

# News

## Occupy Oak Tree: Clay People Protest Nature Neglect

Have you noticed the little clay people in and around the large tree between Joyner and the library? If you haven't, you've missed out on a cute and mysterious art project that has been the source of much wondering. They'll only be there for a little while longer, so go take a look! Jackie Manning managed to track down the creator, Katherine Grayson, who had this to say about her project:

The project is part of my honors thesis. A studio portion will come later, but I have a couple more of these installations to go. I went to Iceland this summer and studied history and environmental issues with Dr. Grathwohl and Dr. Grimes. Iceland is largely without trees--1-2% remains forested. I felt kind of empty without trees around everywhere and I thought about it and talked about it a lot while we were there. When we got back it was like walking into a crazy, diverse jungle. I loved it.

However, there has been some drama in my hometown involving the grocery industry, of all things. Brand new stores are being

opened where forests once stood and existing storefronts are being abandoned and left



vacant. It hasn't happened once, but several times. Frankly, it makes my heart sick. Particularly with hurricane Matthew this year, it appears that when people notice nature, it tends to be only as a destructive force or as something that gets in the way of advancement. The drive is to control it.

I desperately want people to see a different side to the story. I want us to work toward keeping as many existing trees as we can, and planting

some to make up for what we've already destroyed--a hippie's dream, I know.

However, I'm not totally insane. I know that no amount of convincing chatter will change people's hearts. Many people don't have positive experiences in nature to draw from. I can't expect that anyone would commit to preserving our forests when they don't notice the trees (and as a result, don't notice them disappear)--or worse, notice in a negative way and are only relieved when the trees are gone. By hopefully giving people a positive experience in nature and encouraging people to look at some really fabulous trees,

the goal of these little people is to open a doorway for conversation about our forests.



Photos courtesy of Jacquelyn Manning



## Meredith Ensemble Theatre Presents *Suddenly Last Summer*

From [meredith.edu](http://meredith.edu)

Meredith Ensemble Theatre will present *Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams, November 8-13, 2016. Performances are Tuesday, Nov. 8-Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov.

13 at 3 p.m. in Studio Theatre of Jones Hall.

In this modern classic tragedy told by one of the South's greatest writers, the only son of wealthy widow Violet Venable dies while on vaca-

tion with his cousin Catherine. What the girl saw was so horrible that she went insane. Now Mrs. Venable wants Catherine lobotomized to cover up the truth.

Tickets are free for Mer-

edith students, faculty, and staff, \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students.

Reservations may be made by calling the box office at 919-760-2840 or [boxoffice@meredith.edu](mailto:boxoffice@meredith.edu).

## Voter Registration Problems

Yessy Anorve-Basoria, Staff Writer

Whenever elections take place, whether they are state, town, or especially presidential elections, the United States encounters some kind of complaint. This year's complaint was about the touch screen voting machines. North Carolinians have spoken out about the problems that they encountered where the machine mis-

identifies the voter's choice. According to WRAL, counties that have been encountering the mishap included Cumberland, New Hanover, Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Catawba.

North Carolina Public Radio, a media outlet that allows NC residents to report and listen to news, reported, "It can be unnerving for vot-

ers and often leads to allegations that the machines have been 'rigged' to favor one candidate over another." However, NCPR reassured the state that although "some machines are flipping votes...that doesn't mean they're rigged."

So what was the cause of this problem? Many of these computers are old and even if

they were calibrated daily, they were still not in top condition.

On the bright side, voters were highly encouraged to view their ballots and make corrections if necessary; no other problems other than technical problems were reported when casting a vote.