

The Meredith Herald

April 27, 2016

A Farewell From the Editor: New Beginnings

Over this past semester as Editor-in-Chief, I've realized that in order for the paper's reach on campus to grow, The Herald staff must also grow. We need to draw in all the talent our community has to offer. So, Meredith students: no matter your major, we need you next semester. Also, note that it's possible to work with your advisor to earn internship or experiential credit for your work with us. Here's what we need:

Advertising Manager(s):
Pursue new advertisers from the local area (think Jasmine, across the street), coordinate design and publication of advertisements, follow up on payments.

Photographer(s):
Attend events and take photos for print issues and online.

Social Media Manager(s):
Update and maintain The Herald's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Copy Editor(s):
Proofread articles for print and online articles.

Photo Credits: Abigail Wilson

Last Friday, April 22, the senior class gathered in dressy casual outfits in celebration of being only 16 nights away from being graduates of Meredith College. This event included writing letters to themselves to read at their five-year reunion, a slideshow of pictures and videos from the last four years, and also trivia questions that only Meredith's Sweet Sixteens would know the answers to.



The Final Tradition

Brooke Mayo, Staff Writer

An excerpt from "Class Day to Feature Monday Program" from May 28, 1932: "The friends and relatives of the graduating class will assemble in the grove, where the exercises will take place. The Sophomore class will carry the daisy-chain, singing the traditional class-day song of the even classes and the Seniors will march down to their places.

The program will consist of songs by the Sophomore class... and the Senior class; the reading of the class history, poem, and prophecy, and the presentation of the gift to the college... the president of the incoming Senior class will receive the cap and gown from the Senior president... and also the traditional shepherd's crook, which will this year still be wearing the Senior colors.

As a conclusion to the program the Seniors will march back through the daisy-chain aisle, while their little sisters sing the Alma Mater. The Sophomores will then form a huge '34 with the daisy-chain on the steps of Johnson Hall, signifying that they as a class have taken fully over the customs and traditions of the even classes."

Ask any average student here at Meredith, and she'll tell you that our traditions stand out and set us apart

from any other college. However, the traditions have changed over the years, and many have either stopped completely or have recently evolved. For instance, did you know that we used to celebrate May Day and that we used to have a May Queen? (She was comparable to a Homecoming Queen from our high school years.) And of course 16th Night (and 15th Night and 14th Night and etc.) is new. I'm curious as to how long this tradition is going to last. Will there be a 50th Night? I doubt it, and, if we do, then it definitely won't have the same effect as it currently does for the seniors. And yet, Class Day has stayed.

Class Day is undeniably one of our most important and memorable traditions at Meredith College. How often does any other college have half of their student body dress up in beautiful white dresses to represent unity and love? As one of this year's senior Class Day co-chairs, I, along with my other co-chair Sarah Haseeb, have made it my mission to make this event one of the best memories that the Classes of 2016 and 2018 will have of their years at this school. In doing so, we recognize the importance of keeping tradition, but we are also comfortable with switching things up a little bit.

Eighty-four years ago, in 1932, one of 2016's very own grand-sister classes was in the same shoes as we are in now: about to step away from the comfortable bubble that Meredith allows us to grow in and also trying to figure out where we fit into this world. It's a nerve-racking experience, but it's also reassuring to know that we will always have our Meredith community to support us. The Class of 1932's Class Day was very different than what this year's will look like, especially in regards to the fact that the sophomore class spelled out their own year – not the graduating class's year!

Sophomores no longer need to go to daisy fields to pick daisies, but the picking of ivy in the wee hours of the morning has remained the same. The classes do sing to each other, but we have incorporated the Bathtub Ring into the events since the early '30s. We now hold the whole event in the amphitheater, and the poem and prophecy is no longer a part of the program. However, we still talk about our history, present our Class Gift, give the junior class president a cap and gown from the senior class president, and – yes – this year's crook will also be looking extravagant with our class colors adorning it! As much as we're slightly dreading it, we know that the

formation of "16" in the amphitheater will be a stunning (and tear-jerking) sight.

The Classes of 2016 and 2018 are in for a treat: Sarah Haseeb and I have been working tirelessly all year with Cheryl Jenkins in SLS to make this event the best that it can be. We've had a lot of help, too! The 2018 Class Day co-chairs, Emily Chilton and Katelyn Espenship, have worked hard to represent the sophomore class, and they've made being in charge of one of Meredith College's biggest annual traditions a lot easier! We've also recruited seniors Langley Kelly, Caitlyn Corbett, and Tess Coleman to coordinate the Class Day picnic details, which has divided the responsibilities out that this event has built up over the years.

Class Day has gotten a lot bigger since 1932, and it usually only involves the classes and families of those that have a part in the event. Nevertheless, the whole Meredith community is a family, and Class Day is an open invite for anybody that wishes to attend and say farewell to the graduating seniors the day before commencement.

STAFF

Rachel Pratt, Editor in Chief. Emily Chilton, Assistant / A&E Editor. Cheyenne Williams, Op-Ed Editor. Laura Douglass, News Editor. Faith Rogers, Layout Designer.

Olivia McElvaney, Online Editor. Instagram Manager, Sarah Kiser. Twitter Manager, Valerie Bobola. Sarah Haseeb, Website Designer.

Staff Writers: Katrina Thomas, Brooke Mayo, Caroline Garrett, Niki Bell, Kat Bonner, Kayla Kushner, Alexa Ianuale, Sarah Kiser, M'Beyanna Robinson, Katie Murphy, Baileigh Jones