

CSA Day
is
tomorrow!

THE MEREDITH HERALD

@meredithherald
@meredith_herald
#harktheherald
meredithherald.com

April 10, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

Women's NC

Recycling & Composting

Tea For Two

A&E

Boston Marriage

Performing Arts Blurbs

Food Truck Rodeo

OPINIONS

No Ring in the Spring

Bachelor(ette)

BONUS: CSA Day Profiles!

New Academic Building Approved

By Olivia Slack,
Features Editor

Meredith's campus will soon have a new academic building. The construction was approved at the spring meeting of Meredith's Board of Trustees in March. According to Meredith's website, the new building will house the Exercise and Sports Science (ESS) program and the Communication program, two departments that have been vying for new spaces for a long time. The building will be constructed near Weatherspoon Gymnasium, replacing the current Weatherspoon Annex, and is projected to be completed in time to hold classes for the Fall 2020 semester.

This new building is an exciting addition to Meredith's campus for several reasons. For one, the Exercise and Sports Science program has been housed in leased trailers since 2001. However, earlier this semester the trailers were deemed no longer suitable for holding classes. The need for a new space for the ESS department, which had existed for a long time, was heightened severely following that call, leading to the approval of the new building. According to Dr. Melinda Campbell, Head of Nutrition, Health and Human Performance, it is not only current students and faculty who are excited about the new building, but also alumnae of the ESS program, who are "especially elated and willing to contribute to this expansion." The new space will provide much-needed laboratory space for ESS, particularly their undergraduate research program, as well as areas for "athletic staff who desperately need sufficient office space to meet with recruits, parents, and current players" according to

College as a Commodity: Competing Perspectives on the State of Higher Education

By Rebecca Dowdy, Opinions Editor

In the past few weeks, college admissions departments across the United States have been under scrutiny, as several administrators and coaches in America's most elite universities have been accused of accepting bribes from celebrities and wealthy elites. The Department of Justice has arrested upwards of 50 people connected to the case, and even Hallmark movie star, Lori Loughlin has been accused of paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to secure her children's place in USC. At the heart of the scandal is a college consultant, William "Rick" Singer, who used his non-profit, Key Worldwide Foundation, as a cover to accept and transfer bribes from desperate parents to his connections in college administrations. The scandal calls into question college admissions practices and advantages of the wealthy in that process.

However, media focus on elite colleges offers a warped perspective of the admission process. Shery Boyles, Meredith College's Director of Admissions, noted that the practices of the most selective colleges do not reflect the efforts of the rest of America's universities. And the facts back her up. While institutions like Harvard and Stanford are releasing record low admission rates, many more regional colleges are struggling to meet their enrollment goals. The Chronicle of Higher Education

published a survey analyzing about 100 public and 250 private institutions and found that 44% of public colleges and 52% of private colleges missed their enrollment goals. Michael Reilly, the executive director of the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers, confirms this assessment in an article for The New York Times, saying, "most campuses nationwide fail to meet their enrollment goals."

The Chronicle of Higher Education's survey notes that many "tuition-dependent institutions" have had to grapple with changes in a difficult market. Factors like rising operational costs, increasing competition and changing demographics are some of the obstacles regional colleges must face in order to stay ahead. Boyles described how college admissions has changed over the past few decades, saying that technological advances like the internet give students access to more information on a wider variety of schools, perhaps increasing the amount of competition between regional schools.

Boyles also stated that there's been an increase of what she describes as "bulldozer" parents, who want to remove all obstacles for their children. Bulldozer parents could explain why college admissions representatives report that parents are often the ones to fill out applications and the success of the surprisingly legal college

consultation industry, as explained by Dana Goldstein and Jack Healy in an article from The New York Times. Joyce Smith, the CEO of National Association for College Admission Counseling, wrote about the "commodification of higher ed" in a letter to members of the organization and warned parents and students to stop thinking of college as a status symbol and "a commodity to be bought and sold." Some elite institutions have tried to move to a more "holistic" review process, something more commonly found at smaller regional institutions, in order to be more inclusive in their admissions process. Regional institutions have tried to expand their programs and boost their marketing in order to bring in more students.

Boyles stated that Meredith College itself has had a holistic review process for quite some time and tries to admit students without regard to socioeconomic status. In fact, more than 1/3 of Meredith's student body is eligible for Pell Grants. She says that Meredith's admissions counselors read every single application that is sent in, and they try their best to partner with families to make Meredith affordable.

No matter what perspective you look at it from, this scandal is an indication that change must come for colleges across America if they are to stay in business and keep public favor.

Campbell.

The Communication department, which is currently housed in Harris Building, will benefit from the move to a new building as well. Dr. Teresa Holder, Head of Communication, shared that the plans for the new building came as a "complete and really great surprise" to her department and that they are "excited to be neighbors with the ESS program and about ways to collaborate with them, like with sports communication." Campbell shared this sentiment, adding that her department "looks forward to sharing space with a strong and growing Communication department."

With the Communication department's planned vacancy of Harris, the Business program can expand throughout the building. This expansion will be much needed due to Meredith's new Hospitality Management program, which is accepting students starting in Fall 2019 as a part of the

School of Business. Moving one of the two departments housed in Harris to the new building will provide more room for each department to grow without being crowded by the other.

Though many details about Meredith's new academic building have not yet been released, the Meredith community will no doubt be keeping an ear out for updates. The

new academic building will bring not only a new home for several departments, but also new spaces for students to study and gather. As Campbell put it, "any time the College makes this kind of commitment to better serve students, everyone on campus moves forward in some way... this building is a blessing for many and represents a better future for us all."



Photo credit: Mimi Mays