

THE HERALD

MEREDITH

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FYE Classes Give Back

Olivia Hanley, staff writer

On Sept. 10, the First Year Experience classes brought in small white girls' tennis shoes to decorate. Students decorated the shoes with Sharpie markers and then packed them up to go all the way to Ghana with the 2015 Meredith College Service Trip to Accra. There, they will be distributed among villagers in need, along with eyeglasses. Healthcare and medical attention and educational opportunities will also be available to villagers.

FYE students usually participate in a service event like this one. Previous events include a 24-hour Rock-a-thon to raise money for Meredith's Tide of Hope Tsunami Relief Efforts and an 11-hour Brick-a-thon to raise money for a Meredith-sponsored Habitat-for Humanity House. But does

decorating tennis shoes stand up to the legacy other service projects that Meredith freshmen have participated in the past?

An anonymous teacher's assistant from an FYE class gave her thoughts on the matter, saying perhaps this is not the case. "I just worry that we've started to think more on whether our service projects are fun for the volunteers than on whether we're really striving to make a difference," she said. "These little girls in Ghana are going to be getting shoes, yes, and some would argue that's all that matters. But they're getting shoes that have been decorated by women in another country who have the time and money to sit down and have fun decorating these shoes before they donate them." She argued that the

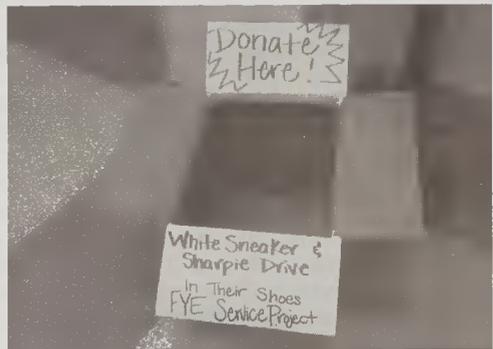


photo: Julia Dent

volunteers don't know who their pair of shoes is going to or if that girl will like the design; they're just enjoying the "fun" of the service project. When asked how she would change the project, she replied, "Let's spend our volunteer efforts on raising money, and send twice as many shoes to Ghana—and while we're at it, why not send

the girls there the markers so that they can enjoy decorating their shoes the way they want them?"

Whether they get to decorate their own shoes or not, the girls in Ghana will definitely be glad for the volunteer effort of the FYE classes of Meredith College. Keep up the good work, Class of 2018!

Summer Research Sets Meredith Students Apart

Bri Crumbley, staff writer

There are many opportunities available to students from the moment they set foot onto campus, and this summer 20 Meredith College women were given the chance to pursue their academic interests through the Undergraduate Research Program's Summer Research Partnership.

The research program as a whole guides Meredith students to not only acquire knowledge but to find confidence in their ability to share and present ideas. The program's director Dr. Paul Winterhoff believes that at Meredith, "the depth and quality of personal interactions between faculty and students in doing undergraduate research is exceptional." He also finds that "the particular advantage for attainment of a liberal education of both depth and breadth serves students well throughout their lives."

In supervising this year's researchers, Winterhoff was "struck by the particular focused engagement of the group and their willingness to ask each other questions, try to get to a deeper understanding of each others' research and the particular challenges they faced." Adding that the "willingness to work, to discover, to fail and come back up more focused and determined make the SRP program a joy."

This year's group included a wide range of projects. Research partners focused on bettering our understanding of humanity through analysis of the representation of women in media, searching for the essence of female identity, investigating men's roles in American trafficking or expanding on the previously published Status of Girls report.

In the natural sciences, some researchers spent their summers observing clams, analyzing weather patterns, extracting dyes from fruits and vegetables and developing plastics, while others participated in the Environmental Sustainability Initiative and mentored students from the North Carolina School of Science and Math in sustainability-related research projects. To learn more about the projects completed this summer and see what Undergraduate Research is all about, stop by and check out Taste of Research, today at 4 p.m. in Carlyle Campbell Library.

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