

Career Center replaces assistant counselor staff

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Staff Reporter

The Career Center has recently gained two additions to their staff, and, though they've only been here a month, Mary Beck Sutton and Allison Finch already feel at home at Meredith. Sutton and Finch fill the vacancies of Valerie Gogal and Amy Avery.

Sutton, who worked most recently at NCSU, holds a BSW degree from the University of Georgia and a M.ED in Counseling and Development with a concentration in higher education from George Mason University. She likes to think of herself as a "poster child" for career services; she has held different positions in the area of social work, including human service organizations and a professional business women's association.

Here at Meredith, she is working as an assistant director for employer relations and cooperative education. In general, she will be available for one-on-one counseling with students: helping them make decisions con-

cerning their major, offering assistance with résumés and cover letters and helping with the job search. More specifically, in the area of employer relations and cooperative education, she will be working with recruiters in the co-op program.

Finch graduated with honors from Goucher College with a BA in English. She taught English at a secondary boarding school where she was also a dorm-parent; her enjoyment of this one-on-one experience with students eventually led her to counseling. She received the M.ED in counseling from the College of William and Mary. As an assistant director for career development, Finch, like Sutton, helps students with concerns such as majors, job searches, and résumés. Her main focus is on

counseling. She also teaches career-planning seminars, workshops, and career orientations.

Sutton and Finch feel that the field they have chosen is very gratifying; they see the immediate positive results of their counseling. Finch even compared

almost always leave their offices feeling better than when they arrived.

They also both enjoy the demand for their work because, as they both stated, "Everyone needs a job!" Here at Meredith it is especially gratifying because the counselors both recognize the importance of helping women find jobs in which they feel valued.

So far these two counselors have enjoyed the Meredith community. Sutton, who came to Meredith from large, co-ed schools, is very impressed with the accessibility of the faculty and personal attention given to Meredith students. She finds the environment here very nurturing of confidence and

self-esteem. Finch expressed how much she enjoys the diversity in the student body and where each student is in life, and the variety of issues presented by all of the students.

They are also both impressed by the Student Development staff and the integration of Career Services into Student Development. They even enjoy the location of the Career Center. At the other colleges they've had experience with, one-on-one counseling is used as a last resort, and meetings are generally very short. Here at Meredith, these one-on-one meetings are available to all students and usually last around an hour, and students often have to wait no more than a week for an appointment. Because there are only three counselors, this is very impressive.

A month into the Meredith experience, Sutton and Finch seem to be having a ball. And to all the confused students out there who need help with their major, résumé, you name it—they say, "Come see us!"



Mary Beck Sutton (left) and Allison Finch (right) have joined the Career Center staff in Park Center. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE LAUGHLIN



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Good Luck!

WINGS

3/16 Dr. Lori Brown will be our guest this month.
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Let's get together!