



UP, UP AND AWAY.....

You are invited at **8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2002**, to **Ledford 101**, where students who studied abroad last year will discuss their programs and reflect on their experiences. In addition to being an opportunity for interesting conversation, this meeting will be an information session for students who are interested in studying abroad. Whether you are interested in learning about Meredith exchange programs in France or Spain or interested in finding a program elsewhere (Zimbabwe, Japan, Australia, England, you name it!), please join us for the evening.

DATE: 09/19/2002

TIME: 8:00 PM

Medieval Studies minor may become a reality

This proposed minor is getting interdisciplinary attention.

TIFFANY ADAMS
Staff Writer

A new addition to the Meredith College curriculum could be on its way in the form of a Medieval and Renaissance Studies minor.

Dr. Brent Pitts, professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, and Dr. Beth Mulvaney, associate professor of Art, are currently working on a proposal for the minor. They will present the proposal to interested faculty and staff on Monday, September 23, at 4:30 p.m.

At this point, the proposal is still in the works and many of the details are not sorted out. Pitts and Mulvaney will present it Monday to get feedback and

suggestions for revisions from those interested in having a Medieval and Renaissance Studies minor at Meredith College.

There is no set committee for this minor. According to Pitts, the committee will consist of people who provide suggestions and feedback at the first meeting. Currently, he and Mulvaney are getting "live input and e-mails from lots of other teachers in other departments."

Pitts added that 11 teachers from eight different departments have expressed interest in the proposed minor. The Medieval and Renaissance Studies minor complements the coursework for many existing majors.

The proposed minor is interdisciplinary, and students with many interests will be attracted to it. Pitts

said, "The proposal includes that the minor be temporarily housed in the Foreign Language Department." He added, "Perhaps the best place for it is Interdisciplinary Studies."

It is currently proposed that it be a minor in the Foreign Language Department because Interdisciplinary Studies does not have a budget, department head or office space. However, Pitts does not anticipate that its classification will cause problems in the development of the minor.

"There have been no problems at all," Pitts said. "I've heard only positive things and seen only positive reactions so far from faculty."

At this phase of planning, the proposal will include

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Plus and minus grading sparks debate

REBECCA BARRINGER
Staff Writer

The policy concerning the College's grading system may be up for discussion during the upcoming year as the faculty weighs the pros and cons of adopting a plus/minus grading scale.

"The adoption of the plus/minus grading scale generates discussion among faculty members," said Meredith Registrar Sue Todd. "I have been at Meredith for over 30 years and the topic has come up several times. It's usually a hot one."

The issue involving the grading system would first be addressed by the Instruction Committee. Committee member Dr. Eloise Grathwohl said the group is "just beginning the conversation" about it and looks forward to future discussion.

"I was not present when the policy was discussed in the past," Grathwohl said. "It will be interesting to hear the reasons for the different perspectives."

Faculty show a difference of opinion regarding

the school's grading system.

Dr. Anne York, of the business department, said she would be in favor of the plus/minus system. "I teach economics so it might be a little easier for me to be in favor of such an idea," she said. "In economics, you usually know it or you don't. There aren't too many gray areas."

However, York said she thought the system would be beneficial in other disciplines as well.

Religion professor Dr. Ann Burlein also supports the adoption of plus/minus grading. She said, "It would be more consistent with how the student did in the class. An A- could be given when a student didn't quite have A quality work but didn't deserve a B either."

But other teachers are against a change to the system. Biology and health sciences professor Francie Cuffney said,

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News Brief

Our campus master plan team from Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott is coming to review with us some of their preliminary ideas and hear comments from the campus community. We have planned two open information sessions so that the entire community can review the progress made to date, see some of the alternatives being developed, and offer comments and suggestions to the committees and the planners. Both sessions will be led by the SBRA team and by members of the Master Plan Working Committee. The first open information session will be held on Thursday, September 26 at 4 PM. The session will be repeated that evening, Thursday, September 26 at 7 PM. Each session will be held in the West end of Belk Dining Hall. Please plan to attend one of the open sessions and see the progress that has been made to date on the campus master plan and offer your comments and suggestions.