

Environmental studies major now being offered at Meredith

New major promises an interdisciplinary experience for those interested in the sciences.

LINDSAY SAUNDERS
Staff Reporter

Meredith now offers a major in Environmental Studies, one that is designed to include electives from several different disciplines but be based in the sciences.

Dr. Janice Swab, professor of biology and the adviser and advocate of the new major, said the "environmental studies" major is easy to confuse with "environmental biology," but the

idea grew out of all the departments involved, not just biology.

Those departments include biology, sociology, geology, communication, politics and English.

The development of the new major has brought new classes. For the first time, Meredith will offer meteorology and economic geography for students.

Swab said that after representatives from the departments met to discuss the major, they all agreed it should be in the sciences, but the students would be able to choose electives in other areas.

Some electives presented are the new meteorology, invertebrate zoology, plant

biology and aquatic field studies.

Unlike the other science majors, environmental studies gives a natural sciences background to the students who pursue it.

"Meredith environmental science and environmental studies students will help play an important part in determining the future of earth management," Dr. John Mecham, head of the biology department, said.

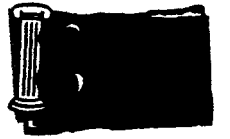
"The greatest threat to humankind is environmental degradation that results from human nutritional, health and emotional poverty," said Mecham.

The major includes many general requirements, but it captivates an experiential

aspect that forces students to practice and reinforce the knowledge they gain from the courses.

"We have included in the major requirements a culminating course that is either an internship or research," Swab said.

The major is currently available. To find out more, contact Swab or retrieve the information sheets she has available.



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Get involved in Meredith's Student Achievement Day

REBECCA BARRINGER
Staff Reporter

Meredith will highlight scholarship, leadership and extracurricular accomplishments in its first Student Achievement Day, to be held April 24.

"By devoting a full day to student achievement, we can better call attention to the many accomplishments we have here at Meredith," Vice President of Student Development Jean Jackson said.

The day will include the 3rd annual Undergraduate Research Conference; academic, leadership and departmental awards ceremonies; and other musical, artistic and theatrical activities.

Director of the Undergraduate Research Program Rhonda Zingraff said she was excited to

have the research conference among the day's events.

"Meredith benefits from an annual conference like this in so many ways. How else can we begin to recognize the terrific scholarship that is going on in our midst?" Zingraff said.

Zingraff said in years past, the research conference has included topics ranging from art history to accounting, from child development to graphic design. Sophomores, juniors and seniors have presented in the past, and Zingraff hopes freshmen will join this year's conference.

Zingraff also said that participants generally find the experience very rewarding.

"One of the joys of discovery or creativity is in the sharing of it," she said.

"Typically, we hope that conference participants will have really valuable feedback from their audiences, and that is inherently beneficial."

Jackson agreed. "To see so many of our students presenting original research is wonderful," she said. Jackson said participation in this conference will also aid students who are considering further studies in graduate school.

"We are hoping for a full day to celebrate student achievement," Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development Kelly Conkling said, "including a morning kickoff, musical and theatrical events, and a possible reception held in the new math and science building."

**See Achievement
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Campus Elections Results

Campus-wide Offices:

SGA President: Erin Hege
Elections Board Chair: Meredith Robertson
Wings President: Teresa Moody-Nichols
SGA Secretary: Satina Smith
Student Life Chair: Sarah Wilson
RHB Chair: Elizabeth Loftis
Honor Council Chair: Emily Bennett
MEA President: Blair Briggs

Rising Sophomore Class:

President: Kelly Beth Smith
Vice President: Jamie Conway

Rising Junior Class:

President: Christi McKee
Vice-President: Elizabeth Wilson
Secretary: Hannah Pollet
Treasurer: Sara Seago-Blanton
Historian: Amanda Bordeaux

Rising Senior Class:

President: Angie King
Vice President: Sandee Bizzell
Treasurer: Kim Turnage
Historian: Amanda Vause

Runoff results:

Rising junior Cornhuskin' Co-chairs: Karoline Grant & Margaret Ann Cooney
Rising sophomore historian: Talley Rouse