

# News

## In-Person Classes Resume at Meredith

By Rania Abushakra, Staff Writer

Meredith College students, faculty and staff have returned to almost fully in-person classes this semester. While the return to the pre-pandemic college experience may give relief for some students, others feel uneasy about sitting in a classroom surrounded by many students who may not share the same concerns over COVID-19 safety.

Before the semester started, Meredith's Executive Leadership Team announced that vaccinations will be encouraged but not required for students, faculty and staff. Those who wish not to receive the vaccine must be tested each week and get cleared by the Health Center.

Things are not back to normal just yet as the Delta variant of COVID-19 is a concern to the CDC and College officials. This variant is highly

contagious and more severe than the normal strain of COVID-19. The CDC also announced that while the vaccines are proven effective, there is still a chance to become infected with the virus. In North Carolina, most of the new cases are from the Delta variant of COVID-19.

Madison Helton, '25, said she enjoys having in-person classes because it was difficult to learn and comprehend information in an online setting. "Online classes felt like watching YouTube videos instead of learning. During in-person classes, I am more focused and it is [much] easier to connect with professors and other classmates," Helton said. "As long as [the Meredith community] takes precautions to ensure that the virus does not spread, I think in person classes should continue."

For other students, like



Kiran Kapur, '22, returning to in-person classes causes a significant amount of anxiety. "I am scared for the people who are not vaccinated as they could really suffer if they become infected," Kapur said. "I know that if I get the virus, I will likely recover quickly since I am vaccinated and take the proper precau-

Photo by Madison Sholar

tions."

Regardless of which learning environment is used at Meredith, continuing to practice proper health and safety measures like wearing a face mask indoors can ensure a safe transition back to normal and keep the case count low.

## Class of 2025 Elections Taking Place Next Week

By Angelina Morin, Contributing Writer

For freshmen, the time to vote for campus representatives is approaching. A ballot will be sent to students at 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 13, and voting will close on Sept. 14. On Sept. 8, students can watch speeches from candidates via Zoom to get to know their potential representatives. Students can find links to the Zoom for campaign speeches and ballot forms in

their emails.

Representatives work to make changes on campus and host important events and traditions. Be sure to vote for your preferred candidate, and be on the lookout for vacant positions following the election. Information about any vacant positions to be filled by an application and interview process will be sent out following the election.

## No Changes for Meredith's Vaccine Requirement After Pfizer's FDA Approval

By Freya Dahlgren, Staff Writer

Now that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, newly branded as Comirnaty, has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), this does not change the lack of a vaccine requirement for students, faculty and staff at Meredith College.

When asked about vaccine requirements, Melyssa Allen, Director of News at Meredith College, said, "Meredith continues to strongly encourage all students, faculty and staff to get the COVID-19 vaccinations of their choice... Campus leaders hope the FDA approval will help individuals who have been hesitant about vaccination to decide to get vaccinated now." She also stated that Meredith is looking into holding another COVID-19

vaccine clinic on campus. A previous clinic was held in April 2021 where the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was offered to faculty, staff and students.

At the time of this article's printing, the vaccination rate for students at Meredith is 73.6% and the vaccination rate for faculty and staff is 79.4%. In the meantime, information about vaccine availability can be found on the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) website. If any changes are made to Meredith's COVID-19 Community Standards or safety requirements, those changes will be communicated to students and employees.

## Sizzlin' Into September

By Evelyn Summers, Contributing Writer

September is marked by the beginning of fall, with pumpkin spice lattes, cooler weather and many events occurring on campus. One such event in September is Meredith's "Sizzlin' September" festival happening Friday, Sept. 17 from 3 to 7:30 p.m.

This event is aimed to bring individuals together to have fun at the beginning of the semester and become more involved in the Meredith community. There will be two different times students can attend Sizzlin' September this year in order to comply with COVID-19 capacity requirements. Unlike years in the past when the wider Raleigh community was encouraged to attend, Sizzlin' September will only be available for Meredith students. This event

will take place in the McIver Amphitheater and its surrounding green space.

There will be a variety of food trucks, live music and socially distanced activities for the attendees to partake in. Food truck options will include Mr. Mongolian, Big Mike's BBQ and carnival-style treats from Oak Leaf Catering. Other activities include bingo and raffle prizes randomly selected according to seating location.

Vendors will be following COVID-19 safety guidelines and students are expected to follow Community Standards. Students must pre-register to attend this event and there is no cost for attendance. An RSVP invitation will be sent out via email in the coming week.



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