

arts & HUMANITIES

Bake Sale on Campus!

Interested in helping out with Meredith Habitat for Humanity, but don't have the time? Come out during the week of March 30th - April 3rd for a bake sale held in the Gate Center. All proceeds of this bake sale will go to stocking the pantry of the Meredith Habitat House once the house is completed.

This bake sale is sponsored by the Core 404 class and supports the UN Millennium #1 Goal of Eradicating Extreme Hunger and Poverty. It is hoped that this bake sale will help raise awareness on the Meredith campus by informing all students and faculty of the extreme living conditions around the world.

So, if you have an extra buck, you're in luck! Come and spend it wisely and wholeheartedly and donate your money to helping eradicate extreme hunger and poverty locally in Raleigh, North Carolina. Goodies included are cookies, bars and brownies, all for a dollar or less!

BONJOUR DE FRANCE: I'VE BEEN HERE HOW LONG?!

Julia Houtchings
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy www.time.com

Bonjour d'Angers! How in the world did time pass so quickly? I feel like I have seen and done so much, yet at the same time, I feel as if I have seen and done nothing. Classes are relatively routine these days, so the only thing I really have to look forward to anymore is the weekend. The last weekend in February was the second excursion with CIDEF: the Chateaux of the Loire - Round One. We visited Azay-le-Rideau, Chenonceau and Chambord. I liked different aspects about each chateau, but my favorite in general was Chambord. Azay-le-Rideau is a quaint little chateau with excellent décor inside. Chenonceau is quite unique because part of it, the Galerie, is built over a river, and it just so happens to be my favorite part about the chateau. Chambord was my favorite mostly because of the central spiral staircase in the middle of the chateau but also because the estate itself is very large and wonderfully picturesque. If you have ever visited Biltmore Estate in Asheville, you would be amazed by Chambord. I only had about two hours to visit the entire chateau and surrounding buildings, yet only saw half of what I could have seen in detail if given an entire day. It was simply marvelous.

The third excursion with CIDEF was Saturday, March 14: Chateaux of the Loire - Round Two. We went to see Amboise, Clos Luce, Blois and Cheverny. A little chapel at Amboise houses the tomb of Leonardo da Vinci, and the chateau boasts an absolutely breathtaking view of the city itself. Clos Luce was the home of Leonardo da Vinci for

the last three years of his life and is essentially dedicated only to him and his work. I walked the very same halls and climbed the very same stairs that Leonardo da Vinci once did. This realization was not lost on me, although it was wasted on many others with us. I still was unable to see everything on this estate, mainly the gardens, because of time constraints, but I was absolutely ecstatic all the same. I started to feel quite sick right after Clos Luce, so I had to rest on the bus the remainder of the trip. However, if I did not see something that day, my camera took my place thanks to my friend Andrea. It was a wonderful day despite feeling sick.

My academic workload has started to pick up pace and I find myself exhausted at the end of each week, especially since my heaviest days of class are Thursdays and Fridays! On Thursdays I have class from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. On Fridays I have class from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Yes, I have class until nearly 5 p.m. on a Friday...one terrible aspect of being in France and not at Meredith. Did I not tell you in my first post that the class schedules in France make absolutely no sense? If you do not remember, now you know. I have planned my "vacances du printemps" - Spring Break, April 4th-19th - and have monumental plans in store, but I am going to leave you in suspense for this juicy information. Just imagine how much one can do in two weeks worth of no school. ■

WHAT DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DO OVER BREAKS?

Mariamawit Tadesse
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International students, including myself, enjoy breaks or holidays as much as everyone does. It is a time to go out and really see what is in Raleigh. We go out shopping with other international students and try out ethnic restaurants like American, Mexican, Indian, Chinese, etc.

What takes up most of my time during a break is writing long emails about my life in the U.S to my family and friends because I want to tell them all about my adventures, food,

classes and friends. I also enjoy chatting on Facebook and talking on Skype even if it means I have to stay up all night because I know it will take a while to find my friends online again.

Most international students sign up for trips Meredith College organizations, like a trip to Washington DC. During long breaks like Christmas break, most students visit with their friends or relatives who live in the U.S. "It is a good opportunity to visit

my relatives in New York" said one student. Sometimes international students will go spend a few days with a new friend from Meredith College at her parents' house. People at Meredith are very caring; they graciously offer for international students to come and have a Thanksgiving dinner with their family and so on. ■

