



MEREDITH HERALD

Volume XXV, Issue 1

Educating Women to Excel

September 5, 2007

ON THE INSIDE:

Campus News

p. 2

Editorial

p. 3

Campus Activities

p. 4

WEATHER

TODAY: Sunny. Low 60, High 95.

Thursday: Sunny. Low 67, High 94.

Friday: Partly Cloudy. Low 66, High 91.

Saturday: Partly Cloudy. Low 68, High 90.

Sunday: Partly Cloudy. Low 73, High 92.

Monday: Partly Cloudy. Low 70, High 90.

Tuesday: Scattered T-Storms. Low 66, High 88.

Source: www.weather.com

Information retrieved Tues. Sept. 4 at 7 p.m.

Studying Abroad: Defining and Living Your Own Experience

By: Erin Etheridge
Staff Writer

By now we have all discovered that the orientation theme for this year's freshmen class was "Your Experience: Define It; Live It." Conversations with numerous students and faculty members, as well as my experience as a student in Costa Rica this summer, have led me to conclude that this same theme could apply to Meredith's study abroad programs as well.

According to the Meredith Office of Study Abroad's website, the benefits of studying abroad are three fold: successful study abroad students can gain academic credit, reap career benefits and develop as individuals through their time overseas.

The college offers summer study abroad opportunities in Austria, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Through these programs, Meredith students can study subjects ranging from interior design in Denmark to fashion in France.

Summer study abroad programs last anywhere from a three-week tropical ecology and conservation excursion in Costa Rica to an eleven-week historical and architectural expedition in Italy, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Junior Joy Strickland, who participated in the

mentioned program, remarks that her best experience while abroad this summer was discovering how caring and understanding the people were. She says, "I could communicate effectively without speaking the language."

According to Kevin Morrison, the Associate Director of Study Abroad, Strickland was one of 118 Meredith students who participated in study abroad programs this summer.

If spending a summer abroad will not meet your academic needs, Meredith also offers programs during which students study abroad for a semester or even a year. More adventurous women can choose from destinations such as Austria, China, France, Ireland, Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom.

By choosing to spend a semester abroad, a Meredith student has the opportunity to immerse herself in Chinese language and culture in Hong Kong, liberation theology on the United States-Mexican border and art history in Paris. Other approved Meredith semester study abroad programs include stays in Argentina, Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand and the Turks and Caicos.

Morrison states that during the 2006-2007 school year, 31 Meredith students studied abroad for either the fall or the spring semester, and

one young woman spent the entire academic year abroad.

Cassie Drake, a junior who studied in Angers, France during the fall semester of her sophomore year, remarks that residing with a French family during her stay was the best part of her study abroad experience. She asserts, "Through my French family, I got to experience a lot more of the culture."

Opportunities also exist for students interested in working, volunteering, or interning abroad through various organizations, including the British Universities' North America Club, the Peace Corps, and Internships International.

Study abroad opportunities are not limited only to students. Meredith faculty and staff members can and do participate in numerous study abroad programs. Many of the college's trips are led by Meredith faculty members, who assist in various ways, from handling logistics to teaching classes.

Meredith has also partnered with universities in China and Bolivia to offer faculty exchange programs. Research opportunities are available for professors through various grants as well.

Morrison offers this advice to anyone considering a study abroad experience: "Plan early! Think about what you want to accomplish academically and socially."

Strickland supplements Morrison's opinion by declaring, "Plunge right in! If you think it's too long, it's probably not long enough."

Morrison also states that consulting with an academic advisor as well as a study abroad advisor will help you design a program specific to your curriculum needs.

If you feel that financial issues may hinder your opportunities to study abroad, numerous scholarships and grants are at your disposal. Typical Meredith study abroad scholarships for summer and semester programs range from \$500 to \$1,500.

Applications are available on Meredith's study abroad website and in the Office of Study Abroad.

Student loans are also available for summer and semester programs.

Most important, any scholarship or financial aid package that you have at Meredith will be applied to your semester study abroad expenses.

If you are interested in any of the study abroad opportunities that Meredith has to offer, feel free to stop by the Office of Study Abroad, located in 124 Joyner Hall. You can also contact Meredith's Director of Study Abroad, Professor Betty Webb, by email at bettywebb@meredith.edu or by phone at (919)-760-2307.

Abroad Cont. on pg. 4