

Honor Code Ceremony Speech: by Amanda Baity

Good evening Meredith College faculty, students, visitors and special guests. It is an honor to join you this evening. I would especially like to welcome all of the new students including freshman, transfer students, and the 23 plus students as they embark on the Meredith experience. Congratulations on your being a new Meredith College student and part of the larger Meredith College community.

I would now like to share some information about myself. My name is Amanda Baity and I am a member of the class of 2012. I am from the Outer Banks of North Carolina and I am a 2008 graduate from First Flight High School. When I began my college search, my goal was to find a college with strong academics, a variety of campus activities, and a feeling of a small, tight knit community. From my first visit, I knew Meredith College was for me. I remember that first visit. My mom drove into the visitor parking lot and we found a parking spot labeled with a sign that read "Reserved for Amanda Baity and family." From then on, I felt very comfortable here at Meredith College. I hope in your time here you will embrace Meredith's inviting and encouraging community as well.

My main focus this evening is the Honor Code here at Meredith College. It is a special part of our community that sets us apart from other colleges. The

Honor Code allows students and faculty to have a sense of trust and security while on campus. It is extremely comforting to know that I can trust other members of the Meredith Community neither to enter my dorm and take my things nor to look on my paper while taking tests or quizzes. Additionally, I appreciate the ability to temporarily set my things down in the Dining Hall or Library, leave them briefly unattended, and know that they will be there when I return. Although it is not recommended that you leave your belongings around campus; there is a level of trust within the Meredith community. As stated in the Meredith College Student Handbook, "Founded on the premise that dishonesty has no place at Meredith, the Honor System demands personal integrity of each student. The Honor System is operated by the student body. Students are personally responsible for their own conduct and obligations to the Meredith Community." You are now a part of this community and expected to uphold the standards of Meredith College. As you will be reading the Statement of Honor later in the ceremony, you will see that the Honor System at Meredith exists for all members of the Meredith community, and it is a hallmark of the unique Meredith experience.

College can be challenging and often students find it easy to take a shortcut. It can be tempting to violate this honor system; especially with our

society's modern technology of cell phones and computers. You as a Meredith student are expected to avoid these temptations and uphold the level of integrity we hold here at Meredith College. One of the things I most adore about Meredith College is the abundance of resources, from your Big Sis and Faculty Advisor to your Student Advisor and professors. Also, Meredith has a wonderful Learning Center and a great Career Planning Office. If you ever need aid, don't hesitate to ask; everyone is more than willing to help! However, to become a solid and good scholar, it is your responsibility to plan ahead, get to know your professors, and seek out the resources available to you before the last minute.

The bottom line is to commit to doing the right thing. As a student at Meredith College, you are now on your own and responsible for your actions. This is a talented student body and I advise you to continue with making wise decisions. Enjoy your time at Meredith and the community that you will encounter on campus. I hope you are able to find our Honor Code advantageous now and in the future. It is your responsibility to uphold the Honor Code as a way of life here at Meredith College. As you begin this year, take it all in and make lasting memories. Once again, I extend a grand welcome to all of the new students at Meredith and I thank each one of you for your attention.

Honor Pledge:

“I do solemnly pledge my honor that as long as I am a student at Meredith College, I will faithfully uphold the principles of the Honor Code and will respect and observe the procedures and requirements of the Honor System. I also pledge my support to our system of self-government, an integral part of our way of life at Meredith College. I make this pledge in view of my fellow students thus signifying our high resolve to keep our honor forever sacred and our self-government forever strong.”