

Preregistration offered for first time in College's history

Incoming freshmen for the first time in College's history had the opportunity to preregister for the fall semester.

KRISTA KEARNEY
Features Editor

This past spring, incoming freshman were offered relief from the frenzy of registration during regular orientation. This year, students were given the choice to register early, before the annual move-in/orientation weekend and the hours of group activities that come along with it. In May and June, sessions were held to allow incoming freshman to meet with academic advisors to plan schedules and register for classes. Placement tests were given early, making the orientation drill upperclassmen remember go much more smoothly and with much less stress. Students also

met with their student advisors during these sessions to get advice on how to succeed during the first few weeks in college. Tours were given of the campus, including the residence halls, classrooms and other buildings on campus.

This mini-orientation provided a less hectic and less stressful alternative to the normal orientation weekend of tours, meetings, seminars and placement tests which typically, ends with long lines at registration only two days before classes begin. Freshman Francesca Perez was among the more than 82% of freshman who participated in the program. "It was less stressful for me than for people who registered during regular orientation. We got a break between activities, but those who registered during orientation didn't get a break," stated Perez.

Other freshmen agree the evaluations of the process were largely positive, according to the Office of

Academic Advising.

Getting to meet with academic advisors early was a huge positive aspect of the program. "The advisors were great—they helped out a lot. I got the classes I wanted," said freshman Morgan Slavin. Parents were also invited to take part in the program. Sample classes and information sessions were offered to ease concerns and worries for parents. Topics like those offered during regular orientation were discussed in these sessions, on issues such as undergraduate research, college life and study habits.

The successful program was developed by a number of offices and departments on campus, including First Year Experience, Academic Advising, Admissions, the Registrar's Office and Student Development, among others.

Freshman class profile

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The Class of 2007:

The numbers are in! While official numbers and the official profile of the new freshman class are still in the works, here is a preliminary profile of the newest members of the Meredith community:

Total new, first-time, traditionally-aged students: 332

North Carolina residents: 86%

(from 60 different counties)

Residents of other states and countries: 14%

(States include Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Colorado and Washington D.C.)

(Areas outside the U.S. include Mexico, Panama, China, Hong Kong, Korea and Saudi Arabia; many of these countries are home to new transfer students as well.)

Ethnic Distribution:

Caucasian students: 84.3%

African American students: 4.2%

Latina students: 3%

Asian students: 1.2%

Student classified as other or ethnicity unknown: 7.3%

Making the Grade:

Students in the top 25% of their high school graduating class: 45%

Students in the top 10% of their high school graduating class: 18.6%

4 students were valedictorians

6 students were salutatorians

Average S.A.T. score: 1047

Average unweighted G.P.A.: 3.0

Thanks to Dr. Daniel Green, Associate Vice President for Enrollment, for providing the figures for this preliminary report.

Become a part of the

MeredithREADS

Literacy Program

WHAT?

You are invited to join this read-aloud storysharing program! You will share multicultural children's books, one-on-one, with the same child each week.

WHERE?

On-site at local elementary schools
(Powell, Olds, Washington and Joyner)

WHEN?

Choose a 2-hour block of time between
9am to 4pm, Monday- Friday

HOW?

Training by Motherhead, Inc. is required.

Faculty and Staff Training:
Tues., Sept 9th or Wed., Sept. 10th
4-6 pm, Dogwood A
Student Training:
Mon., Sept. 8th or Thurs., Sept. 11th
5:30-7:30pm, Dogwood A

To register, contact Lynne Wheatley at
wheatleyl@meredith.edu at 760-8357