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Meredith Explored Washington, DC For Spring Break

By Laurel Benedum
Staff Writer

Thanks to the Sloan Family Student Leadership Program, 27 Meredith students had the opportunity to travel to the nation's capital during spring break. For a mere \$30, students were able to spend Sunday through Wednesday in DC, visiting various historical monuments and landmarks together and enjoying free time as well. Students embarked on the trip early Sunday morning along with various faculty members, and arrived in the late after-

noon.

That night, despite frigid conditions, students took a tour of various war memorials and historical sites around the capital. They also saw the Lincoln Memorial, the White House Arlington National Cemetery in passing.

"Seeing the war memorials made me think of our troops overseas and served as a great reminder of their dedication and sacrifices for our country," said sophomore Jessica Vilorio.

In the following days, students were able to tour significant buildings including the Supreme Court, the Senate offices and the Capitol. They saw NC Senator Elizabeth

Dole's office, although she was not present at the time. After touring the Capitol and Senate offices, the students got to see Senate in session briefly and hear Conn. Senator Joe Lieberman speak. The group also toured the Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery and the Native American Museum. At the cemetery, students saw the "Changing of the Guards" in front of the tomb of the unknown soldiers.

On Tuesday night, many students took the opportunity to walk around the historic buzzing city of Georgetown and explore the endless shops lined along cobblestone paths.

Wednesday, the day of departure, the group witnessed precipitation unusual (in recent months) to Raleigh: snow. Continuous flurries dusted the streets as students walked to the Supreme Court and enjoyed free time afterward.

"It was the perfect combination of free time and scheduled events," said Vilorio, "I got in everything I wanted to and more." Many students also visited places such as the Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre and the Botanical Gardens. The students left around 3 p.m. Wednesday and arrived back in Raleigh around 7:30 that night.

WEATHER:

TODAY: Partly cloudy.
Low 60, high 83.

THURSDAY: Partly cloudy. Low 61, high 80.

FRIDAY: T-showers.
Low 41, high 68.

SATURDAY: Sunny.
Low 37, high 61.

SUNDAY: Sunny. Low 39, high 58.

Source: <http://www.weather.com>



Sophomores Jessica Vilorio and Laurel Benedum pose in front of the Capitol Building during the night tour.