

Confessions of a Meredith Austenite

Lizzie Wood, Staff Writer



image via Meares

Allison Meares is a Senior English major working towards a Secondary Teaching Licensure. She's also an Austenite. These are her words.

"I would define an Austenite as being anyone who is completely passionate about Jane Austen. This would generally be someone who has read all of her books multiple times, knows quite a bit about her life, and generally collects at least one of her works of literature. In essence, it's someone who's fascinated with this incredible author and wants to know more about her. I feel like every Austenite has one defining moment in their lives that they can look back on and say, "Yep, that was it. That was the moment when I realized Jane Austen was the best author in the world." There are so many different levels of Austenites, but ultimately everyone is united under a common admiration for Jane Austen.

There are several reasons why I love her writing. The first is how I can find something in each of her books that directly relates to my life. I often find myself, as

I begin to read her books, identifying with a character within each one and ultimately feel as if I "become" that character, in a way. Another thing I love about her is the fact that in the end, all ends well. She may have tragedy in her romances, but every heroine always ends up with the right man in the end. I love this about her. Finally, her humor and wit is quite incredible. She's one of the few writers I have read who can hide pure sarcasm so well, and I think it's amazing.

There isn't a book by Austen I don't like. I've never been a big fan of Mansfield Park, honestly. But the rest of her works...I'd have a hard time choosing. I collect Northanger Abbey editions, but I'd be hard-pressed to rank it above all her other works. I think one thing people don't realize is that two of her works were published after she had died rather suddenly; Persuasion and Northanger Abbey were published as a set after her death. What's interesting about this is that Northanger Abbey, one of her earlier-written books, wasn't published until much later.

There are all kinds of Austenite gatherings, one of which is the Jane Austen Society of North America. There's a chapter here in North Carolina, in fact. I haven't had as much time lately to do much with JASNA, but I got involved through a former Meredith student two years ago. She invited me to one of their interest meetings, and it was amazing getting to meet other people who shared the same love of Austen as I did. I feel like there are various levels of Austenites, and there are very few true, deep lovers of Jane Austen within the world. Austen is an author who has the ability to link people from all majors and fields. I had a conversation recently with a friend who is an engineer major at NC State about Pride and Prejudice. It was interesting that, even though he hates English and I hate engineering, we were able to come together over the same, simple novel and our opinions of the characters."

If you would like more information about JASNA, feel free to explore their website in more detail: <http://jasna.org/>

Freshman Election Results

Emily Hawkins, Layout Editor

Freshman Elections were held on September 12-13th. The winners are as follows:

President:
Elizabeth Barfield

Vice President:
Meghan Bradshaw

Secretary:
Marlena Brown

Treasurer:
open

Cornhuskin' Co-Chairs:
Alexie Mina and Samantha-Kate Shuford

Stunt Co-Chairs:
open

Elections Board Reps (3):
open

Student Life Reps (3):
Amanda Hall, Taylor Haines, open

Honor Council Reps (2):
Alexis Trell, open

Senators (3):
Sarah Elizabeth Crinkley, Elizabeth Marshall, open

Please consider applying for any of the open positions. Email Elizabeth Barfield (embarfie@email.meredith.edu) with any questions or interest.

Advertise Here!

contact:

herald@email.meredith.edu