

## Convocation / Cultural Events Requirement in General Education 2003-2009

Meredith requires that students participate in 12 convocation or cultural events throughout their college careers. This requirement is part of what we describe as independent, experiential learning. This type of learning encourages the development of skills, knowledge, and/or dispositions through engagement in educational experiences that take place beyond the classroom. It is a form of active learning that can include attending cultural events; visiting museums, laboratories, and civic and government offices; participating in service learning; experiencing a Native American pow wow; engaging in an internship in a professional work setting; conducting independent or team research; etc. This aspect of our general education curriculum allows us to take advantage of our enviable location in our state's capital and in the heart of one of the richest areas for research, culture, policy making, civic engagement, and learning in the United States. To fulfill requirements for Convocation/Cultural Events, students attend or participate in 12 campus convocations or other approved on- or off-campus educational cultural events. This gives students an invitation to take advantage of Meredith's location in Raleigh, NC. **To receive credit for a convocation or cultural event, fill out the "Convocation/Cultural Events Reflection Form for General Education" below, secure your advisor/instructor signature, and return the form to the Office of the Registrar.**

The possibilities are numerous and typically **INCLUDE**:

- plays,
- musical performances and performing arts concerts,
- public lectures,
- presentations,
- poetry readings,
- art and museum shows or gallery openings,
- film festivals,
- cultural events such as a pow wow or international festivals,
- participation in assigned performances or events through university or college courses,
- honors convocations,
- university or college diversity events and speakers
- other events on the Meredith campus, and
- programs offered at area colleges and universities, museums, theaters, and other venues.

Some examples of events that generally do **NOT** fulfill the requirements include:

- local sporting or athletic events,
- state or county fairs,
- pop music concerts—including hip hop, country, rock, etc, and
- traditional Meredith student activities such as Cornhuskin', balls and dances, etc.

For a list of community cultural events see the [Meredith College Community Cultural Events page](#). If you are concerned whether or not your event fulfills the Convocation/Cultural Events requirement, contact:

Dr. Paul Winterhoff  
Martin Hall 138  
Director of General Ed.  
Phone: (919) 760-2356  
[winterhoff@meredith.edu](mailto:winterhoff@meredith.edu)

## Convocation / Cultural Events Reflection for General Education

Submitted by: Samantha Student Student I.D. #: \_\_\_\_\_ event # 8 of 12

Event: Founders' Day Convocation w/ Drs. Nancy and Jerry Jaax

Date, location: February 17, 2003 Meredith College

### Describe the event:

*This event took place despite inclement weather and the cancellation of classes for the day. As a result, the event lacked the pomp and circumstance of the ceremony, but had – instead – a relaxed atmosphere that I preferred. The Jaax's presented a joint lecture on the topic of the Reston Ebola virus and near outbreak in 1991. They had an interesting Powerpoint presentation that included photos. There were approximately 200 people in attendance, the majority of whom were students. A few faculty and guests were also present. President Hartford provided the welcome.*

### Personal connection:

*I had read Richard Preston's book *Outbreak* for my high school AP Biology class so I was somewhat familiar with the Reston incident. However, it was much more interesting to listen to the specific details as told by two of the people who were actually there. I also enjoyed listening to the questions asked by my peers. It was exciting to meet these two scientists following the presentation.*

### Academic connection:

*Having had Microbiology with Dr. Wolfinger last semester, I had a much greater understanding of and appreciation for how rare it was for this virus to be found in the United States. Seeing the slides of the Ebola virus helped me better visualize some of the information I learned in that class. Also, having taken Dr. Piazza and Dr. McAlexander's Bioterrorism class last year, I really could understand what Dr. Jerry Jaax was describing in terms of bio-warfare and bio-terrorism. He referred to things I studied in that class such as Anthrax and Smallpox and I found I had a better understanding of the threat of these diseases and of the need to vaccinate against them.*

### Civic connection:

*This brought up for me issues of bio-terrorism and bio-warfare (which the United States has conducted) and of the need for Americans to vaccinate against smallpox. I also now better appreciate the work of the men and women in the Armed Forces and what they do to protect the United States from willful acts of terror and war. The Jaax's were in the Army (she's since retired) and working at the medical labs where bio-warfare is studied at the time of this incident. It was also interesting to hear how they had to deal with the media and with the issues of safety of the shops and daycare center near the place of the outbreak.*

I confirm my attendance at this event and that I have abided by the Honor Code in completing this independent learning requirement for general education.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(student)

I accept this reflection as record of this student's attendance at this event and for fulfillment toward the Convocation & Cultural Events component of general education.

Accepted by \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Professor, if a requirement for a course / Faculty Adviser or Director of General Education, if done independently)

### Directions to the student:

- 1.) Submit completed form to your professor (if event was a course assignment) or to your faculty adviser or Director of General Education (if event was done independent of a course).
- 2.) When the form has been signed and returned to you, submit it to the Office of the Registrar, Johnson Hall.
- 3.) Keep a copy of the form for your own records.

## Convocation / Cultural Events Reflection for General Education

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Student I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_ Event # \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date, location: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Describe the event:</b>          
<b>Personal connection:</b>          
<b>Academic connection:</b>          
<b>Civic connection:</b>          

*I confirm my attendance at this event and that I have abided by the Honor Code in completing this independent learning requirement for general education.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(student)

*I accept this reflection as record of this student's attendance at this event and for fulfillment toward the Convocation & Cultural Events component of general education.*

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