

Career Center program highlights majors, jobs

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Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, choosing to major in history does not limit you to a teaching career.

That is just one of the things that students can find out during the month of September, which is spotlighting the department of history and politics.

The Spotlight program is sponsored by the Career Center. Each month, it will highlight a different major or department and offer information on that field.

If students have ever considered the possibility of majoring in one or two of these fields but were not sure what to do with the degree, now is the time to check out all the possibilities in the world of history and politics.

Dr. Michael Novak, department head, says that he encourages curiosity.

"We welcome any student who are curious about what majors fall upon history. We encourage people to come talk, because that's what we really want.

"We do not pressure people who ask about majors. We listen to questions to provide answers, but the student really needs to make the decision," says Novak.

Novak calls Spotlight "an attempt to bring people to the information." If students are on their way to class on first Joyner, Novak encourages all to stop and check out the bulletin board with different career opportunities for those with a degree in History, Politics, International Studies, American Civilization or Public History.

The main event of the month will be a career night which will be held in the Alumni House on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. The department will have a panel of alumni

who have "real and meaningful careers" with a degree in history and politics.

Professor of politics Clyde Frazier is also involved. "I'm interested in helping people who are interested in politics," says Frazier. "Being in the state capital, there are a lot of opportunities here for internships and practical experience."

Some of the positions that history majors have held include free-lance writer, travel consultant to IBM, microfilmer for the archives and records, political assistant, lobbyist, government relations representative and account manager.

Senior Missy Neff is double majoring in history and international politics and plans to do something in the field of policy analysis after graduation.

"I think the history and politics department is wonderful," says Neff. "In the past we've done a lot of talking about important issues."

Neff is also a member of the History and Politics Committee, which sponsors the History and Politics Club. "The History

Club helps people get involved with what's going on," she added.

Meredith Votes wants to reach goals

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Does it ever seem like none of the political candidates really have your interests at heart?

That just might be because young people are less likely to register and to vote than any other group in the U.S. population. In our political system, if you don't vote, you don't count.

In order to make sure that Meredith students count, a dozen students are organizing a nonpartisan vote registration, education and turnout campaign called Meredith Votes.

We've adopted XIX as the symbol of the campaign to commemorate the nineteenth amendment, which gave American women the right to vote.

The campaign has three goals. The first is to register 80 percent of all students, faculty and staff. This ambitious goal was chosen to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which occurred last August. Meeting this goal requires the Meredith community to register and vote in higher proportions than any college in the state.

The campaign believes that Meredith is up to the challenge and will do everything to help. Campaign members have already started registering faculty and staff and will soon begin to canvass on-campus students and contact commuters by phone.

Members of the campaign aim to make the registration process as easy as possible. Red, white and blue drop-boxes, along with a supply of registration forms, have been placed in Joyner Hall, Johnson Hall, Belk Dining Hall, the library and Cate/Park Center.

Completed forms can be deposited in the boxes, and no address or postage is necessary. Meredith Votes will send the

forms to the Board of Elections. Anyone who needs information about out-of-state registration, absentee ballots or any other facet of registration should email meredithvotes@meredith.edu as soon as possible.

The second goal of Meredith Votes is to produce and distribute information to students about the candidates running for office this year, including, but not restricted to, the presidency. Meredith Votes is made of Democrats, Republicans and Independents. The information the group provides will be strictly nonpartisan.

The group will not tell you who to vote for, but it will try to clarify the differences between the candidates to help students decide how to cast their votes. Look for further articles in the *Herald* for this information. The group will also provide students with opportunities to hear from the candidates themselves.

When voters are knowledgeable, they feel confident and are more likely to go to the polls. Voter turnout is the final goal of Meredith Votes. The campaign members hope to increase voter turnout among the Meredith community, to make it the highest in the school's history.

As the Nov. 7 elections near, activities will be announced and Meredith Votes will seek cooperation from other on-campus organizations to rally excitement for voting.

Meredith Votes comprises 12 students taking a class in public leadership with Dr. Clyde Frazier. The campaign needs help with phone banks, residence hall canvassing and a variety of campus events.

If you would like to help with any part of the campaign, email Meredith Votes at meredithvotes@meredith.edu.

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