

opinion & CAMPUS LIFE

MEREDITH VOTES 2008

By Mary Hannah Anderson
Contributing Writer

You have the right to vote as a free American woman. And, what better way to have your voice heard than voting? Meredith Votes 2008 is a group of 10 students taking Dr. Frazier's Public Leadership class. Our mission is to empower you at the polls. We are trying to get all Meredith students registered and voting. We want to make the process a breeze for you, but we need your help.

If you are not yet registered to vote, pick up a registration form, fill it out, and slip it into one of the Meredith Votes boxes. These boxes are set up in five locations: Belk Dining Hall, Carlyle Campbell Library, Cate Center, Johnson Hall, and SMB. Registration forms which you can use to register anywhere in North Carolina can be found next to these boxes. Just fill out the forms and deposit them in the box. We will mail it to your county board of elections. It all starts with registering to vote by the October 10th deadline.

If you are already registered to vote, please fill out a red card if you didn't respond to our earlier

student_all email. We need to know who is already registered so we can tell who we still need to contact. We also want to be able to prove that a higher percentage of students at Meredith have registered than at any other college in North Carolina. Red cards can be found next to a Meredith Votes box.

If you want to register in another state, Email Robyn at kleinpet@meredith.edu and she will help you do so, but hurry, there's not much time left. For help with in-state absentee voting, email Mary Hannah at andermar@meredith.edu. For further questions, simply email meredithvotes@meredith.edu.

We know that you need information about the candidates and Meredith Votes wants to help you get informed. We are hosting an event where you can Meet the Candidates in Belk Dining Hall during dinner on Thursday, October 16th. This event is taking place in the String side of the dining hall. Come and mingle with local candidates and find out what they have to say about the issues that most concern you.



We aren't stopping there. Later in the semester you will have the opportunity to learn where you stand by hearing college Democrats and college Republicans debate issues that matter to you. Things might get heated, so refreshments will be provided in the SMB atrium afterwards. The big debate is unfolding in Ledford 101 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28th. We want you to be ready to vote!

The polls open at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 4th and will close at 7:30 p.m. Meredith Votes will provide transportation for on-campus students throughout the day. We aren't worried about gas prices, just your voting rights. We

want every Meredith faculty, staff, and student to have the opportunity to vote.

Voting is our responsibility as citizens and college students of America. In numerous countries, women are not allowed to vote. Voting is our voice, enabling us to determine who leads our nation, state, and local community. If we don't vote, then we don't have the right to complain about who is in office. We can make a difference through voting so why not start by going to the poles for the upcoming election? Let's celebrate our right to vote with ballots in hand!

Let's spark a voting movement across Meredith's campus! ■

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ration of streams and wetlands, a project that is currently funded by the government. Dr. Bernhardt's research focuses on the effectiveness of this work; as of yet, she said she and her team have not been able to find a significant difference in habitats of streams that have been urbanized and those that have been restored. Dr. Bernhardt also talked about the fact that not everyone can be a scientist and solve these kinds of environmental issues—and that's OK. She said that those of us who aren't scientists can utilize our gifts in other ways: English majors can write about it and Communications majors can give speeches about it, but everyone can learn about the issues and be able to spread awareness about our environment.

Following Dr. Bernhardt's talk and the subsequent lunch, students from Western Carolina University spoke to the assembled company

about their efforts to form a "Green Band," that is, a coalition of college students who are dedicated to working for the environment. They asked for ideas and commitments from the other students that were there, for, as they pointed out, we can make a bigger difference if we all band together. During this brainstorming session, the decision was made to build a website to enable communication and distribute information to the college campuses at large—stay posted!

Following the Green Band roundtable, there was one more set of presentations in SMB before the groups headed out on their separate routes: some towards home and a few with Drs. Erin Lindquist and Janice Swab out to the Greenway trail. Everyone headed their own way, excited by possibilities after seeing the research of others and their enthusiasm for the environment. ■



Photo courtesy meredith.edu