

SCIENCE & TECH

New Environmental Sustainability Major is a Major Attraction

Emily Gamiel, Staff Writer

Ask the Techie

Featuring Julia Houtchings

Greetings from Techie-land! If you've been curious about something computer or internet-related, submit your questions to herald@email.meredith.edu.

Meanwhile, here's a useful technology tip:

Perhaps one of the greatest and most useful features of the Google Calendar (which you can access through your Meredith gmail account) is SMS reminders. SMS is the technological term for text messages. If you log into your Meredith email, along the top of the page you'll find a navigation bar at the top. Click on Calendar on the top right side of the page. You'll find an option for Mobile Setup. Enter your cell phone number and it'll send you a verification code via text. Once you enter that code, your number will be verified and you can receive text message reminders for any events you put into your Google Calendar. When you add events to your calendar, edit the event details to set up your reminders. Under options on the full event details page you will find your reminders. After setting up your mobile phone, you will find options for SMS, Email, and Pop-up. Enter the reminder time whenever you'd like to receive it and you're good to go! (But don't forget to click save!)

After being on the departmental chopping block because of a low enrollment rate last year, the Environmental Science department at Meredith had to come up with a cutting-edge revision to their program in order to save its existence. The leaders of the division sought to implement something new and revolutionary while staying inside the proposed budget. After brainstorming and collaborating between departments, the Science department found that they could create a revised major by using the courses already offered at Meredith: The Environmental Sustainability Major. No new courses and faculty members were needed to create this major, making it a good candidate for what the college was seeking.

Program Coordinator Erin Lindquist said, "Last year we were seeing new programs sprouting up here and there around the country on sustainability." The 2010-2011 Meredith College Undergraduate Catalogue describes the major as "an interdisciplinary major focusing

on the social, economic, and political aspects of environmental issues." The trendy new major is being offered at colleges of all sizes around the country, however, Meredith College is the first private school to offer the degree in North Carolina. Appalachian State University is the only other university in the state that offers the degree. The appeal that this major brings to students is promising and should increase enrollment in the Science department.

Only a couple of weeks after its debut, when asked about the interest in the program so far, Lindquist replied, "Good!" in an optimistic tone. The major and minor have been popular topics in the Science department. In order to acquire a degree in Environmental Sustainability at Meredith, the student must earn 37-38 credit hours from the selected courses. The small number of hours required to obtain the major makes it easy to combine with another major. Many students who have already declared a major have been showing interest in adding this new one. Lindquist mentioned that students interested were from the Nutrition, Biology, and Interior Design depart-

ments. The students showing the most interest are not only current students but also high school seniors who have visited the school. Statistical data gathered from the freshman class last year proves that the major could be popular and useful. "Freshmen were very interested in sustainability issues, which is great," Lindquist said. According to Lindquist, most interested students knew what they had been taught in earlier years but longed for more education about the subject.

The career paths linked to the chic new major seem to be endless. Possible jobs include Environmental law, Interior Design that focuses on green and sustainable projects, various government positions, as well as employment by a non-profit organization. The economic state of the country will not limit possibilities for students who graduate with this degree so long as corporations, schools, and other industries continually attempt to go green and offer jobs to those who know how to help. The Environmental Sustainability degree now offered at Meredith is expected to attract new students as well as interest current students.

SPORTS

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME NFL FOOTBALL?!

Jillian Curtis, Staff Writer

Ladies, it's that time of year again! Not only does college football get to take over your Saturday afternoons, but now the NFL is here to serve up some quality fun all Sunday long. If you're an avid football fan, then you're well aware of all the great teams out there this year. But if you're just the average girl trying to keep up with your boyfriend during this football-packed season, here are some fun facts that will catch you up to speed:

The Houston Texans, a perennially disappointing team, managed to pull off two victories in a row, including a weak one win over their arch-

rival, Indianapolis.

Unfortunately for Panthers fans, the season does not look bright (yet again). Inexperience in the quarterback position is going to lead to a long year.

The Steelers have once again fought their way to the top of the pack even without their starting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who is currently suspended due to sexual harassment charges.

The Manning brothers recently faced off for the second time in recent history in what was called the "Manning Bowl". Peyton managed to pull off

the victory, leaving Eli and the Giants with a 1-1 record.

Michael Vick is back and ready for action. After spending 2 years in jail for his infamous dog fighting charges, he is ready to prove himself a worthy starting quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Terrell Owens and Chad Ochocinco are both starting receivers for the Cincinnati Bengals. Off the field, you can find them both starring in different VH1 reality shows.

The Green Bay Packers and the Baltimore Ravens are trendy Super Bowl picks by NFL experts.

The Saints have come back to defend their title. The team is led by quarterback Drew Brees and is shaping up to be a dominating force.

As you can see, this NFL season is going to be loaded with tons of excitement and upset. Many teams are full of talent and ready to prove themselves as serious competitors. With Super Bowl Sunday only four months away, the pressure is on! Keep posted to find out more about your favorite teams!