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Preview News

Also available online at www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability/preview.htm

Meredith College Counseling Center ~ Disability Services

Family Edition ~ June

Preview!

**August 15-17,
2007**

Preview is an orientation program for incoming students with disabilities.

See inside for details on how your student can participate!

Contact Us!

disabilityservices@meredith.edu
919-760-8427

Welcome to Meredith College!

<http://www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability/>

Congratulations! We are excited that your student decided to attend Meredith College. The Meredith College Counseling Center and Disability Services hope that her transition to Meredith College will be a great one. We want to help her through the process. You are receiving this newsletter as a part of Preview, the supplemental orientation for incoming Meredith College students with disabilities. You will receive newsletters between now and the start of the fall semester that will help you to better prepare your student for the changes and opportunities that lay ahead of her. Your student will also be receiving different newsletters intended to help her prepare for

her arrival on campus in August. Please encourage your student to read each newsletter thoroughly. We will be encouraging your student to begin the process of planning for college and we know that you, the family, will be an integral part of this process. Please feel free to contact the Meredith College Counseling Center /Disability Services at 919.760.8427 should you have any questions or concerns. In addition, please visit our web site listed above. Here you will find all of the information that you will need about our services.

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Introduction to the Counseling Center & Disability Services

Welcome to Meredith College and Disability Services. The Counseling Center/Disability Services staff work with students to arrange accommodations for courses, programs, services, activities, and facilities. Meredith College's goal is to create an accessible community where people are judged on their

abilities not their disabilities. We strive to provide individuals with the tools by which they can better accomplish their educational goals. We look forward to working with your student!

New Responsibilities

It is hard to believe they grow up so fast, isn't it? Your student will soon be heading off to college and will have so many new experiences to tell you about whenever you see each other. As we alluded to earlier, your student will start to find that she has more responsibilities than she did at home. There may be things she had never had to worry about doing on her own, such as opening a checking account or paying a credit card bill. Perhaps she will have a care on campus and will need to be responsible for routine maintenance. She may even be trying to balance a part-time job. Helping her plan for these things now will be very beneficial to her once she arrives on campus. While it is also tempting to try and take care of things for

her, it will be critical that you help her start to learn how to find her own resources and learn how to get her own questions answered. Supporting your student's growth by encouraging her to seek answers to her own questions will prepare her for life far beyond her time at Meredith College. It's hard to be a parent of a college student but you can do it and we are here to help you out along the way.

Requesting Accommodations

Requesting accommodations at Meredith College may be a bit different from what you are used to when your student was in high school. In order to receive accommodations, your student must voluntarily disclose information regarding her disability. If you are receiving this newsletter, she has already done so. The next step would be to schedule an intake appointment with the Disability Services staff. Have your student call to schedule her appointment for the morning of

August 16th, during Preview or anytime throughout the summer. Finally, she must submit documentation of her disability. It is important to complete these steps as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged in a timely manner. For more information contact Disability Services at 919.760.8427.

Documentation

www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability/policies.htm

Along with an appointment with the Disability Services staff, your student will need to provide appropriate documentation with regard to her disability. An IEP or Section 504 Plan will not be sufficient documentation to receive services. Official recent documentation from her medical doctor/psychologist including diagnosis,

prognosis, limitations imposed by the disability, maintenance plan, and recommended accommodations) are required to request services. For guidelines regarding specific disabilities and required documentation, please visit our website listed above.

Register for PREVIEW 2007 today!

www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability/preview.htm

Preview is a supplemental orientation program uniquely designed to meet the needs of new students with disabilities transitioning to Meredith College. Research indicates that students with disabilities typically have a more difficult transition from high school to college than most average students. The purpose of Preview is to provide your student the opportunity to get a head start on this transition; hopefully making for a more positive and enriching experience.

Preview typically consists of a “preview” into Disability Services and Meredith College in general. We spend time on self-advocacy, requesting accommodations, campus scavenger hunts, and campus resources. Part

of what makes Preview so great is the opportunity to connect with other Meredith students who may have similar situations and/or concerns! In order to help with making these connections, we work with Preview Mentors who are returning Meredith students who have been using Disability Services for at least one year. These mentors help to offer advise, support, and a friendly ear to listen to your students’ concerns. In addition, attendance at Preview allows your student to *move in early!* For more information about Preview and to register, please visit our website listed above or complete the enclosed registration form and send it in with your check or complete the enclosed registration form and send it in with your check.

Confidentiality

Many students wonder if they are required to share information about their disability with other students, faculty, and staff. In order to receive accommodations in their classrooms and residence halls, faculty and Residence Life staff will need to know that your student is working with Disability Services. Her accommodations will be outlined in a letter that she can obtain from our office to provide to these individuals each semester. Any other

information that is shared is completely up to your student. All student records are confidential. All contact with Disability Services is kept confidential unless it is legally or ethically required that specific information be shared. In this situation, information is only shared with the appropriate people. For more information regarding confidentiality, please contact the Counseling Center/Disability Services.

Releasing Information: The Family’s Role

When your student was in high school. You may have been included in most of the decisions that were made regarding the services she received. While we encourage families to be involved in their student’s progress, there are some differences that you will notice in regard to Meredith College sharing information with you. All student information is confidential. That even means that we cannot disclose information to you

without your student's signed and written permission **each** semester. We welcome you contacting us regarding your student/ We will be able to listen to your concerns but may not be able to share specific information with you in return. In this circumstance, we will put forth every effort to follow up with your student. If you have any questions regarding confidentiality, please contact us.

Meredith College
3800 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27607

It's time for a quiz and a chance to win \$20.00!

www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability/preview.htm

When we said we want to help prepare your student for college life, we really meant it! And to prove that we mean it, we will start off by giving her a quiz! Each month your student will have the opportunity to be entered into a drawing for one of three \$20.00 gift certificates to the Meredith College Supply Store. All she has to do is log onto the website listed above and answer a few questions about the topics discussed in her newsletter. Her name will be entered into the drawing to

be held in August. What could be a better way to start off her college career than by getting some of her books and supplies for free?



**Congratulations on
your student's
high school
graduation!**