

THE MEREDITH HERALD

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Meredith Announces New Creative Writing Minor

By Molly Perry, Contributing Writer

On Jan. 14, 2020, Meredith announced a new creative writing minor. Students can enroll in the new courses for the minor starting in Fall 2020. Any student who wishes to express their creativity, improve their craft or gain new skills for the workplace can minor in Creative Writing.

English professor Dr. Rebecca Duncan attributes student interest to be the main motivation for developing the creative writing minor. Combined with the success of the Professional Writing and Presentation Media minor, she and other English professors thought, "why

not have creative writing as well?" Dr. Duncan explains that "students sometimes bring whole novels or fanfictions" when they first come to a creative writing class, "so we know that we have talent." Classes that are part of the program of study for the Creative Writing Minor include Introduction to Creative Writing, Writing Poetry, Writing Fiction and Playwriting and Publishing and Editing, among others.

In addition to the new minor, the English department continues to evolve by revamping long-existing classes. The popular Chaucer

course has been renamed "Errant Knights and Powerful Ladies." This course provides a different experience for students each year, because the School of Arts and Humanities' theme changes annually. This year's theme is "Activism Through Literature." According to Dr. Duncan, updating these literature classes over time is essential because "the way we read [books] changes," and these new perspectives allow us to "value the old as well as the new."

More information about the Creative Writing minor can be found at <https://www.meredith.edu/english/creative-writing-minor>.

Alice's Memorable Return to Wonderland

By Rachel Van Horne, Staff Writer

Meredith College has once again fallen down the rabbit hole for the 25th time in the college's history. Directed by Meredith's own Vice President, Jean Jackson, the tradition was enjoyed by Meredith students of all class affiliations. For the first time in performance history, vouchers were distributed for Friday nights performance to students on a first come, first served basis, starting at 10 a.m. After that, the line at Jones Auditorium to get seats stretched past Johnson Hall. The anticipation of the once-in-a-college-generation event could be felt by every student standing in line. The play featured jokes on "Megxit," satire of recent political events and numerous pop culture references. When talking with students in classes following the performance, many were astounded by the talent of their professors. Karen Flores of the class of 2023 enjoyed seeing our college's own President Jo Allen participate in the fun; "I wasn't expecting to see her in the role that she was in, but I loved all the jokes being made surrounding people losing their jobs if they beheaded her." President Allen played the Cook.

Several students agreed that having faculty and staff who are willing to put on such an engaging and lighthearted performance really displays a labor of love to the stu-

dents. Sara Davis of the class of 2023 spoke of her excitement before the performance: "the wait was definitely worth it; the seats were great, and the energy while waiting was unlike anything I've ever experienced. I definitely will be coming back to see it as an alumna, not only so I can see what it feels like knowing more professors but also to celebrate 100 years;" the next performance, in 2024, will be 100 years after 1924's first show. Attendance at the performance was anticipated by all class years. Kelly Fox and Erin Jordan of the class of 2020 discussed their excitement in finally being able to experience this tradition after a four-year wait. "It seems like it means a little more when you have experienced almost your whole ride at Meredith." The excitement for the performance extended beyond students; Kayla Quinn, the residence director of Vann and Stringfield Halls, compared the *Alice in Wonderland* production to Cornhuskin', stating that it is the equivalent of Cornhuskin' for the faculty and staff. With all of the late-night rehearsals, pop-culture references and time-honored traditions within the show, this effort spoke volumes to students. Dean Gleason, in her fifth *Alice in Wonderland* production, discussed being a seasoned veteran of the performance, describing how certain character choices

are made and how much thought is put into the performance. "A lot of those [style choices] are different every year depending on what the popular songs are or what is going on



Curtain call with all *Alice* cast and crew. Photo by Mimi Mays

with current news." She also discussed the centennial celebration that is set to occur in 2024; according to Gleason, the "Dodo director" is already planning a big event to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Amber Sheely of the class of 1989 discussed some of the differences between her *Alice in Wonderland* play in 1988 and the one held on campus this January. For her, the most exciting part of *Alice in Wonderland* was seeing her professors in a different setting.

The stories of Meredith women past and present hold true to this exceptional time-honored tradition. Being able to see our beloved faculty perform in rhyme, speak utter nonsense and bust out to our favorite Lizzo self-love anthem reminded us all of the true magic of our Meredith College Wonderland.

Off With Their Heads

By Mimi Mays, Editor in Chief

This year's *Alice* performance included satirical portrayals of President Donald Trump and comments by other characters at his and his family's expense. Though they were meant to be comedic, not all audience members approved of the remarks. At the Saturday show, a Meredith student stood up during the trial scene and said, "that's very disrespectful" before walking out of the performance. The student has asked to remain anonymous but stated to reporters that she found the show "very offensive." In her opinion, "if someone doesn't like the president then they can keep their views and opinions to themselves" [sic]. According to Professor Cathy Rodgers, who played a character responsible for many of the remarks against Trump, "theatre is meant to offend."

Dissent was not contained to inside Jones Auditorium either. A Meredith College Facebook post about *Alice* had to be deleted because community members were having personal arguments in the comments section about the appropriateness of Trump's portrayal. "We're fine with people having criticisms or concerns about things the College does," says Melyssa Allen, Meredith News Director, "but not when people start to fight each other." "Our Facebook page isn't the place for that," says Kristi Eaves-McLennan, Meredith VP for Marketing and Communications. She also reports that Meredith has received "a few emails and calls from individuals expressing opinions." The College's goal for now is to "listen to concerns and assuage misconceptions," says Eaves-McLennan.

Video footage of the incident at the Saturday show can be found on our website: meredithherald.com.



The Tea Party Scene: Dr. Robin Colby, Dr. Shannon Grimes, Prof. Sarah Bean and Prof. Steven Roten. Photo by Mimi Mays