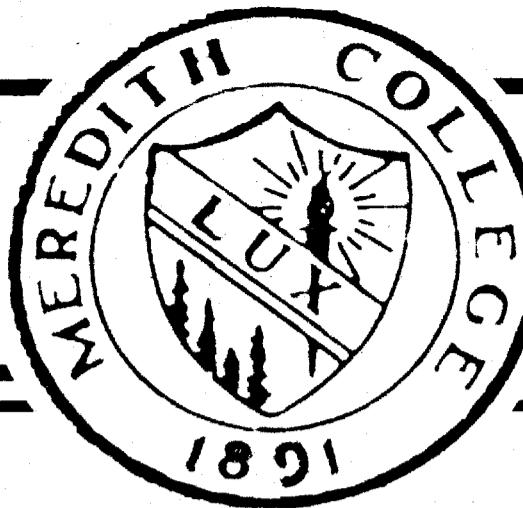


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Volunteer opportunities abound on campus

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Volunteering one's time as a college student can be rewarding due to the look on a child's face that screams 'thank you' to a simple smile from a senior citizen who is confined to a wheelchair. Meredith's campus ministry has an entire office dedicated to helping college students find volunteer opportunities.

Forty Meredith volunteers participated in a commemorative "Volunteer Day" on Saturday, August 23. Groups collaborated at six different sites including the Latta House, Hope Builders and Interfaith Food Shuttle. The Philaretian Society tie-dyed T-shirts for less fortunate children in the Raleigh area. After volunteering, all groups met back at Belk Dining Hall for a pizza lunch. Twenty-five reflection leaders-in-training volunteered at the Latta house as well. In group reflection sessions followed lunch.

The volunteer services fair on Wednesday, August 27 was yet another opportunity to get informed and involved. Thirty-one groups participated in the fair that was moved inside Belk Dining Hall due to the heat. MeredithREADS was just one of the organizations that distributed information and signed up volunteers to assist them in

their program needs.

MeredithREADS is in its third year at Meredith. The program functions under Motheread, a nationwide non-profit literacy development organization headquartered in Raleigh, whose mission is "working through the United States to integrate literature-based curriculum and training into literacy, early childhood education, and family support programs." Besides serving as an advocate for child literacy, the group sponsors tutors through the government's work-study program. These tutors work 2-10 hours weekly, in SmartStart affiliated preschools. Our local program, which started in 2000 with nine students, has grown to include over 30 students.

Another feature of the program is the volunteer portion. Added in 2001, volunteers include students, faculty and staff. Each volunteer works with a student once a week for the duration of the school year. Volunteers can sign up to work at four different school sites: Washington, Fred A. Olds, Joyner, and Powell. Dr. Jean Jackson, Vice-President for Student Development, has participated in the program for the past two years.

"Volunteering with MeredithREADS is a joy," Jackson said. "By spending time reading with a child, a MeredithREADS tutor

helps a child, a family, and our community. We build bridges with community schools and give children the support and encouragement they may need to become more skillful readers. The better readers they become, the more options they will have in continuing their education and choosing careers."

The final feature of MeredithREADS is Service Learning. By enrolling in a service learning class (marked SL in the catalogue), like CD-340, Young Children's Learning Environment, students get the opportunity to serve off campus for credit. Students enrolled in SL classes volunteer at Lacy Elementary.

Students interested in finding out more about MeredithREADS may contact Lynn Wheatley, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at wheatley@meredith.edu. Those who don't have transportation, can be placed with another volunteer that has a car.

Training sessions for MeredithREADS volunteers are Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in Dogwood A/B for Faculty and Staff, and Thursday, Sept. 1, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Dogwood A/B for students. Please register online at www.meredith.edu/students/volunteer/meredithreads.htm.

Press Release

Nobel Prize for Peace recipient, Elie Wiesel will speak on campus next week. The speech is part of Meredith's convocation series and the Summer Reading Program.

MELYSSA ALLEN
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Dr. Elie Wiesel, the 1986 Nobel Prize for Peace recipient, will speak on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. in Meredith College's McIver Amphitheater.

In a speech titled "Against Indifference: The Urgency of Hope," Wiesel will speak on his experiences living through the Holocaust and his life after the Holocaust. This Lillian Parker Wallace Lecture is free and open to the public.

Wiesel was 15 years old when the Nazis deported him and his family to Auschwitz. "Night," a factual novel that illustrates the experiences Wiesel and his family faced during the Holocaust, was published in 1960. In 1978, President

Jimmy Carter appointed Wiesel chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. Wiesel received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986, after which he and wife, Marion, founded the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.

This summer, incoming Meredith freshman read "Night" as the selection for the College's summer reading program.

Wiesel's visit is sponsored by Meredith College, The Wallace Lecture Fund, the Raleigh-Cary Jewish Federation and the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

In conjunction with Elie Wiesel's visit, Meredith Performs Theatre will present "And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank" from Sept. 18-20 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 20-21 at 2 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. This moving multimedia play weaves videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors Ed Silverberg and Eva Schloss with live actors recreating scenes from their lives during World War II. To reserve tickets to the play, call the Meredith College Box Office at 919-760-2840.

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