

# News

## NASA Chief Scientist to Speak at 2016 Commencement

Rachel Crawford, Staff Writer

On Saturday, May 7th, NASA Chief Scientist Ellen Stofan will add one more accomplishment to her already-long resume: delivering a commencement speech for Meredith's class of 2016. Dr. Stofan is an alumna of Brown University's graduate school and William & Mary's undergraduate school. Today, as the top scientist at NASA, Stofan studies the geology of Venus, Mars, Saturn's moon Titan, and our own planet. She has participated in technological missions to explore

these parts of our solar system, and her contributions to the field of geology have been critical to understanding the planets and moons of our galaxy and beyond.

In addition to her work at NASA, Stofan has worked in private research and in college academics in the field of geology. Dr. Stofan has published professional research in several formats, chaired committees like the National Research Council Inner Planets Panel, and received

honors like the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

In delivering the commencement speech for Meredith's graduating class, Stofan joins the ranks of many successful business executives, politicians, activists, philanthropists, authors, journalists, and our very own President Allen. Dr. Stofan's message to the class of 2016 is sure to be one like no other, not only because she has the unique ability to

genuinely tell students that they can reach for the stars, but also because her involvement in STEM gives her a perspective that many other community leaders can't provide. Her incredible accomplishments at NASA will undoubtedly inspire those of the class of 2016 who are receiving diplomas in STEM categories, but Stofan's success in her career can inspire any Meredith alumna to pursue her goals without fear or hesitation, whatever those goals may be.

## Seniors' Favorite Memories

Staying up all night picking ivy before Class Day! \* Getting to live with my favorite Meredith girl for half of my college experience: EVEN though you're ODD, I love you and will miss you very much Alexandra Baker! \* Staying up all night for our final Cornhuskin practice. \* Going to Guardian Angel with my dad and Tea for Two with my mom! \* Even though it rained during corn practice we had some of the best laughs. \* Getting

my onyx! \* Cornhuskin! \* Meeting my Little! \* Getting my ring! \* Getting to be with all my sisters when we got our onyx. \* Bonding with all 2016ers during Senior Corn. \* Freshman orientation week. \* Ring Dinner! \* Fire and Water Dinner. \* Attending Capital One and shadowing a VP of Operations (Broyhill Business Fellows). \* Joining Wings as a freshman! \* Senior Cornhuskin' and successfully hiding the crook from the Juniors! \* Winning Stunt BACK

TO BACK. (But no big deal) \* Being a varsity basketball player (Specifically sweeping Peace this year). \* Meeting my freshmen roommate who happens to still be my best friend. Shout out Jordan Lassiter! \* Onyx! \* Long hours in the English Department and working for the most delightful professors you can imagine. \* My lifetime friends! \* Presenting my honors thesis research in Seattle. \* Performing my senior recital! \* Experiencing Class Day as

sophomores with our Big Sis class! \* Fire and Water! \* My friends' and I late night ranting/discussion/just talking sessions. \* Being in the welcome skit for the Class of 2019. \* Seeing "Alice in Wonderland" as a senior! \* Study Abroad! \* Every moment spent in A&P I and II with Dr. Mecham! \* Receiving my onyx! \* Senior Spring Formal. \* Waiting in line to see "Alice in Wonderland" literally all day!

## Leaving our Mark: Seniors Suggest Classes at Meredith

All the classes I took during both Study Abroad trips that shaped my love for Central American culture and fueled my love of traveling and serving others. \* I owe so much to the English and Business Departments, but the one class that has truly changed my life is African American Literature with Dr. Johnson. I'll never be able to look at the world the same again, and I'm thankful for how eye-opening this class was about the American society! \* My retail buying class taught me principles I will use in every job I have in the fashion field. \* Learning how dance can be used as a power means of activism in Dance as Aesthetic Activism with Dr. Shapiro! The lessons I learned in this class formed the basis of my Honors Thesis! \* Apparel design and development is where I learned to put everything I learned in fashion all together. \* Exploring careers in Psychology because it helped me polish my professionalism. It also taught me how to present myself on paper. \* The lessons I learned in Practice with Individuals led by Professor Amanda Jones has been the most meaningful and taught me how to be a Social Worker. I'm already

using those skills in my current field placement. \* The skills I learned in my Social Work Practice with Individuals class taught me the necessary skills to interact with people. I learned how to spot many different red flag behaviors and how to be a better listener and a more understanding and culturally competent person. \* Dr. Ellis - Enough said! \* My Writing of fiction class was one of the best experiences for me. I got to be creative and let people read and be receptive of my work. \* Intro to Sociology: I learned how the world and people work. \* The way Dr. Hurt teaches Business Strategy has left me feeling very prepared to enter the real world. \* Honors Colloquium Omnivore's Dilemma with Dr. Landis definitely helped me visualize the importance of healthy eating and living a better lifestyle. \* The class that has had the biggest impact on me is Managerial Accounting because this class instilled in me the ability to find information within an annual report which I have used in multiple classes since. \* Business Operations! \* The class that left the most impact on me was Individuals in SWK with Amanda Jones. She taught us real practice

concepts that I used while interning. \* Public Speaking because it gave me skills that I can use in the "real world" after graduation. \* Anything with Dr. McNamee - He is so kind and passionate about making his students feel important! \* My honors colloquial about the perfect drug came in handy during my pharmacy school interviews. \* Biomedical ethics with Dr. Benko. This is because I was able to speak my mind about female rights and dominance throughout the health field. I felt empowered and he was an awesome teacher! \* The Great Food Debate. I changed all of my life goals after learning about biotechnology and the potential to feed more people and save lives! \* Global Slavery in a Historical Context. Dr Fountain is truly intelligent, articulate, and inspiring. \* Senior exhibition! \* The type of analysis demanded by Popular Culture Studies (that's the course) exemplifies the ideal thought process that a liberal arts education should impart and analyzes popular culture requires that makes the strange the familiar. In the words of David Foster Wallace, "What is Water?" \* The lessons I learned in my student teaching were

invaluable for my future career as a music educator. \* The connections I made during CD-335 really helped to shape my future and career choices. \* The art department as a whole made such a positive impact on who I am and who I want to become. \* I thoroughly enjoyed the Social Justice class in the Social Work department. It truly helped me see the world through brand new, and sometimes critical, eyes. \* What I learned in Sin, Satan, and Evil about how we consider those three ideas is incredible. \* Media, Culture, and Society taught by Doug Spero in Communication. It taught me a lot about American history, and the history of my career field. It sparked interest in me that led to my thesis research! \* I really enjoyed theories of counseling because we learned many important aspects of treating people fairly. \* Business Law - Wow! \* My Gender Communication class because I loved my professor. \* The real life applications I can make due to Microbiology and Medical Parasitology. \* Geoscience because we were able to take a field trip to the beach!

## Women of MC

Katie Murphy, Staff Writer

"In high school I would never ask for help. I did everything myself. When I came to college, I was super confident that I did not need anyone else's help. Meredith has helped me realize that it is okay to ask for help. It's hard to be vulnerable and admit to needing someone else's help, but it's a valuable skill. I think that I would not be going to graduate school at Auburn, much less have a full ride, if I hadn't gone to my professors and talked to them and asked them for help. And I certainly would not have succeeded as an RA without asking for help. I think we are lucky at Meredith to be in a community that supports people who are vulnerable enough to ask for help, and I don't think we would have that at a larger university."

