

News

Meredith Launches Application for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Position

By Anna Prince, Staff Writer

On Sept. 24, Meredith College listed a job for the Coordinator and Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The description for this position is listed as "support[ing] people from a rich diversity of backgrounds—including but not limited to diverse academic experiences, socioeconomic levels, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, genders, races and ethnicities." Once the application period ends, on-campus or Zoom interviews will be held depending on pandemic conditions, according to an email from President Jo Allen on Sept. 28. More information about the interview phase will be

released to students in the beginning of November.

To gain more insight on the college's search and how they see this position enhancing the college's journey to racial equity, *The Meredith Herald* interviewed Dean of the Library Laura Davidson and Assistant Dean of Arts and Humanities Dr. Alisa Johnson. Dean Davidson and Dr. Johnson are both on the selection committee and were eager to provide more information to the student body.

"In the academic division, we have been talking about a position like this since pre-pandemic," Dean Davidson said when asked about what events caused the

college to create the DEI position. "It's been an area of concern [for us]. This is not a new topic, it's just [that] the Black Lives Matter movement gave us some additional [motivation] to finally create it."

Dr. Johnson shared her hopes for what this new specialist will contribute to Meredith. "It's really hard to anticipate what we should be doing when we are really looking at bringing somebody new into our community with a completely fresh vision of what our future could be like," she said. "On the other hand, I will say, I know there are a lot of groups that are working on DEI issues within their own circles, and I think that is very,

very exciting. I want to see that continue, and I'm fairly sure that when we get our DEI specialist, that person is going to encourage groups to keep working."

Both Dean Davidson and Dr. Johnson expressed excitement for this specialist to begin their work on campus, but the search is still ongoing. Dr. Johnson would like to include that any students who are concerned about the search or have any questions about the process are more than welcome to email her or any member of the search committee.

Meredith Organizations Partner for Afghan Refugee Donation Drive

By Jeanine Carryl, Staff Writer

There are a projected 1,169 Afghan refugees coming to six cities in North Carolina over the next six months, including Raleigh and Durham, following the crisis in Afghanistan. Organizations within the Triangle have taken action to support Afghan refugees, and several clubs and organizations at Meredith College have joined in this effort. The Chaplain's Office, Student Government Association (SGA), Sisters United, Meredith International Association (MIA) and Meredith Immigrant and Refugee Club have come together to start a basic goods drive. The Chaplain's Office will be collecting donations until Oct. 15, and donation bins can be found in the Cate Center, Joyner Hall and Jones Chapel. Items requested include hygiene items, cleaning supplies, bottled water, paper products like

paper towels and toilet paper, diapers and wipes, non-perishable food items and pantry staples. Launa Steward, the Chaplain's graduate student intern, told *The Herald* that "the Chaplain's Office is thankful for [campus] support in welcoming new families to Raleigh."

Items collected from the drive will be donated to the Raleigh Baptist Association (RBA), specifically to their Afghan Refugee Resettlement Emergency Mission outreach program. They intend to support Afghan families and translators with their transition. Additional things that RBA is asking for are donations, gift cards for clothing, devotional books and furniture or housing items. Those additional items can be dropped off to RBA directly.

PEARLS Recognizes World Mental Health Day

By Maggie Barnhill, Staff Writer

Oct. 10 is World Mental Health Day. This internationally-recognized event is meant to bring awareness to and educate on mental health with the hope of advocating against the stigma of mental illness.

This event was first recognized in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation of Mental Health. In 1994, it was decided that each year the day would be surrounded by a theme; this year's theme is "Mental Health in an Unequal World." The World Health Organization supports this day annually, advertising the campaign and providing resources for those who may need them.

Meredith College's Peer Educators Advocating for Responsible Lifestyles (PEARLS) organization will be recognizing World Mental Health Day by setting up a pop-up booth in the Cate Center on Wednesday, Oct. 13 during the 10 o'clock hour. PEARLS is a club

on campus that trains members to become peer educators who may help the student body make informed decisions concerning their health and wellness. According to Rania Abushakra, '24, the PEARLS Publicity Chair and Historian, this booth will have "information about mental health, free wristbands [and] a student promoting her mental health podcast."

Students are encouraged to visit the booth and receive information from their peers concerning how to recognize and maintain mental health. World Mental Health Day supports a concept that should be practiced year round as maintaining one's mental health is important. Erasing the stigma against those who struggle with their mental health will allow more social acceptance and the possibility of more resources being created.

Technology Services Holds "13 Days of Cybersecurity Events"

By Haileigh West, Contributing Writer

Technology Services at Meredith College is holding "13 Days of Cybersecurity Events" from Oct. 13-29. *The Meredith Herald* interviewed Lauren Hickey, '17, Student Technology Outreach Coordinator, about the importance and purpose of the event. Hickey said, "October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and in an effort to promote safe online practices, the Student Technology and Training (STAT) Team will participate in a social media campaign, pop-ups and giveaways on campus about topics that students should know about, including two-factor authentication, setting up your NetID accounts for Self-Service, creating strong passwords, the importance of antivirus and more."

Over the course of the 13 days, there will be three in-person

events taking place on Oct. 13, 22 and 27, each during the 10 o'clock hour on the Cate Center Patio.

The in-person events on these three days will include a "STAT Team Trivia Hour" on Oct. 13, a "Staying Safe on Social

Media" event on Oct. 22 and a "Gone Phishing with the STAT Team" event on Oct. 27. Hickey stated that in addition to

these events, the STAT Team "will be active on all the MC Tech social media platforms [during] those 13 days and will be sharing new tips and topics daily."

During "STAT Team Trivia Hour" and "Staying Safe on Social

Media" event, students will get to spin a trivia wheel and win prizes. The "Gone Phishing with the STAT Team" event will

focus on educating students on what phishing attacks look like, Hickey said. Students will also be able to sign up for Meredith College Cybersecurity Training at these events.

Meredith College's COVID-19 Community Standards and social distancing will be in place at all of these events, and while pre-registration is not required, attendance will be taken at each event. If you have any questions or are looking to get connected with Technology Services, Hickey said, "The STAT Team runs the Technology Services Helpdesk and is ready to help students with their technology needs while at Meredith. We are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for phone, email and appointments."



Photo by Ally Cefalu