

News

Little Changes to a Big Program By Olivia Slack, Staff Writer

Members of the classes of 2020 and 2022 had something new to look forward to this year: the Big Sis/Little Sis program. A long-standing tradition in which incoming freshmen students can choose to be assigned a junior "big sister" who can help her transition into college, the Big/Little program brought back an updated version of the match reveal this year. Miranda Griffin and Belle Rose, the Big Sis/Little Sis co-chairs and members of the class of 2020, explain that in prior years, the email revealing who your Big or Little Sis would be had been sent during the summer rather than once the semester had started. So why did they decide not to go that route this year?

According to Griffin and Rose, their intention was to enable the class of 2020 to "welcome the class of 2022 as a whole, rather than just [their] specific Littles" when the first social came around, and thus pushed back the timing of the reveal email. Additionally, in previous years, when the matches were made and announced in summer, some Littles found that their Bigs had not prepared for their arrival. For example, their roommate's Big had "decorated the door with special signs for her," unlike their own Big. This led to some less-than-ideal Big/Little relationships, a situation which this year's co-chairs hoped to prevent this time around.

Big/Little registration also

increased this year according to Griffin and Rose. Because of the later match reveal, freshmen who had not heard about the program until arriving on campus didn't feel as though it was too late for them to sign up, unlike in past years.

Freshmen and juniors who are participating in the Big Sis/Little Sis program this year have had a few thoughts about the changes as well. Some juniors point out that it was difficult to get gifts for their Littles or prepare to meet them beforehand because they only found out who their Littles were a few hours before the first social was scheduled to take place. Additionally, some freshmen thought that it would have been helpful to have their Big Sis available

to help them get settled in the first week of school, instead of having to wait an additional week to meet them. Some freshmen found that the wait and suspense surrounding reveal day made them more excited than they might have been if they'd gotten the email over the summer, when they might still have weeks or months until they could see their Big Sis in person.

All in all, this year's Big Sis/Little Sis program began with a few new changes, which have received broad and varied responses from students. Of course, the Big Sis/Little Sis program isn't all about the reveal, and in the coming year there are sure to be many more events for Bigs and Littles, so keep an eye out.

Pride is Revalitized in Durham By Carolina Brust, Staff Writer

Despite June being labelled as "Pride Month," Pride is an all-year-round event for everyone to enjoy and celebrate. Durham will be hosting its own celebration later this month on the 29th, rebranded and under new management by the LGBTQ Center of Durham. Speculation was underway when the event, previously hosted by NC Pride and originally scheduled for June, was suspended and later

cancelled. The organization came under fire last year by critics for mismanaging the event and scheduling it on the same day as the religious holiday Yom Kippur. While plans for the new event are still underway, the LGBTQ Center has stated in a press release that this year's event will "[utilize] the community's opinion and an innovative spirit to create a spectacular celebration of self and

others." To support this statement, they released a survey in July for the public to offer their input in the planning process.

The festivities will take place on Duke University East Campus, beginning with the opening ceremony and prayer at 11 a.m. The event will last until 4 p.m., with live performances arriving on the main stage at 2 p.m. While no official line-up has been released,

the organization showcased events unaffiliated with Pride on its website to hype-up the public and get them prepared for the upcoming festival. While the event will officially be held in Durham, you don't have to be a Durham-ite to join in the fun. Come celebrate your Pride, your way.

To offer your opinion on what YOU want to see at Pride, email pride@lgbtqcenterofdurham.org or visit www.pridedurhamnc.org.

Election Day is Less Than Two Months Away By Hannah Flood, Staff Writer

The time to vote in 2018 general elections is rapidly approaching, and there are a few things you should know. In the upcoming election, citizens will vote on all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 33 of the Senate seats. Thirty-six states, not including North Carolina, will also vote for governor. Election Day is Nov. 6, 2018, and polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

For those that are interested, early voting opportunities will be available in nine locations across Wake County, from Oct. through Nov. 3. The closest of these locations to Meredith College is the NCSU Talley Student Union, accessible by Wolfline. Early polling location hours include 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Students who might not make to their hometown polling location by Election Day have the option to vote via absentee ballot. All registered voters have the option to vote using this method; all that is required is to send in an absentee ballot request form before the deadline on Oct. 30 at 5:00 p.m.

Voting registration

information, such as the House and Senate districts or polling locations, is available at wakegov.com. If not currently registered to vote, registration forms and more information about the process are also available at this website. The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Voting in local and national elections is an important way to implement change in the world around you. Your vote has power—cast it this election.

Study Abroad Fair By Caroline Garrett, A&E Editor

On the evening of Tuesday, September 11, Meredith College's Office of International Programs hosted its annual Study Abroad Fair in Lower Belk Dining Hall to inform students of opportunities to take classes in other countries. Through study abroad programs, students can fulfill general education requirements, including foreign language classes, or even earn credits towards their major or minor.

Students can choose from a variety of study abroad programs offered by Meredith College or through an affiliate program. With Meredith Abroad programs, students travel with Meredith professors and students. In Sansepolcro, Italy, Meredith College operates a palazzo where

students can live and take classes from on-site Meredith professors each semester and in the summer. In the spring of 2019, the Sansepolcro location will offer a program entitled "Art in Italy", and in the fall of 2019, students of all academic backgrounds can benefit from a semester of "Italian Life and Culture". Other Meredith Abroad programs include Costa Rica: Field Research in Tropical Ecosystems, Costa Rica: Language and Culture, Paris Fashion and Belize: Community Service and Cultural Understanding (all held in the summer of 2019).

Kirby Jones, '19, attended the Belize program in the summer of 2017, and recommends study abroad because it instills a "greater level of independence as well as a heightened level of self awareness...from trying new things and interacting with a group of people". The same summer, Jane Kelley, '19, attended Costa Rica: Language and Culture and found it to be an "invaluable experience that allows you to really expand your horizons and learn about a new culture while being immersed in it."

Students can also opt to participate in an affiliate program in which they take classes from an outside organization and transfer the credits. CIDEF in Angers gives students at any level the chance to better their French language skills in France, Spanish Studies Abroad allows students to learn the Spanish language in their choice of several South American countries and Advanced Studies in England

offers many humanities courses taught in the historic city of Bath. CIEE Study Abroad and IES Study Abroad offer programs in dozens of countries, including Australia, China, Germany, Morocco, Turkey and more. Nikki Gillenwater, '20, hopes to take advantage of this wide array of countries by studying psychology in Copenhagen, Denmark.

For those concerned about funding an international trip, the Financial Aid Office offers support and the Office of International Programs holds funding workshops. Students can also apply for several scholarships through the Office of International Programs and outside organizations such as honor societies and Meredith departments. Those who did not attend the fair can find more information at <https://www.meredith.edu/study-abroad>, sign up for a "Study Abroad 101 Workshop" or stop by the Office of International Programs right by the main entrance of Joyner to make an individual appointment.

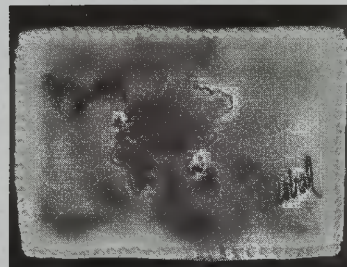


Photo courtesy of Mimi Mays, Associate Editor