

News

Meredith College Political Science Poll

Laura Douglass, Layout Editor

2016 is going to be a huge year for both politics and women's rights. With Hillary Clinton as the expected presidential front-runner, it is essential to understand the opinions that citizens have of women in political office, which includes both positive benefits and negative consequences.

The first week of February, Dr. David McLennan and Dr. Whitney Manzo of the Meredith Political Science department gathered twenty students to learn more about North Carolinians' attitudes towards women as political leaders. Students called voters from all over the state of North Carolina. Each call was set up on a survey taking system, which allowed their

demographics to be taken into account.

"We wanted to discover the attitudes of voters in the state about women leaders—their characteristics, strengths and challenges," said McLennan.

That's what they did. Students talked to everyone from feminists to male chauvinists. People were honest, which was the goal.

"I thought the poll was very successful," McLennan said. "It was the first in what I hope is a series of polls that establishes Meredith as a place that studies important issues involving women and develops programs to address these problems."

The intention is for the poll to be yearly.

With women serving in office in higher numbers, it's predicted that North Carolinians will become more content with the idea. McLennan stated that he expects to see a shift in opinion.

The results of the poll should be published on the Meredith College website and elsewhere in early March.

"Once we finish analyzing the results, we release the results to journalists around the state, lawmakers, and women's organizations. The hope is that the issue of women's underrepresentation in elected offices will become a more prominent issue and more women, who see that the public values them as leaders, decide to run for office more frequently."

More Deaths by ISIL

Sona Salahuddin, Contributing Writer

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as ISIL or ISIS, has caused much chaos in the past month. In early February, ISIL released a video of Moaz al-Kassabeh, a Jordanian pilot, being burned alive in a cage. The 26-year-old pilot was taken hostage in Syria after his jet crashed there in late December. Al-Kassabeh was participating in the U.S.-led bombing raids in Syria and is the first of the U.S.-led group to be captured. In response, there were three days of traditional public mourning by Jordanians who have expressed their grief and anger at this event.

Jordan has also responded by executing two of their prisoners who were said to be linked to Al-Qaeda. They have also sent dozens of airstrikes over Syria and Iraq against the ISIL targets. Recently, Bahrain has also pledged to aid Jordan in the fight against ISIL by providing Bahraini Defense Forces for them.

ISIL then released a video in mid-February showing their fighters beheading 21 Egyptian Christians who were kidnapped in Libya. The 21 victims were mainly young men who travelled to Libya for work and were kidnapped in December and January from the city of Sirte.

In response to the video, Egypt has banned its citizens from travelling to Libya. The day after the release of the video, Egyptians jets started bombing ISIL targets in Libya. This is just one of many events in which ISIL has been killing hostages. The group has already beheaded three Americans, two Japanese hostages and two British aid workers in recent months. U.S.-led air strikes against the terrorist group has killed 1600 people in the past couple of months; the majority of them were members of the group, and 62 of them were civilians.



via Getty Images

Communication Club Tours UNC-TV

Kat Bonner, Contributing Writer

On Feb. 21, members of the Meredith College Communication Club got up bright and early to volunteer at UNC-TV from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The club traveled to the TV station in Durham and went through a brief training before going into the studio to answer phones.

Last year, the club also volunteered with UNC-TV. They loved it so much that they decided to return. This volunteer experience has led fellow Angels pursuing a communication degree to acquire an internship with UNC-TV. Vice President Noel Fox said, "I know it's early and it is hard to get up, but I had so much fun last year, and there is free food."

The volunteering was similar to the phonathon here at Meredith College. Members were answering phones in hopes that viewers would become UNC-TV sustainers. While volunteering, there were a lot of children's shows televised. This led to an increase in kids calling the TV station or their parents calling on behalf

of them. There were more than just Meredith students volunteering, and it was encouraging to see how much they loved volunteering there, which made the experience rewarding.

The club hopes to continue to volunteer with UNC-TV in the coming years and hopefully volunteer with other companies as well. The Communication Club has many events coming up in the next few months. On Feb. 26, the club toured 101.5 the radio station. On Apr. 25, the club is also having a fundraiser at the Applebee's on Hillsborough Street from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. They will be selling tickets the week of Apr. 13, and there will be pancakes and other breakfast food at the fundraiser. More information will come in the next few months, so mark your calendars now!

For more information about all of the events and fundraisers, follow the Communication Club on Facebook and Twitter @MereComClub.



via Noel Fox