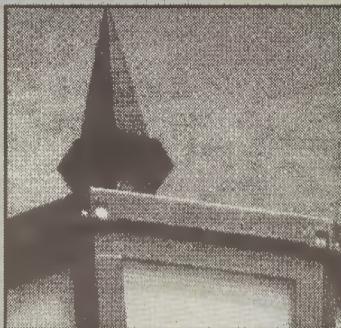


the MEREDITH herald

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Green Tip for the Week of May 6

Find the size of
your ecological
footprint by visiting
www.myfootprint.org.

During the 2008–09 academic year, Meredith College's campus theme is "Sustaining our Environment: Developing our Greenprint." To help the Meredith community make daily choices that are beneficial to the environment, Angels for the Environment have compiled a year's worth of tips for greener living. To view green tips from previous weeks, visit www.meredith.edu/campus-theme/environmental-tips.htm.

END OF AN ERA: NEW BEGINNINGS

Beth Mulvaney
Contributing Writer

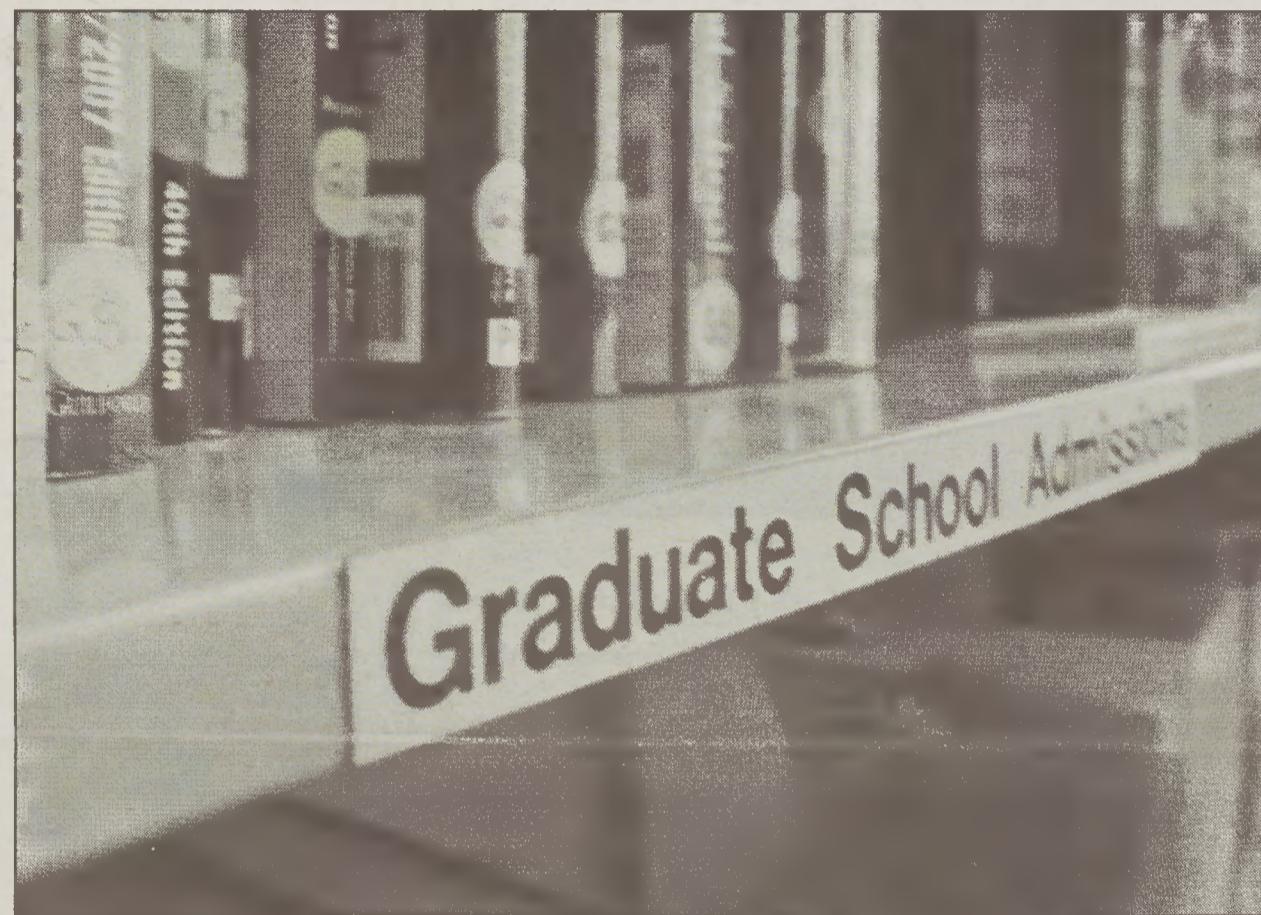


Photo Courtesy April Rummage

You've made it to graduation. Now what? You've completed Gen Ed, your major(s), minor(s), rounded up and turned in those twelve convocation forms, and it appears that you will get to participate in that grand rite of commencement! It will be exhilarating and emotional. You have made wonderful friends here and you have participated in numerous time-honored Meredith traditions, but you know it's time to move on to the next phase of your life. On May 11th, when you wake up a graduate of Meredith College, what's next?

The last few weeks of each semester, I spend a lot of time with seniors, asking them about their accomplishments at Meredith and what their next steps will be after graduation. This year, a year dominated by persistent headlines of economic doom and gloom, has created more obstacles for students intent on assuming their place in the world, testing out the skills they honed in their semesters at Meredith. April Rummage, a graphic design major, remains cautiously optimistic while noting she has had to revise her job hunt strategy. While she would like to start in a large design firm or an advertising and marketing agency with a variety of clients, she realizes she will probably need to target a business that does in-house design as an entry-level position. Although she has gained a variety of experiences at Meredith working on different publications like the Meredith Herald and the Colton Review, she cannot get her foot in the door of the larger design firms. She needs more experience. Jobs that once might have gone to the newly-graduated now are being sought by those with more

experience who have been laid off or squeezed out of other positions. As she moves toward May 11th, Rummage ponders how to make herself stand out from the other applicants. She urges underclasswomen to seek out as many internships as possible and to get experience out in the community before they graduate. Great advice, but getting and keeping internships is difficult.

I have also spoken to seniors and underclasswomen who were laid off from internships. In each instance, it was a painful experience, but one that gave them time to reflect. With this loss came a new recognition that they needed to be flexible and ready to reinvent themselves to take advantage of whatever opportunity they could find. Claire Keane had wanted to work a couple years in an architectural firm as an interior designer, but the architectural world has suffered greatly this past year. Some firms have laid off 50% of their staff while others have reduced the staff to 80% time (and money). Keane has done all the right things, networked through people she knows, applied to numerous jobs close and far, and she also looked to graduate school as an option. She has been offered admission to UNC-G's MA program in architectural interior design, which looks increasingly like a possible haven for her to wait out the recession.

Senior Math major, Anna Morgante had always planned on graduate school, and long ago picked her top schools, but this year graduate programs have been affected by shrinking pools of funding for graduate students. When Morgante realized her top choices would

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MEREDITH COLLEGE
GOES GLOBAL
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