

THE HERALD

MEREDITH

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Meredith Surveys Students on Religious Views

Beth Langley, staff writer

On Mar. 1, Meredith students will receive an email asking them to complete the Campus Religious and Spiritual Climate Survey. This survey will gauge the diversity of different religious and cultural backgrounds found on Meredith's campus.

While this is a national survey, Meredith is excited to use the results to better accommodate its students. The purpose is to see how students feel towards backgrounds that are different from their own, and use that information to make them feel more welcomed. The results of this survey will help the Admissions Office and Residence Life, as well as other areas on campus welcome students in a way that will make them feel most comfortable.

This is a religious and spiritual survey, but it is for all students regardless of beliefs. Associate

Professor and Program Coordinator of Religious and Ethical Studies, Dr. Shannon Grimes, says, "I want to emphasize this includes people who aren't religious or who may be spiritual but aren't religious or atheist." Dr. Grimes adds that the survey will ask questions such as, "How do you feel about an interfaith space on campus, and how would you want it to look?"

The survey is not a test about different religions and cultures. It gauges the attitudes of students about these topics. Dr. Grimes expects the students will take the time to reflect on their own beliefs, as well as the beliefs of others.

Students are encouraged to take the survey in order to make sure the results are as accurate as possible. Prizes will be awarded to randomly selected participants, as well as an opportunity to have lunch with President Allen and discuss the importance of

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religious diversity on campus. The results of the survey will be available in August and will be discussed and implemented in 2015. It has not yet been decided how the results will be distributed. Dr. Grimes is open to suggestions and would appreciate students' input on how they would like the results to be delivered. Suggestions can be sent to Dr. Grimes or Rev. Stacy Pardue, Campus Chaplain.

Moral March: "Forward Together, Not One Step Back!"

Jenny Gerardo, staff writer

More than 80,000 people participated in the Moral March to support a diverse arrange of social and political movements on Saturday, Feb. 8. The march was the largest protest in the southeast since 1965. Among the 80,000 thousand people who marched together down Wilmington Street Saturday morning chanting "Forward Together, Not one Step Back!" was a small group of Meredith students. Two Meredith College students in attendance were Rebecca Wyatt and Lourdes Camacho, both social work majors. "The Moral March was a unique opportunity to see people from many causes join together and stand for justice and equality," commented Wyatt.

Camacho was also excited to take part in an organized protest for the first time and felt that her time at Meredith made the event more meaningful. "I am working with homeless women and low income families. I could identify so much with the inequalities addressed during the march," she said. Currently completing an internship at Urban Ministries as part of her social work major, Camacho added "I was very excited to take part in my first march, especially when a Meredith social work student, Allison Pappas, was so involved."

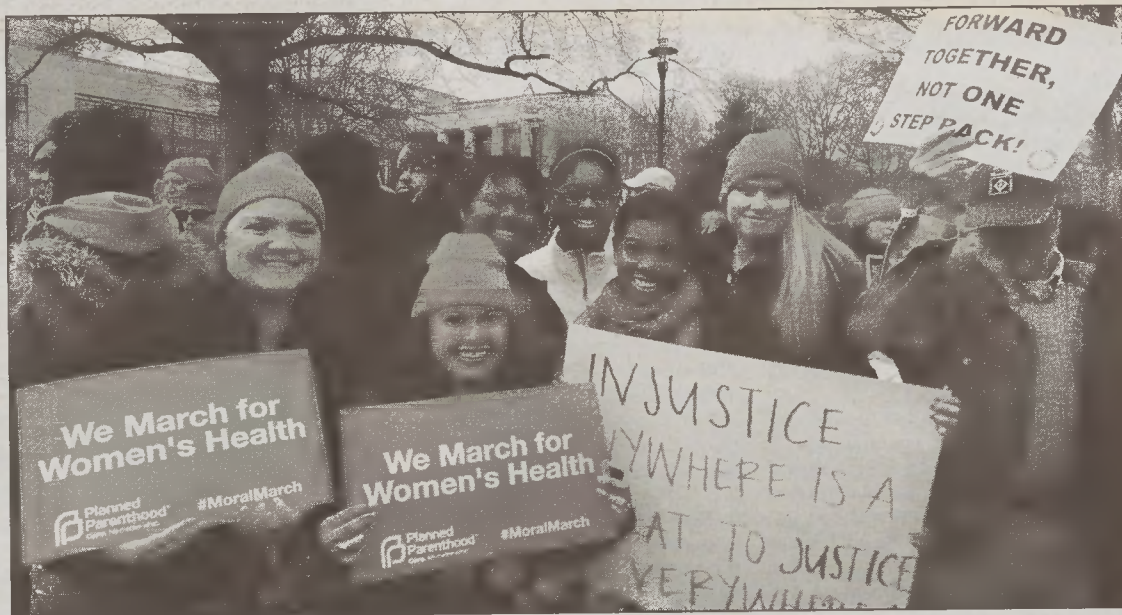


photo courtesy of Jenny Gerardo

Meredith students, Allison Pappas and Taylor Hudgins were involved as a part of Planned Parenthood, one of the 150 partners of the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ). As an intern for Planned Parenthood, Pappas' primary duty was to help increase college participation and recruit 500 supporters. Hudgins is

Planned Parenthood's Affordable Care Act intern and helped with organization during the march.

Pappas explained that The Moral March was a continuation of the Moral Monday protests that occurred in the summer of 2013. The movement started in 2006 with the formation of the HKonJ People's Assembly Coal-

tion. Over the course of seven years it has accumulated 150 partners. On Saturday the president of the NAACP, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber and many other local North Carolina leaders stated that it was necessary for people to come together to fight the "non-progressive" actions of the North Carolina General Assembly.

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