SCHOLARS’ WEEKEND 2018, ANOTHER SUCCESS

On Sunday February 18th, Honors and Teaching Fellows students waited eagerly in Johnson Hall for the arrival of their hostees (above). From 11:30 to 12:15, high school seniors trickled in through the Johnson Hall atrium for what may have been their first time at Meredith College, and received a warm welcome from host students of all ages. Scholars’ Weekend co-chairs, Carol Jablonski and Kim Schuh, instituted an inspired new method for greeting one’s host and hostee: each hostee was assigned a number, and upon their arrival, that number was called out by an admissions counselor. As their voice echoed down the east Johnson hallway, the corresponding host emerged to greet the student with a beautiful sign. After a brief greeting and emphatic welcome, the hostees whisked themselves away to Jones Chapel for the first event of a packed day. For some hosts, that concluded their morning duties, but some students went straight to their responsibilities as Group Leaders or Interview Escorts after shuttling their hostees’ luggage to their rooms. Many students also served on a panel; the Office of International Programs hosted one, where study abroad “graduates” spoke about their experiences, and the admissions office hosted another, where current students gave their own answer to the question, “why Meredith?” After the end of the day’s myriad of obligations, the hosts and hostees had the unique opportunity to attend Meredith College Theatre’s production of *Xanadu*. Sunday evening’s show was the cast’s last, and they gave a reportedly superb performance. A million thank-yous to all the Honors students and our splendid co-chairs!

SENIOR CORNER

Matilda Odera is majoring in Environmental Sustainability and Biology. On CSA day, she will present her Honors thesis: a cost-benefit analysis of the Lamu Coal Plant, a project off the coast of Kenya. Fun fact, she has watched the animated series *All Hail King Julian* three times!

Ellen Cleary is majoring in Communication with concentrations in Mass Media and Public Relations, and minoring in Professional Writing. She hopes to work in Raleigh after graduation. Fun fact, she has been on NC State’s Clogging team since she was a freshman!
DC HERE WE COME!

The fall trip planning committee has been meeting every Monday this semester to put together the 2018 Fall Trip to Washington D.C.! Many mini-courses topics are under consideration: food/nutrition, political science, religion, fashion, art, and even one relating to the CIA! Suggestions for the big “marquee” event include the Einstein planetarium and a comedy show called Capitol Steps. Mark your calendars for September 21st-23rd!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat 3/17: Experience Meredith (Admitted Students Event)
Fri 3/23: Honors committee meeting, 10am
Sat 3/24: Reynolda House Museum of American Art FOE
Thu 4/12: CSA Day! #
Fri 4/13: Honors committee meeting, 10am #
Sat 4/21: Haliwa-Saponi Powwow FOE
Fri 4/27: Honors committee meeting, 10am

HONORS STUDENT'S RESEARCH TAKES HER ACROSS THE COUNTRY

For nearly a year now, Allie Kvasnicka (ˈkwɑːznika) has been doing research on a microbiome project in a neurotoxicology lab at the US Environmental Protection Agency in RTP. She studies the zebrafish microbiome, comparing microbe-free zebrafish larvae with larvae that are mono-colonized with single strains of bacteria, then assessing their neurobehavioral development. This important research contributes to our understanding of how bacteria impacts our brains. Doing this research has given her the opportunity to have her name appear on a published paper and to present at Meredith’s Taste of Research, as well as at three Raleigh-area conferences this past fall. At the conference for the North Carolina Society of Toxicology, her poster presentation won second place in an undergraduate division!

Her next big step is to present her work at the annual conference of the National Society of Toxicology in San Antonio, Texas, from March 12th to 15th. This will be her first time presenting at a national conference, and her first time flying on an airplane! She will join over 6,000 attendees at the conference.

Allie is a dual degree student, working towards an Honors BS in biology and a BA in psychology, with minors in chemistry and public health. After she graduates in 2020, she hopes to go to graduate school in order to pursue a career in genetic counseling and hopefully continue doing research!

She applied to give a presentation of her research at CSA day, so keep an eye out for Allie and her zebrafish!