 1991, launching the year-long centennial celebration of Meredith College, HONORING OUR HERITAGE--EXPANDING OUR VISION. Dr. Vickie Berger, curator of textiles at the North Carolina Museum of History, narrated an exciting program on HISTORIC FASHION SILHOUETTES to an overflow audience in Jones Auditorium. Meredith students modeled the costumes of the bell, bustle and tube silhouettes popular through the ages.

An important project carried out by Kappa Omicron Nu in the early 1990's was collecting and mailing used Home Economics text books to a school in Kenya, Africa. An additional contribution is the annual scholarship granted each year to the Kappa Omicron Nu graduating senior with the highest grade-point average. The national headquarters staff of Kappa Omicron Nu and the Meredith chapter both contribute financially to the scholarship. Kappa Omicron Nu students have attended the national conclave held every two years. Among the students representing Meredith at the national conclave were Alice Barnette, Natalie Priest, Billie Stewart, Nancy Willey, Robin Kitson and Kelly Phillips.

### **INTERIOR DESIGN**

The Interior Design student organization was initially affiliated with the professional group, Institute of Business Designers (IBD). After the Interior Design program was accredited (1995), it became associated with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). The purpose of ASID is to move students further into higher levels of the business of design. The organization is open to students who have declared a major in Interior Design and are affiliated with the national organization. Its purpose is to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and to encourage professional excellence through association with professional practitioners, tradespeople in Interior Design, and other professional design organizations.

## **FOODS AND NUTRITION CLUB/MEREDITH COLLEGE STUDENT DIETETIC ASSOCIATION**

The Foods and Nutrition Club was organized in 1989 with the purpose of stimulating interest in foods and nutrition, and food service management. Membership included all students interested in those areas. In 1996, the Meredith Foods and Nutrition Club became affiliated with the American Dietetic Association and became known as the Meredith College Student Dietetic Association.

## **MEREDITH ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN**

The Meredith Association for the Education of Young Children (MAEYC) was organized in 1986 for majors in Child Development, particularly those in preschool education, becoming affiliated with state and national chapters in 1987. It provided educational resources to improve the quality and availability of services for children from birth through age eight. It emphasized learning about the social policies affecting young children as well as the application of new methods for educating young children.

## **MEREDITH MERCHANDISING MAJORS**

The purpose of the Meredith Merchandising Majors (MMM) is to stimulate interest and augment class work in the world of fashion merchandising and design. All Clothing and Fashion Merchandising majors are eligible for membership and participation in this department-sponsored student club, organized in 1989.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ellen H. Richards, the founder of Home Economics and the first president of the American Home Economics Association, developed the following creed for the profession in 1909: "The ideal home life for today unhampered by the traditions of the past. The utilization of all the resources of modern science to improve the home life. The freedom of the home from the dominance of things and their due subordination to ideals. The simplicity in material surroundings which will most free the spirit for the more important and permanent interests of the home and of society."

Thus it is evident that from the earliest times, Home Economics has been committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families. May HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ever continue to pursue the ideals set forth in this noble creed. God bless!

Marilyn Cook Stuber

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## **EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS**

1971	Dr. Marilyn M. Stuber	Outstanding Christian Teacher
1986	Dr. Ellen B. Goode	
1992	Dr. Deborah Tippet	Laura Weatherspoon Harrill Presidential Award
1995	Dr. Marilyn M. Stuber	Laura Weatherspoon Harrill Presidential Award
1997	Dr. Diane Ellis	