

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT'S UP IN RALEIGH?

October 15-25:
NC State Fair, Fair Grounds

October 15:
Jason Michael Carroll, Dorton
Arena, Fair Grounds

October 17:
Kellie Pickler, Dorton Arena,
Fair Grounds

October 17-25:
West Side Story, Raleigh
Memorial Auditorium

FALL BREAK IN NEW YORK CITY: A FASHION STUDENT'S DREAM

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Staff Writer

How amazing would it be to spend fall break in New York City? A group of Meredith fashion and business students had this wonderful opportunity thanks to Dr. Ellis and Dr. Oatsvall. The group left Wednesday evening and stayed until Sunday evening. On the first day of the trip, the students took a tour of the Federal Reserve in New York's Financial District. The security was very tight and it felt like airport security just to get in the building. During the tour, the group got to go down underground to the vaults where the Federal Reserve houses all of the gold. It was so cool to see actual bars of gold. Later that day, we took a Sex and the City bus tour all over the city. The tour led us to different spots used during filming. The bus even stopped on Bleeker Street where we were treated to cupcakes from Magnolia Bakery. After our tour we had some time to rest up before a dinner with Meredith alumni. For dinner we ate at an Italian restaurant and had the opportunity to talk with fashion and business alumni. It was interesting hearing what each of the girls had done since they had left Meredith.

Day two of the trip started out fairly early with a walk in the Garment District and to Times Square. We then went to Bloomingdales. We had the chance to either stay at Bloomingdales or to venture out on our own before the next tour, but most everyone spent time at Bloomingdales. After a morning of shopping we took a tour of Promostyl, the fashion forecasting office. It was so interesting to hear the fashion forecasters talk about the interesting aspects of their jobs. For example, their predictions on colors and trends are predicted about two years in advance. After hearing about Promostyl, we took a tour of a company called Findings; this is a multi-line showroom that one of the Meredith fashion alumni works for. It was interesting to hear about the job of a sales representative in the fashion industry and how much work goes into the job.

On Saturday the group walked down to the Fashion Institute of Technology to see an exhibit on Fashion and Politics. The exhibit



Photo courtesy www.oswego.edu/~prusso1/nycstudent-teaching.htm

showed different types of apparel through different centuries that had a political twist to it. The exhibit contained everything from a dress made of newspaper to a sequined, Barack Obama dress. After the exhibit we headed down to Canal Street, home of street vendors selling fakes. Later in the afternoon we all met up at the Metropolitan Museum of Art to tour the New American Wing.

For the rest of the trip we were given free time to explore the city on our own. Some girls decided to catch a Broadway show while others continued to shop. On our last day in New York a lot of the girls decided to have brunch at Tavern on the Green in Central Park. It was a wonderful ending to an amazing trip.

PICCOLA ITALIA

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It's the day before the White Iris Ball and you have everything ready to go: your dress is pressed and hanging on the closet door, your heels are polished and clean, and your jewelry is carefully laid out on the dresser ready to slip on as your date arrives at the door. But wait—you forgot to decide where you and your date are going to eat! You remember he said something about pizza, but you were thinking more of a cozy romantic meal that included a fancier Italian dinner. Where are you going to find the perfect restaurant to eat pizza

and share a romantic meal? Piccola Italia, a restaurant in Cameron Village, is exactly what you need. The restaurant is romantic and cozy yet informal; the menu has a variety of entrees that can satisfy your every craving and the service is simple yet efficient. The only downside is the prices, but hey, it's White Iris night— you can splurge a little!

Piccola Italia's cozy atmosphere is perfect for a semi-formal dining experience, but it can also be casual if desired. The indoor setting is semi-formal with beautiful paintings of Italian canals and wrought-iron wall décor. The bar, located at the back of the restaurant, is set between two huge wine racks that serve as the back wall. Don't worry; the bar is separated by the tall backs of the booths which make the bar somewhat private,

yet easily accessible if you're of age. The dimly lit booths provide a cozy atmosphere that make any couple long to stare into each other's

eyes. If you're not in the mood for eye-gazing, however, you can be a little more casual and dine outside on the patio. The wrought-iron furniture is not incredibly inviting to a young lady in heels and a cocktail dress, but it's perfect for a small group of friends sharing a pizza. The restaurant is located at a corner of Cameron Village near the center; while this location may not sound ideal, it makes people-watching fun and easy, which adds to the outdoor dining experience. Whether you are looking for a semi-formal or casual setting, Piccola Italia will meet your dining



Photo courtesy <http://www.piccolaitalianc.com>

atmosphere needs.

Besides the versatility of the atmosphere, the menu is filled with every type of Italian food you can imagine. There are even a few entrees you've probably never heard of, like *frutti di mare*—shrimp, mussels, and clams served in a marinara sauce with penne pasta. The appetizer menu includes specialties such as grilled eggplant and fried calamari. If you are not a "fried calamari kind-of-girl" there are other appetizers offered like traditional mozzarella sticks. It isn't very hard to picture yourself eating in Italy if you order tradi-

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