

A Couple of Farewells...

My Whetstone Adieu

by April Heyward, Managing Editor

Honestly, I find it difficult to realize that this will be my last issue working for *The Whetstone*. It feels surreal to comprehend that in two weeks I'll leave Montreat and will not return in the Fall. This school and my work on the paper have defined my life for the past four years.

My experience at Montreat includes a mix of emotions: from great times like gallivanting throughout the streets of Asheville and spontaneous Denny's stops at 3 A.M., to the difficult times when the pressure of academic requirements and personal circumstances seemed relentless.

I've learned so much in the past four years, and my time working for *The Whetstone* played a major role in my learning and development. The people I've met and worked with are some of my closest friends.

When students created *The Whetstone* in 2001, they pulled the verse Proverbs 27:17 as the basis for the organization: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." *The Whet-*

stone is to serve as an avenue for the students, staff and faculty of Montreat as well as the surrounding community. In the middle of this college environment, in which one can become easily complacent regarding current events, I hope this paper will continue to inform our vast audience about what happens on our campus nestled in this sleepy Swannanoa Valley. I know for my fellow seniors graduating in 2006, this paper is the only record of any major events, engagements, photos, and sports accomplishments that we have.

I will continue to pray and think about this school and especially this organization when I leave. I hope that people will understand the value of what we print and truly realize that this is the student's paper. Students, please take advantage of this gift. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!! Write. Take Pictures. Share. Inform. If you think there is nothing worth reading in *The Whetstone* then write something worth reading. It's never a good practice to cower in apathy.

I cannot leave without prop-

erly saying thanks to a handful of people that I've been blessed to know during my time here. Thank you Bob Graham, Tim Tyson, Becca Snyder and the Snyder family. Your love and positive energy made me believe in myself during times when feeling doubtful seemed like the best avenue. I am fortunate that I was able to learn and grasp your vision of the paper. Thank you so much Kortney Blythe for being one of the best co-workers I will probably ever encounter. I will always cherish the times we spent brainstorming the perfect verb while also sharing our lives. Thanks Brian Fuller for teaching me the fundamentals of the Journalism field. Brittany Anderson-Montreat's Layout and Design GODDESS- it was great getting to know you and to marvel at your work (while also enjoying your great music collection). Though the finished product of the paper layout may look easy to the untrained eye, it takes great skill and art. The Montreat community is grateful to be blessed by your expertise.

To the people outside of *The*



Whetstone realm, I just want to take the time and say thank you to Sandra Owen for being a mother to me. To all of my professors who dealt with all of my "shenanigans" in the classroom, thanks! For the eclectic group of students I've met at Montreat and I now consider true friends, thank you for sharing your lives with me.

Thank you, my Montreat community, for letting me bother you in these four years. You let me take your pictures, ask stupid questions, and so many other things that I felt embarrassed to do during the time. Through this experience, I'm slowly overcom-

ing some of my fears, but I could not do it without you guys.

For the future *Whetstone* staff I just want to say good luck and don't ever lose hope. Though things may seem impossible (especially around press night!) it can be done. I love you all and you'll always be in my thoughts.

As I leave, I'll be honest to say that I have no clear idea of what's in store for my life, but I believe that my time at Montreat will serve as a stepping stone for everything I learn and encounter in the future. Thank you, Montreat, for enabling me to love and grow.

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The Whetstone is published monthly while school is in session. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of Montreat College or its staff. All submissions become property of The Whetstone. Funding for this paper is provided by our advertisers and Student Activities Budget. Visit our Web site at www.montreat.edu/whetstone. Please direct any questions or comments to the editor at whetstone@montreat.edu.

Reflections...

by Kimmy Braendel

Over the past four years, Montreat has become more than my college, it has become my home, not just friends, but family. I have learned my biggest lessons not in class, but living in community with others. Remember no matter how much we try to plan out our lives, God has a perfect plan for us, and He will do anything to make sure we continue on in the right path.

SO trust Him with everything that you do, and when "life happens" remember that He is there to comfort you and love you. I was reading a book that someone recommended to me and I stumbled across this quote... "I thought that someone with faith in Christ could overcome any obstacle. What I didn't realize was that I needed my friends. I needed support. I needed people who could talk to God when I couldn't. Who loved me unselfishly."

I have found those friends here, so once again, thank you. I will miss this home more than I can express. Remember "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

