

Why I Come (and Keep Coming Back) to Montreat

RJ Routh

As the semester is officially underway, and the excitement of being back on campus is wearing off, a thought occurred to me; why did I come to Montreat?

Sure, there's the normal answers; to go to college and

get a degree, but there's thousands of other places that those goals can be achieved, and arguably under better living conditions. Why do I spend \$31,000+ a year to come here? This question was also somewhat sparked by my almost not being able to afford this year's tuition. So why Montreat? Well, it's certainly not the campus, although I do like it. One of the bigger reasons I was even looking at Montreat in the first place was the size and layout of the campus. The proximity of the buildings, as well as the aesthetically pleasing, antique stone-architecture of some of the structures are all pluses, at least in my opinion. But that is not the reason. In fact, one of the biggest complaints I have for Montreat is the sometimes-nonfunctional facilities (AC and hot water). One could argue that paying so much tuition only to have some of these amenities not working is downright unacceptable.

But moving on...Lord knows the reason isn't the food. The Caf food is, well, Caf food; Hit or Miss. It has been better lately though, some of the meals have actually been comparable to that of an "expensive" restaurant, which was a rather pleasant surprise. But as you all are aware, these occasions are few and far between (moussaka with mashed potatoes as béchamel cream anyone?) And while you shouldn't judge a College or University for their food services alone, I'm forced to ask, are we getting our money's worth? So it's not the campus, and it's not the food...surely then it must be the classes. Wrong. The classes offered aren't bad, and another major reason for my choosing Montreat was the integration of faith and learning in the classrooms. But again, there are other choices for a Christian College experience, and while I haven't been to any of them, I have heard from friends that Montreat pales in comparison in terms of quality in the classroom.

With that said, my reason for choosing Montreat is the people. The friendships that I've made here, both with fellow students and professors, are ones that I wouldn't change for the world. The professors (for the most part) honestly care about your success, and the students (for the most part) strive to succeed. So, while what Montreat "offers" in terms of the "College Experience" may not be worth the cost of tuition, the relationships it provides most certainly does. I come to Montreat, not for the campus, food, or classes, but for the friendships that bind it all together.

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Hello Montreat,

We're Hannah Scholz and Jesse Merritt, editors of the Q magazine, Montreat's bi-annual literary magazine. We accept short stories, creative essays, poetry, flash fiction, photography, visual art, and many other types of creative work. The magazine is also open to alumni, faculty, and staff of the college. Our goal this year is to give Montreat an opportunity for artistic fellowship. This does NOT mean the Q is an exclusive publication with unreasonable expectations and qualifications you must fulfill. This means that your work will be considered fairly. All that we ask is that you submit your work.

The deadline for submissions is October 21st. That gives you a solid month to submit anything and everything! That said, we would like to ask you to refrain submitting anything that may be considered too personal, or downright offensive to someone else. We believe that what is published in the Q is also an offering made to God, thanking him for bestowing us with creative talents. If you have any further questions about publishing for the Q please email us, or talk to us in person. Editors are not here to judge if what you have done is good or bad, but to enable you to share your voice and your art.

Email to: Qsubmissions@gmail.com

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