

science & TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTING: AN UNTAPPED GREEN EFFORT

By Julia Houtchings
Science and Technology Editor

Meredith College has gone green, and in accordance with these new efforts, one important issue is yet to be discussed: green computing. Are we, as members of the Meredith community, doing all we can with digital technology to become more efficient and eco-friendly? Recycling paper, plastic, glass, etc. is great, but they are certainly not the only efforts that can be made to become greener. Keyotta Sanford, a Computer Information Systems major here at Meredith, is conducting research this semester to discover the benefits of green computing. She offers the following tips to the Meredith community that she has discovered in her research so far:

Green Computing Tips

Recycle e-waste (such as printer cartridges and old equipment) Landfills are filled with computing resources, which contain materials

that are hazardous to the environment and to human health. These items include cell phones and batteries of all sizes, not just computer equipment.

A screen saver does not save power! Turn the computer off at night or put it on Standby/Hibernate mode when not in use. Turning the computer on and off has no negative effects on the processor. For MC Laptops press Fn + F12 (Hibernate) or Fn + F4 (Sleep).

Enable Power Management Features. Reduce the brightness of monitor. Also use features to automatically put computer into sleep mode or hibernation. For MC Laptops—Press Fn + F3 to adjust power settings.

Avoid unnecessary printing. If you only need two pages of a ten page document, print only the two pages you need.

Avoid Excessive Internet Usage. Excessive use of Internet sites, such as Facebook and Instant Messaging (24hrs online), consumes a lot of energy, so power off your computer at night because it is not being used.

In addition to the tips that Sanford offers to the Meredith community, here are some more tips to green computing.

Review document drafts and emails on-screen instead of printing off multiple copies. Not only does it save paper, it saves printer ink and the power needed by the printer. Printing on both sides of the paper reduces the amount of paper used. Also consider emailing documents instead of paper memos or faxing documents.

Many companies, such as Dell or Apple, offer free recycling for old computers if you buy a new computer from their company. Apple

also offers a 10% discount toward a new iPod if you turn in your old one for recycling at any Apple store. Many US companies and 24 states have begun imposing strict regulations similar to those in the European Union's Restriction on Hazardous Substances, which holds the strictest standards in the world. Much more information about green computing is available online. Some very helpful websites include Energy Star (www.energystar.gov) and My Green Electronics (www.mygreenelectronics.org). When you turn on your computer, check your email, or print your term paper, remember that we're trying to go green.. ■

SAUNA VS. ARCTIC CIRCLE = DORM ROOM?

By Erin Huber
Contributing Writer

It was a little cold outside last winter...probably what most people would consider sweatshirt weather. Winter in North Carolina rarely ever includes temperatures that go below about 20°F, and they usually stay in the 40s-60s. But Meredith College wanted to make sure that its students were nice and warm—no, not warm, but hot. Students were in the dorms in tank tops and shorts. These aren't normally what you'd find people wearing in winter, even in North Carolina, but times were desperate. More than half the campus should've been taken to Honor Council for breaking the honor code and opening windows, but we had all learned our lesson about keeping them closed. We had heard about the girl who had followed the honor code and ended up suffering from heatstroke or something like that. And of course, in an attempt to fix

the heating problem, maintenance had fiddled with the system until half the campus was burning up and the other half was so cold that opening the windows actually made the rooms warmer. But no one had had to suffer too long, because maintenance had fiddled with it again, and everyone got to switch temperatures. People who were freezing finally received lots of heat, and people who were burning up got to cool down way down. Everyone was supposed to be happy. Unfortunately, this had one minor consequence. With all the fluctuating temperatures, almost everyone on campus was sick. I'm sure that being afraid of what temperature my room would be each day taught me some sort of life lesson. I'm just glad I had the lesson while I was young and could handle it.



Lilith Spry, pictured above, tries to find warmth in her dorm room

Photo Courtesy Erin Huber

