

Editorials

A Look into the Freshmen College Transition

Laurie Diggett, Staff Writer

For many, the end of the summer means buying school supplies, adjusting sleeping patterns and having that last summer party or vacation before the inevitable first day of school hits at full force. Often for college freshmen, the prospect of starting school results in excited butterflies in stomachs, nervous thoughts in heads, and apprehensive looks on faces. The idea of entirely new classmates, a completely different type of schedule, a large campus, and a literal home away from home can be both terrifying and exhilarating.

While it is true that Meredith College is not nearly as big as the average state university, transitioning freshmen can experience the same level of anxiety as a student at a much larger school. I remember sitting in Jones Auditorium on move-in day, looking around at my fellow classmates and their families, thinking

in the back of my mind that the class of 2020 certainly looked big to me. In fact, President Allen announced that our class delivered the most applicants in decades; this statistic made me value my place in the freshman class even more.

Each student will undoubtedly have their own unique college experience, and much of it will be the result of past experiences. For me, switching schools wasn't something new. After all, I switched school districts when I was eleven and entered an entirely new middle school where making friends was much more difficult than I anticipated. However, I adjusted to the school over time, and looking back on it, I can see that it helped prepare me for Meredith. Switching schools at such a young age taught me how to handle a new environment and social life.

Some of my fellow students had

different things to say about their preparedness for college life.

"My transition to college life was surprisingly easy! I had done plenty of research over the course of many months, and I had the support of my family and friends," said Alyssa Lawyer, a freshman in Potat.

Although some students researched college life in an attempt to prepare for it, others were like me and felt like past experiences lended a hand when it came time for student orientation in the fall.

"I was well prepared for college life, because my high school was run almost like a small college," said Maggie James, a freshman in Brewer. "I have also been to college camps, so I had an understanding of what living in a dorm would be like."

Still, even without prior experience, some incoming students didn't expect drastic changes when it

came to transitioning from high school.

"I'm a commuter, so I am still bound to household rules that my parents have set," said Lilly Wood, a freshman from Raleigh. "For me, college involves a bit more freedom than public school, but that's the only difference."

It appears that members of the class of 2020 will all have their own unique perception of what college will look like for them. It is based off of different backgrounds, expectations, aspirations, and experiences. But there is one thing connecting us all in the end: Meredith. Every single one of us picked Meredith College. So it doesn't matter how different our reasons may have been, Meredith united us into one big sisterhood. While the next four years will be a wild ride filled with many twists and turns - we all should embrace it, and enjoy our walk through Wonderland together.

Commuters: The College Survival Guide

Carolina Brust, Staff Writer

Being a college freshman is a challenge, but being a first-year commuter is a downright struggle. Not only do you have to navigate your class schedule, but your bus schedule and/or traffic schedule too. While others have the luxury of going back to their dorms when the day is done, you have those wonderful extra hours in rush hour traffic to look forward to. Not to mention the stress of packing all the necessities in your bag - because as we all know, once you've left the house...returning is a hassle. Never fear, because after surviving my first few weeks as a new commuter, I've developed three strategies to help smooth your transition.

1. Schedule, schedule, SCHEDULE. Be sure to create a routine that fits your needs. Look up bus schedules and traffic updates to stay ahead of the game! SET YOUR ALARM AND CHECK IT TWICE. EllucianGO is a must-have phone app. It has information such as : the BDH menu, Beehive hours, library hours, and even your class schedule (when you log in with your NetID username and password).

2. Find Your Happy Place. Find a place on campus to nap, eat, and get some homework done. I recommend the Cate Center for all your quick homework and dining needs. Eat in the Beehive or lounge by the computer area to unwind. "My

happy place to take a break is the Beehive because it's a good place to chill and eat," confirmed Devriti Dhungel, a freshman commuter.

3. Seek Out Other Commuters It's always good to find your support group. Consider joining the Association of Meredith Commuters (AMC). They host events such as a commuter luncheon, as well as a monthly parking spot raffle for a chance to win the most coveted commuter spot on campus! These girls both understand and have lived through schedules like yours. Having someone to relate to and befriend can be beneficial in the long run. "If we live close to each other, it's helpful to give each other rides and keep each other in the know about

campus events," Jennifer Lopez, a freshman commuter, remarks.

With these tips in mind, you're now prepared for life as a Meredith College commuter. Travel safe, and know that there are dozens of girls just like yourself!



Fall Fashion: Angels' Edition

Anesia Fletcher, Staff Writer

Say goodbye to shorts, tanks, and flip flops...and say hello to fedoras, boots, and cardigans. That's right! Fall is upon us, ladies! With the cool breeze and sunshine, fall is a favorite season for many. What better way to make this time of year better than to cozy up in a cute, oversized sweater!? While you may not be ready for the drop in temperature just yet, fall is fast approaching; so it's time to SLAY. In this fall fashion preview prepare for great outfit tips, new styles, and where to find it!

"FITTING IN"

According to fashionistas and bloggers like Gabbi Gregg (@Gabifresh) and Claire Summers (@fashionblogdaily), the key to a stylish fall wardrobe is **LAYERS, LAYERS, LAYERS.** For example, for an all denim ensemble (yes it's ok), try pairing it with a mustard or brown colored cardigan or scarf. Slip on a pair of chunky heel boots to complete the look! Although summer is over, you don't have to stop

wearing summer clothes completely; learn to incorporate them into your fall wardrobe! Consider a plain white crop-top tee under your favorite tank or tube-top to layer up, or throw on a flannel to bring it all together. You can even pair leggings or tights under your shorts to stay warm and trendy!

"TRENDS TRENDS TRENDS"

As you fashionistas may know, an important part of fashion is being up to date with current trends. 2016 has brought us everything from the return of the classic 70's wide-legged pants, floral and exotic print, and chokers! Ripped jeans and distressed graphic tees have also started to make a huge fashion statement! Last but not least, the "body suit" has made its comeback from the 80's, and it appears that it is here to stay! Whether it's a simple nude color or something bright and bold, body suits are comfortable and can truly accentuate your frame.

According to the "Pantone 2016 Fashion Color Report," colors to

be on the look-out for this fall season are: burgundy, olive green, navy blue, nudes and salmons, and (as per usual) black. Of course we can't forget about the most essential part of an outfit, which would be the footwear! Upon looking through various websites such as Gojane, Fashion Nova, and Ego Footwear, ankle boots, riding boots, and peep-toe boots are the go-to shoes for this upcoming season.

So now that you're equipped with vital fashion information, where can you buy it? There are some great stores and boutiques you can check out in Raleigh such as Monkee's and Apricot Lane in North Hills' shopping center, or Francesca's in Cameron Village. Retailers such as Forever 21, H&M, and Charlotte Rouse in Crabtree Valley Mall are great for good looks on a budget. You can also catch good deals at Target and Old Navy for the latest trends. Additionally, various Plato's Closet locations stock tons of great pieces for less! Lets face it, we're in college, and money is important and

often scarce. You don't have to break the bank to look good, especially here in the Raleigh area. With these tips, I hope you feel prepared for both the change in weather and styles this upcoming season.

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