



## REDEFINING THE HONOR CODE:

*“Academic dishonesty” cases have increased dramatically over the past few months. Is the honor code not enough to keep students honest?*

### □ Cases of “academic dishonesty” on rise since this past fall.

CHRISTY SADLER  
Staff Reporter

Cases of academic dishonesty have increased this semester, up from five cases in the fall. According to Honor Council Chair Rebecca Rawl, the Honor Council heard 11 such cases this semester.

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration and unauthorized copying.

The student handbook defines plagiarism as “the intentional representation of another person’s words, thoughts, or ideas as one’s own.”

According to Rawl, the categories of unauthorized collaboration and unauthorized copying include “receiving help on an assignment on which collaboration was not allowed or using sources for help that are not allowed.”

According to Dean of Students Ann Gleason, this increase in plagiarism is not common at Meredith alone.

“Colleges and universities across the country have seen

an increase in the number of incidents involving academic dishonesty,” she said.

She cited a study by Donald McCabe, the founder of the Center for Academic Integrity at Duke University, that found that “more than 75 percent of college students cheated at least once during their undergraduate careers.”

According to Gleason, other research by McCabe indicated that 74 percent of high school students had also cheated at least once, suggesting that the problem begins earlier than college for many students.

Students who cheat or

plagiarize in high school often continue this behavior in college, leading to a blatant disregard of honor codes such as the one at Meredith.

“Many people think they will not get caught or that the Council will be merciful if it is their first offense. This is not the case,” said Rawl.

However, Rawl attributed other cases to “sloppy scholarship” caused by a lack of knowledge about or regard for correct citation procedures.

Gleason agreed.

“Some violations may be attributed to lack of knowledge about what constitutes plagiarism, but in some cases,

students have submitted papers that were taken entirely from websites.”

Honor Council Support Counselor Amanda Griffin agreed that a lack of knowledge is a major factor in this increase.

“In my perspective, it seems that most students brought before Honor Council for academic dishonesty did not take English 111 at Meredith where the principles of plagiarism are primarily embedded,” she said.

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## Survey to aid task force in planning for future childcare facility

### □ Will Meredith get an on-site childcare facility soon?

LADONNA LOGUE  
Staff Reporter

Over 500 members of the Meredith community have participated in a survey designed to assess opinions and suggestions for an on-site childcare

center for children of students, faculty, staff and possibly the Raleigh community.

However, according to Dr. Deborah Tippett, chairperson for the survey’s task force, the results of the Childcare Needs Assessment survey have not been examined fully yet and will not be available until the second week of May.

For the past several weeks, the survey has been available for students and other members of the Meredith community to

take online via Meredith E-News. It was recently unposted so the task force--formed of faculty, staff and students--could assess the preliminary surveys; however, it should be posted on E-News again soon.

The survey consists of two parts. The first section is directed toward students, while the second section is directed toward parents.

Also, it is available both in English and in Spanish to accommodate as much of the

Meredith community as possible.

If supported, the childcare center would serve as a larger-scale facility than the current Brewer House.

Currently, the Brewer House is a childcare lab which holds an average of eight children per day and is used as a learning tool by child development majors.

The task force will continue to generate plans for the childcare facility, a center that, in the

future, may accommodate all children, including those with special needs.

The survey has also aided senior Allison Nunnery in her child-development thesis.

She said that the future facility would decrease commuting time between home and school for students and faculty with children and provide parents with a daycare close enough so parents could visit their children throughout the day.

## 2001-02 YEAR IN REVIEW

*The Herald takes a photographic look at the faces and events of an academic year*



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