

Campus Extras

Meredith's own Washington insider comes back home

By Traci Andrews

"How do you like it?" Emily Fulghum asks me, sweeping her chic new bob to and fro. "I just had to get all those layers taken out," she adds. Lately, it's not unusual to find Fulghum stripping away at layers to get at the heart of things. At the age of 20, with just four college semesters under her belt, Fulghum set out last summer to find what many spend a lifetime looking for: identity. Now she's back at Meredith College with a fresh outlook and the drive that comes from knowing how to achieve her goals.

A Raleigh native, Fulghum knew her desire to "get away" would not be completely quenched by traveling through Meredith Abroad; she wanted a more personal challenge, something she could take on by herself.

In the spring of her sophomore year, she applied and was accepted to the Washington Semester Program at The American University, a competitive transfer program available to Meredith students. She was drawn to the program's opportunities for study in journalism and thought it might be her first step toward a career in that field. Thinking back, Fulghum says "I actually left here thinking I wanted to be a newspaper reporter."

With her bags barely unpacked from the summer in Europe, she became skeptical about her upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. "I was afraid it would be a letdown after what I'd done this summer, and I was a little sad to leave home again so soon," she recalls. I ask if she ever was homesick during the semester and receive a prompt "never!" in response. "It was the easiest

and most fun semester I've had," she explains, "because I loved what I was doing."

Once in Washington, Fulghum secured an internship with *The American Enterprise*, a scholarly magazine she lovingly refers to as the "conservative think tank." "Searching for an internship is just like searching for a real job — stressful," she says.

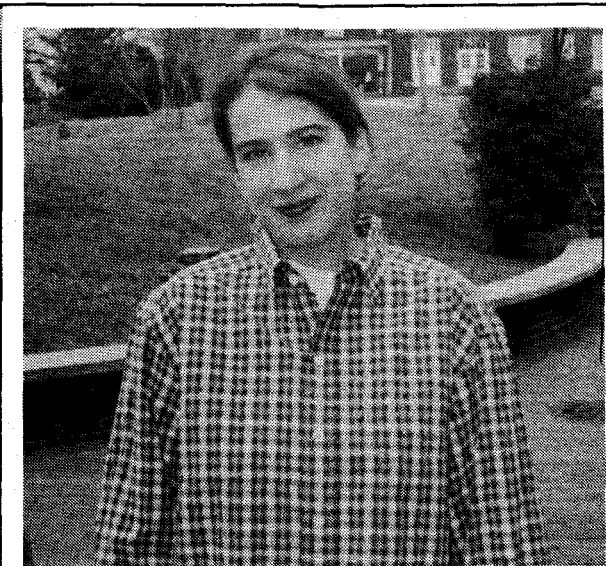
In addition to the internship, Fulghum has class three times a week in a rather nontraditional setting, as it wound up being a series of guest speakers, field trips, and sometimes a combination of the two. "We really had to be prepared for class," she explains, "and that meant reading books by the speakers and keeping up with current events."

I ask her to tell me more about the speakers, and she elaborates, "They were people of prestige, you know, well-known and respected." Uttering something about Sam Donaldson under her breath, she throws in, "And some real

jackasses, too."

By now, Fulghum is sorting through the scattered pages of her notebook, obviously looking for something. "Where is that...I want you to

see...this one!" she exclaims, waving a paper proudly, while stacks of others fall to the floor. "This was my first paper — a letter to the editor of the *Washington Post* — and it got published!" she explains. As I skim the page I am impressed by her changed



Junior Emily Fulghum studied in Washington, D.C. last semester.

style of writing.

"Yeah," she said, "I learned a lot about editing." As an intern, Fulghum had her fair share of editing experiences by proofreading everything from magazine mail to 12 page spreads. "Sometimes the author of the article would be mad because some kid cut parts of his work," she says with a grin, "but my boss stood by my decisions." She goes on, "A few times, when we got real backed up, I had to summarize books that would then be reviewed by staff

writers, based largely on my notes. I guess I was kind of doing legwork for the authors so they could get all the credit."

This tidbit intrigues me, so I ask her to share her most valuable experience as an intern. Without stopping to think, she replies, "Well, I made some great contacts, but my biggest moment had to be when the magazine asked me to write an article about women's schools. I had the best time doing that paper: it took me about a month to write. It really showed a lot about me and my beliefs. Of course, the conservative staff didn't really appreciate my feminist standpoint on the topic, but I got published anyway."

Looking around Fulghum's room, I wonder about her new sense of identity. Sure, pictures of her new friends decorate her walls, but has the experience changed her permanently? She answers, "Well, I discovered that I still love to write, but I definitely don't want to be a reporter anymore. I don't have the knack for all the details involves: checking sources, research, etc... I'd rather go into editing or publishing." My expression must give me away because she continues, "It drives me crazy how people think I'm settling for less with that decision. Just because you find a place that suits you better doesn't mean it was your second choice or a step down."

A semester in Washington has taught Fulghum where she wants to be and how she wants to get there. After graduating from Meredith with a B.A. in English next May, she plans to pursue her M.B.A. at a local university. When asked if she'll travel again soon, she nods and answers, "It's in my system now."

Angels for the Environment

By Mary Sharpe

There has been a lot of complaining about the new "bring your own paper" policy in the computer labs. As much as people dislike it, hopefully this new policy will make us think twice before wasting our own paper. The following is a list of ways to reuse paper:

- Cut the piece of paper into squares to use for phone messages.
- Put the paper back into the printer when printing e-mail messages or information off of Netscape to use both sides
- Use the paper to take notes in class
- Color the paper and use it for dividers in notebooks
- Cut the paper into strips and decorate to use as bookmarks
- Use the paper to make grocery lists
- Use the paper to make daily or weekly to-do lists
- Put paper in recycling bins (1st Vann parlor).

Our next meeting is February 14 at 10 a.m. in 107 Ledford. Please come join us. This newspaper can be placed in the newspaper recycling bins located around campus, such as on the west side of Johnson Hall.

"However mean your life is, meet it and live it; do not shun it and call it hard names. It is not so bad as you are. It looks poorest when you are richest. The fault-finder will find faults even in paradise." *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau

ELECTION TIMELINE

- Thursday 2/13 Meet the Candidates Night 5-7 p.m. (Belk)
- Monday 2/17 Election Polling 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Tuesday 2/18 Election Polling 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Thursday 2/20 Run-off Elections (if needed)

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