

Student Privacy at Meredith

By: Chelsea McGlaughlin
Staff Writer

While Meredith students may recognize their school's traditions of safety, honor and privacy, some may not be aware of the lengthy procedures to which Meredith goes to protect its students' rights.

"Meredith takes seriously its role in preserving students' right to privacy—and does so in any number of ways, ranging from barring intrusion by solicitors in the residence halls to maintaining confidentiality in health records to following FERPA guidelines in the protection of academic records," explains Jean Jackson, Vice President of College Programs.

The Health Center goes to great lengths to protect students' records. Sherri Henderson, Health Center Director, describes the procedures her staff follows: "... all information concerning exam, diagnosis, treatment, education pertaining to a specific student, staff, or faculty is completely confidential. We cannot discuss any health issues without the written permission of the patient." Records are kept completely safe, even during non-business hours. "All student, staff, and faculty files are

locked when the clinic is closed and always monitored when the clinic is open," adds Ms. Henderson.

The Counseling Center also follows strict guidelines. In fact, information students share with the counselors may not leave the Center without written consent. Although a few extreme cases (including any that seem to pose a threat to the student or others) may require a policy violation, information is kept strictly personal. For more information regarding the Counseling Center's confidentiality policies, visit <http://www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/confidentiality.htm>.

While it may seem that faculty and staff members shoulder students' privacy, students do have some control over what academic information is known. Under the protection of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, also known as FERPA, "... students [have] the right to review and inspect educational records maintained by Meredith. It also allows them to seek amendment to any portion of their academic record, and the right to have some control over the disclosure

of information from their record," says Meredith Registrar Jody Hamilton-Davis. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html> for more information regarding FERPA and its protections.

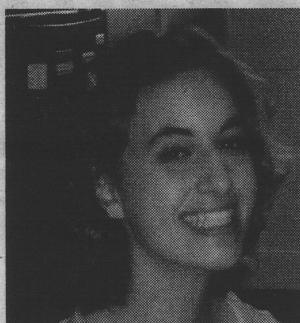
Grades are also heavily protected but may be released with students' written consent. Grades are, however, released only to Meredith employees "such as the student's advisor, officials of other schools in which the student has sought admission, appropriate persons concerned with the student's application for financial aid and federal or state officials," says Dr. Jackson.

She adds, "Students may sign a 'Release of Educational Records,' available in the Office of the Registrar, Academic Advising or the Dean of Students Office, to allow access to her records by anyone she names on the form."

So, the next time you hear of a privacy problem, remember that, as a Meredith student, you are fully protected. Faculty and staff go to great lengths every day to ensure the safety and privacy of the students at Meredith College.

Technological Treats

By: Chelsea McGlaughlin
Staff Writer



are spending major cash to keep up in this digital world.

>June 29, 2007: a day that will live in technology infamy. On that day, thousands of customers flocked to Apple retail outlets across the nation to purchase cutting-edge technology: the Apple iPhone. What makes the iPhone distinctive? Web browsing, Bluetooth, video iPod, digital photo viewer, that ultra-cool two-finger zoom feature, a sleek touch-screen design and, oh yeah, it can make phone calls also. Choose portrait or landscape orientation with a simple turn, flick through your entire music collection with one finger, watch YouTube videos, check your email, read today's newspaper, find, make reservations, get directions to local restaurants and check weather and traffic conditions. Service is currently available through AT&T only. Add the shocking pricetag to the cheapest individual calling plan, \$59.99/month, and iPhone customers

Any ideas for the technology column? Send them to herald@meredith.edu.

What Do They Do All Day?

By: Anna Britt
Staff Writer

It's a Friday afternoon, and you've driven to the Cate Center to grab some cash out of the ATM before your big night out. You're inside the building for no more than five minutes, but when you walk out, you have a ticket tucked nicely under your wiper blades. Furious, you want to scream out to the world, "DO THEY HAVE

NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN ISSUE PARKING TICKETS????" Honestly, I don't believe the security folks do.

A good number of Meredith College students have experienced at least one of these unjustifiable tickets. Although the tickets are a good bit cheaper than a state-issued parking ticket, which ranges from \$50 to \$125, the \$25 Meredith parking ticket

is not only a burden, but also poorly regulated.

This complaint leads inevitably to the parking situations. With the number of students on the rise, campus security has had to make a few changes to the way the several parking lots around campus are configured. This year's on-campus students have created such an overflow that they now occupy all the spots surrounding

Heilman, Barefoot and Poteat, excluding the visitor spots.

Such has not always been the case. Countless tickets were given away at spots that had been senior parking because the spaces were close to the dorms and were never used. Then, just when you think more parking spots are being added for underclassmen, a huge chunk was taken out of the park-

ing behind Stringfield. I have yet to see any seniors parking in these spots.

Commuter parking isn't perfect either. There are eighteen faculty parking spots that are on the SMB end of the paved commuter parking lot. There are never any cars parked in these spots, so why not make half of them for commuters? That's way

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