

BREAKING: BIDEN LEADS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – Super Tuesday Results, pg. 2

129 Years Going Strong

By Molly Perry, Staff Writer

Each year, the Meredith community celebrates the College's founding by honoring strong women who have made it possible for students to continue receiving their Meredith education. Alumnae, faculty, parents and friends

show their support for Meredith by giving monetary gifts to the College on Giving Day,

an event that is always held on the Tuesday of Founders' Week and is in its fifth year, according to Erin Cleghorn, director of the Meredith Fund. Cleghorn explains that the theme of Giving Day is always "to honor a strong woman." In addition to donors giving in honor of a fellow classmate, family member or faculty member who has "made a difference in their lives," there are also a number of people who have had Meredith colleagues or Meredith connections, and they want to give in honor of them." On this year's Giving Day, 2,392 donors honored over 1,300 women by raising a total of \$638,960, surpassing the college's \$500,000 goal.

According to Cleghorn, donors can designate how they want

their funds to be used, but the majority of donations are designated to go toward "the college's greatest needs," which is a huge help for the budget. Many classes also have special projects that they support with their donations, and

a number of donors fund specific scholarships or Meredith's athletic or study abroad programs. The majority of donors resided in North Carolina, but Meredith received Founders' Day donations from 38 out of 50 states.

In addition to Giving Day, the Meredith Fund does fundraising all year long and hosts a faculty and staff campaign in the fall each year. While many of the funds from these additional fundraisers go towards scholarships that "give [students] more opportunities," they can also fund "everything from individual departments on campus to the grounds and maintenance." The college's endowment, which "helps the general well-being and life of the campus," also benefits from these fundraisers.

A new way that Meredith celebrated its founding this year was

with a special visual display in downtown Raleigh. At about 7 p.m. each night, from Feb. 13 to Feb. 20, a short video highlighting how Meredith is "going strong" was projected onto the side of the Marriott City Center building. This location, close by Meredith's original location, allowed word to spread to more people about Meredith's many undergraduate and graduate programs.

Meredith also hosted a variety of fun challenges during Founders' Week to encourage participation in Giving Day including a competition between Odds and Evens to see who could raise more money. A social media challenge that inspired members of the Meredith community to show how they #MakeItCount4MC also took place during Founders' Week. The challenge included themes like "Worldwide Wednesday," which showcased how Meredith students come from all over the world and get involved in study abroad programs, and "Friendship Friday," which celebrated priceless Meredith friendships that last a lifetime.

Cleghorn expresses how she wants to "share how important alumnae giving is to this campus," as the support of alumnae is "what keeps Meredith College here." She explains that "women's colleges are kind of an endangered species," so it is "a wonderful thing to have our graduates love this place so much that they give back." *Figure courtesy of Meredith College, graphic by Savi Swiggard.*



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Meredith to Host Dr. Damon Tweedy

By Milin Santizo-Escobar, Staff Writer

The Meredith College Convocation Committee will host a lecture by Damon Tweedy, author of the New York Times bestselling book *Black Man in a White Coat*, on Tuesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. A reception is set to follow in Johnson Hall. There will also be a Q&A event at 3:30, where students will have the opportunity to ask questions in a more casual setting.

"I'm hoping that it will be an eye-opener for people wanting to pursue medicine as a career...about what some of the challenges are, especially for people of color," says Brian Thornburg, who is a permanent member of Meredith's Convocation Committee.

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Latest Meredith Poll Complete

By Sofia Gomez, Podcasting Director, and Mimi Mays, Editor in Chief

The Meredith Poll has been around for five years, and political science professor Dr. David McLennan has been handling the collection of data and analyzing it as the director. He hopes to gain an understanding of North Carolinians' opinions on a variety of topics, including social, policy and cultural issues. One of the more interesting topics he and the poll surveyed was the gender-pay gap and women in leadership positions. The poll uses both online and telephone polling because it is a challenge to get a reasonable amount of respondents from just the telephone, and telephone polling is less likely to reach young audiences and people of color, says McLennan.

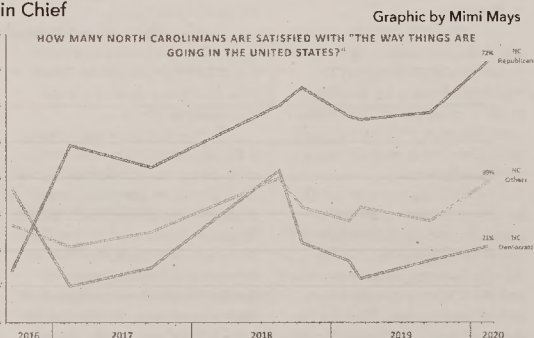
During this process, students are involved in all aspects; Dr. McLennan explains, "We have a group of students who help write out the questions in the POL-322 class, we have the students calling and col-

lecting the data and we have classes that analyze these data after collecting it."

Dr. McLennan says that "one of the main reasons that polling is so important nowadays is because the world is rapidly changing. It is more important now than ever to have a grasp to see the public opinion on policies and politics in a world where politics is evolving ever so quickly." Many sources, from local newspapers to MSNBC, look at the Meredith Poll to see how North Carolinians are feeling about current or future policies. The Meredith Poll also has an important impact on our student experience as well as the wider North Carolina culture.

So, what does the poll tell us?

There are significant gaps in how satisfied North Carolinians are with the "directions of the country,"



and partisan affiliation is the clearest indicator of that political attitude.

When asked if they were "satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the U.S.," Democrats report being highly dissatisfied, while most Republicans are satisfied. "This should come as no surprise, given the strong partisan gaps about

President Trump," reports the Poll.

By examining Poll data from the past four years, we can also see that North Carolinians have never been more polarized in their opinion of the American political landscape – 2020 has yielded the largest gap between Republican and Democrat satisfaction in Poll history.