

New online student portal goes live

□ Say goodbye to the CamTel. Access student information online with new portal.

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Editor in Chief

Technology Services launched a new online student portal on the Meredith website last week that will give students access to a searchable student directory.

The portal, available to Meredith students alone, will provide student information such as phone numbers, grade classification and campus and hometown addresses.

Diane Davis, a web programmer in the Office of Technology Services and the head designer of the portal, said that as of Tuesday, 206 students had registered.

To register for the portal, a student will enter her Meredith email address into the online registration form. Instantly, the system will email her a temporary numerical password.

She then can log onto the portal, change her password

and customize her homepage.

"This gives students the option of putting as much or as little information as they want," said Davis.

Other portal features include "quick links," pre-programmed URL addresses that a student may click upon and instantly view the page. Quick links offered on the portal include—among many—Campus E-News, the Learning Center and the undergraduate and graduate calendars.

A student can also add up to five of her own favorite links

to her personal homepage. The portal offers a form to add links

beyond the Meredith interface.

The portal was built as part

of a technology initiative for use by Meredith students alone according to Davis who contends the portal is currently "hacker-proof." Davis and other programmers in Technology Services tested the portal "a full month before it went live," she said.

"So if someone typed in some ambiguous name," said Davis, "they wouldn't get in."

Access is also denied for Meredith students who try to enter email addresses

other than Meredith addresses into the registration form

However, Davis said whether a student is an active user of her Meredith email account does not affect her ability to register for the portal.

"With the web-based interface, if they [students] would register their Meredith email account, they can forward all other mail and never have to access the Meredith account again," said Davis.

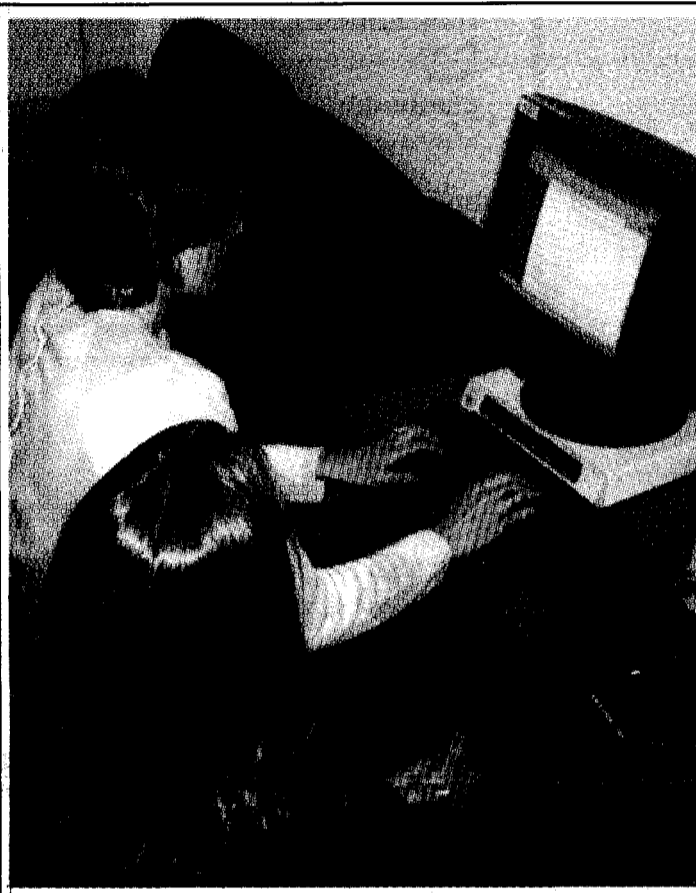
Senior Mary Frances Vassaur, who registered for the portal this week, said that it was an easy process.

"You're done in two minutes," said Vassaur.

The portal also appealed to Vassaur because she can access other students' phone numbers easily and quickly.

"That and I can never find the CamTel," she said of the hard copy all-campus directory whose 2001-02 edition has yet to be distributed to students and staff.

The portal, while new to Meredith, is a standard concept



Seniors Mary Frances Vassaur and Molly Jensen register for the new online student portal.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA HOLDER

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Black towel collages honor reading program

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Staff Reporter

When you walk into the first floor of Cate, you cannot help but to look up at the hanging collages suspended from the ceiling.

The individual collages were created by freshmen in connection with the Freshmen Summer Reading Program.

This year's selection, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, by Julia

Alvarez, has provided freshmen with many events to express their views on the book.

The collages, small group discussions and the movie premiere of the book on Showtime Oct. 21 have allowed freshmen to further enjoy their summer reading.

All incoming freshmen are asked to read the same book the summer before they arrive at Meredith.

In addition to reading the book, they receive a booklet with reflection questions and

supplemental information such as a timeline, a map pertaining to the setting, information about the author and information about the related special projects and convocations that will be going on during the year.

When the freshmen arrive at Meredith, they discuss the book in small groups with volunteer faculty facilitators and upper-class students.

The program is based out of the Office of First Year Experience, but according to Chrissie Bumgardner, director of First

Year Experience, "it takes many members from all over the community to put it together."

"Last year we had 36 faculty and staff to volunteer to serve as small group facilitators," said Bumgardner.

While Meredith faculty and staff meet regularly to choose the summer reading book and plan the events that take place throughout the year, this year they will be adding students to the committee.

Normally, every year there are special convocations relat-

ing to the book, but this year it happened that the movie *In the Time of the Butterflies* premiered on Showtime, which allowed Bumgardner to play the movie in place of a convocation.

"The Maribel sisters in the book *In the Time of the Butterflies* were brave young women who ended up giving their lives to instigate a revolution that

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