

arts & HUMANITIES

DESIGN TIPS APPLY TO EVERYONE

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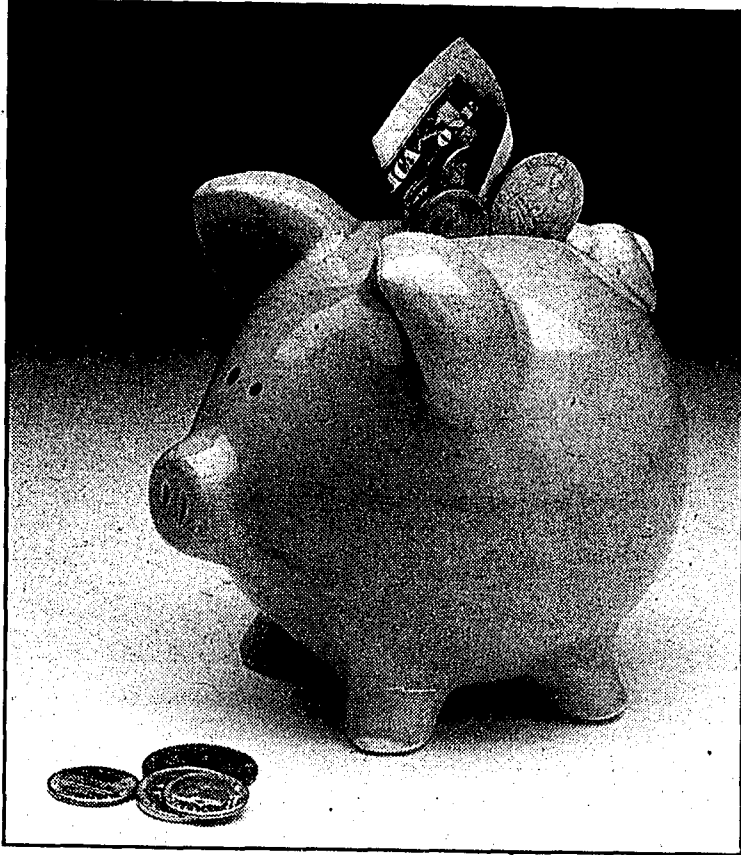


Photo courtesy www.mtgfoundation.com

As Americans across the country struggle with a weakening economy, we are reminded that historically the arts are some of the first aspects of society to feel the money crunch. Even so, according to the News and Observer, public art programs will become a vital part of society in the coming days as economic woes ebb and flow. We are to remember that city beautification should not take a back seat because when people are suffering the most, it is the time to enjoy culture and art. Art can be an enjoyable and free activity for families that can no longer afford to go out to eat or travel to the beach.

One art-related profession that is preparing to take an economic hit in the coming months is graphic designing. The American Institute of Graphic Artists recently re-

leased a statement providing ways for graphic designers to cope with the declining economy. These tips are not only helpful for designers but all professions in general. Let's take a look at some of these tips:

1. **Develop Your Practice/Make a Plan:** Since the economy is slow, now is a good time to reexamine your business practices. Make a plan to better your skills and strengthen your relationships.
2. **Upgrade Your Skills:** Take some time to expand your skill set. Learn about a new kind of software, take a few business classes, go back to school or attend a few professional conferences. With the slow economy, now is a good time to gain an edge on the competition. Check with your professional organization to see what discounted products and services are available to you.
3. **Be Actively Involved:** Join a professional organization if you aren't already a member. Volunteer to better your profession and gain important contacts within your business. Also, use your free time to volunteer at community outreach organizations. This will not only better your understanding of important community and social issues but could lead to professional opportunities.
4. **Stay Strong:** Overall, the most important thing to remember in hard times is to stay strong and don't lose hope. Times will get better. Do not sacrifice your personal health and safety to save or gain money. One must look forward to the future with optimism.

Regardless of your major, the future looks to be challenging. But as long as we stay optimistic and take advantage of our resources, circumstances will change, and we will be ready to meet them head on. ■

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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It's a new semester which means we will all be faced with many new challenges; however, we know that every single bit of our hard work will pay off in the end. Your Student Government Association has had two meetings so far during the Spring semester and will be meeting every Thursday to better serve you! Recently we have been getting back into the swing of things and have discussed many issues. Week before last we spent a large amount of time discussing General Education and ways that we could improve it. Our goal is to provide our input and serve as a voice for the student body so that we can make Meredith College even better next year.

During the past few weeks we have also talked a lot about the Smoking Policy that is currently implemented on campus. Student Life is in charge of this policy, and each member of the Meredith community should have received a survey at some point in the past week. We hope that you all took the time to share your thoughts

and feelings, because in the end that is what matters the most. Also, we are continuing to try to tackle the issues in Belk Dining Hall. We promise that we are doing everything we can to make it as best as possible for you, and each day we are taking bigger and bigger steps to get there.

As for Elections, I'm sure you all knew that they went on this week. The Candidate Question and Answer session was held Monday January 26th at 5:00 P.M. in Kresge, and there was a great turnout. We really appreciate everyone coming out to hear firsthand all about our wonderful candidates running for office for this upcoming year.

Well that's all for this week. Please keep a lookout for more SGA briefings. Also please know that if you have any questions or suggestions about what's going on here at school feel free to let us know. We are here to serve you and hope you all have wonderful week! ■

