

Campus Poll: Website Redesign

Data Gathered by Ashleigh Phillips

Are you aware of these new websites?

Financial Aid:

yes: 20

no: 40

Admissions:

yes: 15

no: 45

Athletics:

yes: 24

no: 36

Facility Services Repairs Faulty Steam Pipe

Caitlin Griffin, Staff Writer

On October 19, a large steam line pipe rupture between Joyner and Harris required facility services to shut down the steam distribution on that part of campus. The Meredith Herald sought an exclusive interview with Sharon Campbell, Director of Facility Services, in order to better explain to the campus community what happened that day.

According to Campbell, the Meredith central plant located behind Belk Dining Hall has large boilers that generate the steam used to heat individual buildings. A substantial amount of the piping that feeds academic and auxiliary buildings is buried directly underground between buildings. Over time, moisture and ground shifts corrode the pipe covering, increasing the potential for small problems or large ruptures like the one on October 19.

In order to repair the rupture as efficiently as possible, Facility Services immediately shut down the steam line system in the affected area and dug an exploratory hole to see if the specific location of the leak could be determined. The college maintenance crew had to expose the entire line in order to discover

the exact location of the rupture and to determine as the size of the piping that needed replacement. Digging on Thursday and Friday of that week was performed carefully both by machine and by hand so as not to disrupt the computer network lines that run parallel to the steam lines. The process of exposing the pipe was handled by two experienced in-house workers, James Brown and Michael Matthews.

Since Meredith's maintenance crews are not certified nor equipped to perform large pipe replacement and welding, the college's contractor was on site on Monday, October 25th, to plan the job, order the needed materials, and tentatively schedule the replacement. The contractor notified facility services on October 29 that all of the materials had arrived at their site and that work could begin on the following Monday, November 1st. In regards to how this affected the campus community, Campbell states, "Safety requirements for working on steam lines mandate that steam be isolated at two separate points. To accomplish this requires us to shutdown steam distribution [heat]

to parts of the west campus." After the initial repair, each connection or turn will be welded to prevent further steam leaks. The entire process is estimated to last three to five days. Once the contractor has finished the repair, facility services will test the lines for leaks before insulating and burying the pipes again, after which steam will be restored to all of the buildings.

When asked about funding for the pipe replacement, Campbell said, "Safety, building functionality, and economics all play into our decisions on the best time to schedule the repair." She explained that the college budget contains funds for maintaining the college facilities, including money designated for critical emergency repairs. Meredith maintenance staff provides as much of the labor as possible; in this particular circumstance, the use of in-house crew for much of the excavation work saved the college an estimated \$2,500. The complete steam line repair is estimated to cost around \$18,000, not including the in-house excavation, and the cost of concrete sidewalk repair remains undetermined.

Religion and Ethical Studies: A Lesson in Learning

Aislinn Murphy, Staff Writer

Meredith's Religion and Philosophy department was identified as a program under review at the beginning of last year. The department met to generate some new ideas about how they wanted their department to be analyzed and decided to create a new major, Religious and Ethical Studies, which would communicate the department's focus more clearly to students and their future employers.

Until the beginning of last year, this academic sector of Meredith identified itself as the Religion and Philosophy department. Unless you were a student taking classes within that department, it was difficult to define the Religion and Philosophy major, and some students were weary of future employers not taking the major seriously. "Unfortunately, I don't think employers see the value of philosophy, but they do see the value of ethics," said Dr. Margarita Suarez, a professor in the department. This high regard for academic experience in ethics studies by employers influenced the department to finally alter their major - but although the name has changed, the values remain the same. "Ethics has always been a core part of this department, even when we were primarily a religion department. Ethics has always been an important part of what we teach," says Dr. Robert Vance.

Many students are unaware of what exactly they are getting into when they take a religion or ethics course, although the term ethics draws many students to the program as a desirable field of study. Dr. Shannon Grimes, a professor in Religious and Ethical Studies, stated that "one of the biggest misconceptions on learning religion and teaching religion is that people think it's all about beliefs and that maybe it's training

you to be part of the ministry, but [...] it's about culture; religion is the foundation of culture. It will help students understand what is happening globally."

Religion and Ethical Studies courses also provide values and skills that prove highly useful after college. Dr. Suarez reports that the major "prepare[s] students for the ability to think, and the ability to write, and the ability to speak cogently. And that is something that employers really value." This major will show future employers that its graduates are globally and ethically aware; have great writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills; and have an understanding and respect for diversity and different cultures. World Religion, Religion in the United States, Ethics of Love and Justice, and Religion and Film are all classes that would look interesting to future employers.

But aren't all of these skills being taught not only in the Religious and Ethical Studies major but throughout Meredith College? Dr. Stephen Benko said, "This major reflects the population of the faculty. It sticks to the core values that Meredith College is articulating about women being leaders, about women being ethical leaders." This major will look fantastic on résumés and future employers will enjoy having workers who are trained in critical, ethical thinking. If you are a Meredith student of undeclared major and are interested in attaining marketable, life-long skills, Religious and Ethical Studies may be the major for you.

Campus Announcements

Hiding: North Korean Refugees

A film and discussion presented by Liberty in North Korea

(LINK)

Nov. 10, 7 pm

Ledford 101

"Hiding" is a film about a group of North Korean refugees hiding in China today, and exposes their struggles to survive. The film will be followed by a discussion with "nomads" from the group Liberty in North Korea (LiNK), who travel the country raising awareness about the humanitarian crisis centered in North Korea.

While the world focuses on North Korea's security issue, hundreds of thousands of North Koreans continue to be enslaved in prison camps today. Up to 300,000 have also escaped to China seeking food, medicine, work, or freedom from political and religious oppression. Among the 300,000, 70 to 90 percent of North Korean women are trafficked and sold into the sex trade, and more and more refugees are fleeing to Southeast Asia to escape imprisonment upon repatriation by China.

Contact Hilary Smith for further details (smithhil@meredith.edu)

Announcement from Academic and Career Planning:

This summer marks the next installment of the North Carolina State Government Internship Program! Last summer, two Meredith students were accepted into the paid internship program. The internships provide over 100 college students with the opportunity to work in 29 different state agencies and departments across North Carolina. The summer program lasts for ten weeks and students in the program get the chance to get real-life experience in fields they're interested in. The NC Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office organized the state-wide program, attracting students from all majors and interests. Appointments within many state cultural organizations, such as the state museums, and other departments such as the NC Court of Appeals, have been made - the possibilities are virtually endless! This year, the deadline to apply is January 20, 2011. Meredith will be hosting an information session for the program on Friday, November 19th at 10am in ACP. The internship is open to sophomores (rising juniors), juniors (rising seniors), and seniors who are planning to attend graduate school.

Want your department's event featured in The Herald?
Email the details to
herald@email.meredith.edu