

I'm a Meredith Mom...No, really, I'm a Meredith Mom

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College is an exciting time of transition and growth for those who are fortunate enough to embark on this journey. Here at Meredith College, we have our own melting pot of students from all walks of life, who each bring something special to our campus.

However, within the Meredith community, we have a smaller community of



students we often don't think about -- Mothers. There are many mothers enrolled here at Meredith College, both traditional and nontraditional. The enrollment office here couldn't provide an exact number of enrolled mothers. However, just ask around in your classes and you will be surprised to see how many students are also mothers.

The role of student-mother is not an easy one. Just ask Meredith student Becky Forbes. Becky is a non-traditional student and mother of three who says, "Yes, I find it very hard to balance family and school. The role of mother is a permanent job involving participation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I love being a mother, but I also love being a student. Even though I

would love to pull my hair out sometimes, I would not trade this college experience for the world."

College is very time consuming with classes, homework, club meetings and trying to fit a social life somewhere in between. Just imagine having all of those responsibilities plus getting the kids ready for daycare, cooking dinner, and taking the kids to practices.

Here at Meredith College we have an organization called WINGS (Women in New Goal Settings). WINGS acts as somewhat of a support group for "Nontraditional" students who are "students that are married, live off campus, enter Meredith through the 23+ program or even young mothers." Organizations such as these are wonder-

ful, especially for mothers who need someone who can relate to the joy and stress that come along with balancing roles. WINGS is the only organization of its kind here at Meredith, but many students would like to see a club dedicated to the mothers of Meredith College.

Being a college student takes a lot of determination and hard work. It takes ten times as much effort to push yourself when you have to dedicate time to being a devoted mother as well. Moms who chose Meredith are fortunate to have a community of students here who are just like them. However, what do Meredith moms want from those on the outside looking in? Becky Forbes summed it up best in saying, "just



accept the student-mother for who she is; a woman educated by the real world and striving to improve life for herself and her children."

Review of The Lion King

"Marvelous," "Visually Spectacular," "Amazing." Those are just some of the comments people have made about Disney's *The Lion King*, presented by North Carolina Theater's Broadway Series South at the Progress Energy Center. *The Lion King* was certainly all of those things and more.

From mid August through late October, a national touring company was in Raleigh presenting *The Lion King*. With a packed house nearly every night, audiences could not get enough of the adventures of Simba, Nala, Timon, Pumba, Zazu, and Scar. Fans of the animated Disney movie saw the same story, heard the

same award winning songs, and recognize the characters. Add the familiar elements to several more African inspired songs, complex and beautiful costumes, and a set well designed enough to convey the pridelands of Africa, and you have two and a half hours of pure entertainment that you wish would never end, although you know it has to, leaving the audience with the only disappointment of the entire show: it does end.

Director and costume designer Julie Taymor has created on the stage what most people could never possibly convey. Audience members are swept away from modern day Raleigh and transported halfway around the world to

Africa. The costumes are so spectacular and the acting so convincing that one forgets that there is often an actor holding up the puppet being focused on, or behind the animal as they walk around. The animal costumes often resembles the characters in the movie, but the stage show adds an African flair to them. Flowing robes, beaded necklaces, and natural materials add to the beauty and majesty of the characters. In group numbers, there are a wide variety of animals that walk across the stage, including an elephant that if one looks closely enough can see that there is someone inside each leg, moving the massive creature along. Caribou are attached in sets of three to sticks that a danc-

er holds as he or she leaps across the stage, conveying many Caribou running and leaping three by three through the land. Even during the stampede scene, dancers stand behind massive buffalo masks, moving them forwards and backwards, making the audience forget that they are simply running in place.

Aside from the visuals, the audience is treated to a funny, moving, sometimes sad story of an eager at first, and later reluctant king of the pridelands. It is ultimately a story of real life,

a battle of good versus evil, and while the good prevails, it is not without trials and tribulations and very devastating loss. Audiences to this stage production were not disappointed.

