

The Meredith Herald

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Little Black Ring Sightings

Tishya Robertson, Staff Writer

The Meredith onyx has linked Meredith Angels far and wide since the Class of 1954 first slipped it on their fingers. The Class of 2019 will slip on their rings this Friday at Raleigh Marriott City Center, beginning a lifetime full of chance encounters, networking opportunities, and more. Here are just a few stories from current and former students.

"I was at a cast party the winter before my Freshman year. I saw this gal who I didn't know mingling with some of my castmates, and when she gestured, I noticed the Onyx on her finger. I blurted out "are you going to Meredith?" Turns out, she was an alumna, and we exchanged information so she could put me in touch with some of her professors. As we messaged back and forth, we realized we had a lot more in common than just Meredith, and became fast friends. She was one of the first people I saw when I finally got my Onyx, and we realized that hers was the whole reason we'd been friends for three years!"
-Ann Cox, '18

"I've met so many Meredith alumnae by seeing their rings

-- while shopping, at the dry cleaner's, doctors' offices, even at an out of state rest area -- always followed by the question, "Are you a Meredith grad?" That is always followed by a big smile, a yes, and questions about what year we graduated, majors, and a long list of favorite professors. It's always the same and it never gets old. The Meredith onyx ring is more than just a lovely piece of jewelry; it leads us to friends we haven't met yet and connects us to our memories of that special place on Hillsborough Street."
-Marva Watkins, '86

"I currently work for supply chain corporate offices for a roofing supply distribution company, which is heavily male-dominated. I've been blessed with opportunities to travel with this job, and I seem to always have somebody recognize my onyx ring. Whether I'm here in the Goldsboro office or in Wilmington or Savannah, at least one male co-worker will come up to me and say, "Hey! My sister/girlfriend/wife/best friend/etc went to Meredith!" And that is usually paired with "Are you an even or an odd?" And/or "Did you do Cornhuskin?" This has allowed me

to have many wonderful icebreaker conversations with my male peers, as they are genuinely interested to hear about my old glory days back in Wonderland. It still pleasantly surprises me to this day just how recognizable our rings are. It's a nice reminder that I'm still a part of the sisterhood, no matter where I am."
-Brooke Mayo, '16

"I was on a tour bus in Ireland with Tia Joyce in the summer of 2015. We were riding from Dublin out to the Cliffs of Moher, when we noticed that the lady seated in front of us had an onyx. When Tia showed the lady her onyx, she told us that she graduated in 2011 and was an au pair in Paris. I took a couple of onyx pictures for Tia at the Cliffs of Moher with our new friend :)"
-Katie Murphy, '18

"Once, I was driving on an interstate in Illinois with friends and saw a car with both Meredith College and University of Illinois decals on it. I whooped and asked the friend who was driving the car in which I was a passenger to speed up. We did and pulled alongside the car with decals of



Photo Courtesy of Ann Cox.

both of my alma maters. I started enthusiastically pointing to my Meredith ring, which mystified the male driver of the other car. But the woman beside him started bouncing up and down, pointing to her ring. We signaled to each other to pull over at the next exit, and we had an impromptu alumnae meeting right there on the prairie."
-Dr. Jean Jackson, '75

Read more onyx stories on the Herald's website: <https://meredithherald.wordpress.com/>.

What to Expect at This Year's State Fair

Ashely Ricks, Staff Writer

Imagine walking around the fairgrounds with the crisp, cold, fall air whipping your face, screams and laughter all around, and the amazing waft of fair food cooking everywhere. This is what the North Carolina State Fair is like. The North Carolina State Fair is coming to Raleigh on Oct. 12 and staying through Oct. 22. This fun event offers a variety of attractions, including daring rides, intriguing food, fascinating exhibits, loud tractor pulls, and adorable best in show animals.

This year the North Carolina State Fair is celebrating their 150th anniversary with an abundance of new food being offered. As usual, there are many new deep fried options added to the menu this year, but in addition to fried foods,

there are many other unusual, yet delicious sounding foods available for the first time.

Some of the new deep fried foods include: pumpkin pie, bacon and cheese collard bites, chocolate pie, apple pie, dirty rice, and crab cake cheese curds, and Cheerwine funnel cake. One of the most intriguing fried foods is the new B.A.D. Chix, which is eggs, bacon, and cheese layered on top of a chicken strip, all wrapped in a hot cake, and then topped with maple syrup. Some new foods that are not fried include bacon mac & cheese, bacon wrapped scallops, Flamin' Hot Cheetos roasted corn, Cheerwine cake, and Thanksgiving egg rolls. A new funnel cake, the Blue Hawaiian Funnel Cake, takes on a Hawaiian

twist, consisting of a brown sugar funnel cake topped with pineapple, praline, whipped cream, and cherries. Admission to the fair is \$10 at the gate, but tickets bought online by Oct. 12 are \$10. Buying advanced tickets online can also save \$8 per sheet of tickets. A sheet of tickets consists of 18 individual tickets, but keep in mind that most rides take 5 to 6 tickets. There is an option to buy an unlimited ride wristband, which costs \$25 now until Oct. 12, but it is \$35 after the 12. On Oct. 13, the fair is offering



Photo Courtesy of the North Carolina State Fair.

students who have a valid student ID a reduced admission rate of \$5. Admission and ride tickets can be bought online at the NC State Fair's website: www.ncstatefair.org.

NC Pride 2017

Caroline Garrett, Staff Writer

On Friday, September 30, the Triangle area held its 33rd annual Pride Day celebrating the LGBTQ+ population in North Carolina. Both Durham and Downtown Raleigh hosted street festivals in the afternoon and evening, and local clubs continued the party into the early morning. The day began on Harrington street for Raleigh attendees and Rigsbee

Avenue for those in Durham, with booths featuring food, fun, games, raffles, local vendors, and of course, many varieties of LGBTQ+ pride flags everywhere. Advocacy organizations promoted sexual health and inclusivity for LGBTQ+ people as well as allies. As the evening continued, music started to play, and the dancing and drag shows began. For many

attendees, though, the most special part of the day was not the fried food, free sexual health materials, or live performances, but the sense of acceptance, open-mindedness, and community. A Meredith sophomore who wishes to remain anonymous, said "It was super fun to see people expressing themselves in all different kinds of ways...[from] glitter to fake wings,

and it was nice to see people being unapologetically proud of who they are." If you missed this year's Pride Festival, every spring, Raleigh has a second LGBTQ+ festival called Out!Raleigh, and you can also check out the LGBT Center of Raleigh for more events in the area and Spectrum at Meredith for LGBTQ+ representation on campus.