

# First Year Experience is destined to be a great hit

By: Kim Highland

This year Meredith's Dean of Student's Office, which is in charge of new student activities, has created a new course for freshman called First Year Experience.

The class is designed to help the students adapt to their new college surroundings, much like the Transition sessions for freshman last year.

Kim Dowd, who started Transitions, laid down the ground work for First Year Experience and Chrissie Bumgardner and Sharon Cannon, from the Dean of Students Office, formed the course and trained the staff.

Chrissie Bumgardner said that one of the main goals of the class is to "develop a support group among the students, and for them to express what they think and feel about anything."

She also hopes that the students will develop a bond with the faculty and feel comfortable with them.

First Year Experience is taught by faculty and student development staff. Most of the classes

are co-taught by a faculty member and an upper-class student. One class is even co-taught by staff members of Student Activities:

Kristen Tyvol, Shelly Hoover, and Cheryl Jenkins.

They explained the course covers grammar, testing, oral presentations, strategies for academic success and campus resources.

There will also be discussions on self esteem, diversity, values, stress management and women's issues.

These are only a few of the topics that First Year Experience will include. First Year Experience is divided into 12 sections with a limit of 15 students to each section.

The course was so popular that some freshmen were turned away during fall registration. Students will work out of a work book and have group discussions.

Some sections of First Year Experience will allow students to choose what topics they would like to cover over the

semester. Freshman describe the course as more of a group session with peers than an actual class.

"I chose to take First Year Experience because it mentioned in the catalog that the class would teach tips on how to study better on a college level.

And I am hoping to meet new people who are just as scared as I am about our first year," said Kellie Harris, freshman.

Freshman Lara Nosal said she is taking the course because "Mrs. Bumgardner and others have stressed the importance of good study skills and time management. Being in First Year Experience will help me improve both skills which I will need here at Meredith."

First Year Experience, which has been taught nation wide for over ten years at other institutions of higher learning, is a great new course for freshman at Meredith. It is an improvement to last year's Transitions. So far, freshmen are excited about the class and feel it will be beneficial to their new lives at Meredith.

Interested in  
joining the  
Herald Staff?  
come to the  
meeting on  
Wed. at  
7:00pm in Cate

Questions? Call Clarky x2824

## Editorial:

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I have always been told that Meredith is a "family" built on care, honor, respect and togetherness. If this is true, why has my family let me down?

And finally, in writing this editorial, I have stopped complaining and done something about the problem by talking to all of you today. It is only through our knowledge that we can grow, change and become better individuals, and also a better institution. I ask all of you students, faculty and administration to open your eyes, minds and hearts to what has been said. As you walk to and from classes, meetings or just strolling down the sidewalks, think about how blessed you are to be walking and then think about those of us who are not so fortunate. Remember our struggles and don't continue to handicap us!