

The Meredith Herald

March 22, 2017

Meredith Creates Time Capsule to Be Opened 50 Years From Now

What's Inside?

Emma Gomes, Staff Writer

Compressed into a bucket-sized time capsule, over 40 valuable items wait to be unearthed by Meredith Angels 50 years down the line. With the help of Dr. Daniel Fountain, Carrie Nichols, and Meredith's SGA, a variety of memorabilia from the 2015-2016 school year was placed into the time capsule in commemoration of Meredith's 125th Anniversary. Among these items were photographs, letters from current students to future students, a video compilation of students and faculty members speaking about their hopes and dreams for Meredith's future, articles from The Meredith Herald, and digital images of both the historical marker that stood at the entrance of Meredith's campus, as well as photos of the new marker. In 2067, the unveiling of these artifacts will be intriguing for some and emotional for others.

Is There Another Capsule Hidden?

Carolina Brust, Staff Writer

A senior member of the Centennial Committee previously recalled there being another time capsule, which led the committee to search for evidence to prove its existence.

However, other members from the centennial committee report no memory of any capsule to begin with. Additionally, there was no record of the supposed capsule in the archives or any campus publications.

For those who continue to believe in the mystery, Dr. Fountain offers the following advice:

"Keep hope alive. Keep your eyes on the ground for areas of erosion. If you believe, good luck finding records." He adds, "I'd love to hear from you."

Leslie Arreaza: Resilient Student Writer

Morgan Whithaus, Op-Ed Editor

Attending a high school where the default mindset for seniors was that college is not a viable option, sophomore Leslie Arreaza clearly defies that mentality.

With the help of a high school counselor who pushed her older brother to attend college, Arreaza attended community college before transferring to Meredith. Due to this counselor's impact on her life, as well as a peer mentoring program she participated in during high school, Arreaza is now studying psychology with hopes of becoming a high school psychologist or counselor.

Displaying resilience, Arreaza has worked hard to get herself to Meredith. Before attending Meredith, she spent most of her time, when she was not working at Starbucks, studying for her classes at community college. She also became a medical translator, since she speaks both English and Spanish fluently.

Additionally, Arreaza has been named a scholar through the Golden Door Scholars program, which promotes economic mobility for undocumented students and invests in education and career access for high-performing undocumented students. Without the Golden Door program, it would have been incredibly difficult for her to attend Meredith because as an undocumented immigrant, she is not eligible for in-state tuition



Photo by Morgan Whithaus

and federal and state funding such as the Federal Pell Grant and the North Carolina Need-Based Scholarship that some students at Meredith benefit from.

Although Arreaza is an undocumented immigrant, which means that she does not have a legal right to be in the United States, she does qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA gives certain eligible undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16 two years' relief from deportation, according to Nolo.com.

It is not a path to permanent U.S. residency and it is only temporary, but DACA makes it much more feasible for an undocumented student to receive a higher education than an undocumented student without DACA. (There have been indications that the Trump Administration may cancel the program, but no decisions have

been made yet.)

"Being an immigrant, to me, means not taking for granted the opportunities that America has to offer: I worked hard, ailed through school, to prove myself and to show my classmates that I was as American as they were," Arreaza writes in an article recently featured in the News & Observer. "Amid the violence and uncertainty of postwar Guatemala, I had dreamed simply of going to school without fear."

Besides having her article featured in the News & Observer, Arreaza also posts her writing on Medium, an open platform site, and was recently selected to be a contributing writer for The Huffington Post. She believes that writing helps her to best educate others about undocumented immigration because she can easily reach a large audience.

"I believe that for a lot of the issues we have, not just regarding immigration, but

regarding everything, the problem is that people tend to look at us [immigrants] as numbers and not as people," Arreaza said. "So the moment that they start looking at us as people, that's when [discrimination and stereotypes] stop."

Aside from writing, Arreaza also enjoys spending her time at Meredith by participating in community service and advocating off-campus. She is an active participant in Angeles Latinas where she is thinking about

running for office in the future, and she also helped co-found the new Immigrants and Refugee Club on campus. She is currently serving as the vice president of the organization.

As a force to be reckoned with, Arreaza is determined to reach her goals and to continue to advocate for undocumented immigrants and their rights.

"Young immigrants like me, who were raised in America and identify as American, are called DREAMers for a reason: it's because we're marked by our dreams, our ambitions and our determination to make a positive difference in our communities," Arreaza writes. "We love our country, and now it's time for our country to take action, and help us to keep our dream alive."

Arreaza's News & Observer article can be found at <http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article134136404.html>.