



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women to Excel

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Meredith Herald
at
Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 760-2824
FAX (919) 760-2869
holderc@meredith.edu

Is diversity at Meredith obsolete?

□ Meredith College is the largest women's college in the Southeast. And nearly all of its women are white.

AVA LEIGH JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Browse the Meredith College homepage and one will notice the three ethnically diverse faces on the banner. However, the three faces representing diversity on the campus do not accurately represent the actual ethnic backgrounds of the student population.

It's a question that current and prospective students are asking--especially in the wake of tuition increases that could deter students from middle-class families from attending the College: Is diversity at Meredith obsolete?

According to unofficial statistics released by Sue Kearney of the Enrollment Planning/Institutional Effectiveness Department, in 2000, 89 percent of Meredith students were white or non-Hispanic. Only nine percent were a minority race, one percent foreign and one percent

unknown.

In 2001, white or non-Hispanic students decreased--but only by one percent.

The enrollment of minority and foreign students remained the same as in 2000.

The lack of ethnic diversity in the current student population is not something that has gone unnoticed by administrators of the College.

minority students in a number of different ways.

"We are traveling to other states that we don't normally go to for recruitment. We are recruiting at college fairs that are targeted for minorities. We are getting alumni to represent the college, and we are going to national college fairs where attendance is diverse," said Livsay. "We target out-of-state

Counselor Heidi Fletcher went last summer to Puerto Rico to recruit students, and sending a counselor to Canada this coming year is being considered.

"We are also using more of our diverse student body to recruit a more diverse population," Livsay added. "The student body is now very willing to help out with recruiting a

MEREDITH COLLEGE: EXAMINING DIVERSITY



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEREDITH COLLEGE HOMEPAGE

This year, the college is taking active steps toward making the campus more diverse with in both the student and faculty population.

Admissions Counselor Dot Livsay says the admissions department is recruiting new

students and students of color to come to these programs and look at us."

Department counselors are traveling to more than other states in the United States. They are also venturing internationally to recruit students.

more diverse student body geographically and ethnically."

Meredith College is attempt-

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Students express irritation at Forum

LEESHA AUSTIN
Features Editor

□ Students say that the College has kept them 'in the dark.' Forum brings discussion of tuition, technology.

Students, faculty and administrators met and discussed campus concerns at this year's first "Free Your Mind Forum," sponsored by Student Life on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.

Topics ranged from tuition increases to graduation with distinction changes and the fact that many students feel that

their voices are not being heard, or if heard, not truly considered.

Senior Suzanne Parker shared her concern that an increase in Meredith's tuition combined with a limited amount of scholarships may decrease the number of gifted students that Meredith is able to attract.

"Meredith needs full scholarships because honors students have other choices," she said. "Without these scholarships, these students will likely begin to exclude Meredith from their choices."

Dr. Maureen Hartford, president of the College, explained that tuition increases annually

because of inflation and because of salary increases for faculty and staff.

"At Meredith we are pretty much tuition driven. Meredith has a modest endowment, and a large portion of the endowment supports our scholarships," Hartford said.

Hartford added that the administration is trying to announce tuition increases as far in advance as possible to help students plan.

"We are balancing out our merit-based scholarships with our need-based scholarships because it all comes from the same pool," Hartford said.

Bill Wade, vice president for Business and Finance urged

students to come by and talk to him about their financial aid status.

One student explained that her father's business is slowing down as a result of the slowing economy, and she is unsure of whether she will be able to afford Meredith next year.

She asked, "Why spend money on things we don't need if there aren't going to be people here to enjoy it?"

Bill Cox, director of the Office of Financial Assistance, urged the student to talk

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