

# The International Student Network

Diverse Voices, Shared Experiences: A Monthly Newsletter from OIP

## About the Newsletter

This newsletter serves as an information hub, reviewing all things F1, along with campus and local news, and a monthly international alumni spotlight! **Got a story you want to share?** We would love to hear! Students are encouraged to share news/stories to be featured in the newsletter by filling out the [Google form](#). From campus announcements to personal happy news that you'd like to share with your fellow international community members, we welcome your submissions!

## Summer Recap: Debbie Mong'are

"Over the summer, I had the privilege of **interning** as a **Sumeru Fellow** at their portfolio company, Aerospike, where I worked as a **technical intern** on the Sales Operations team. I gained valuable technical experience through various projects, such as building Slack integrations with Salesforce and performing data analysis on Looker Studio. I also participated in a Shark Tank-style competition, where my team pitched a mobile app idea to Sumeru investors, which was an exciting and challenging experience.

As a Sumeru Fellow, I engaged in numerous activities, including a Stock Portfolio Game, Market Watch analysis, Speaker Series, mentorship meetings, and social events. These experiences have been immensely rewarding, boosting my confidence and exposing me to various career paths in the industry. Reflecting on my internship experience, there hasn't been one single moment in this internship that has been game-changing or pivotal. Rather, there have been a series of incredible memories, conversations, and experiences. It's the little things that come together, bringing with it an unforgettable journey.



Computer Science Major, Data Science Minor, Class of 2026

In addition to my internship, I traveled to New York City at the beginning of the summer and had an incredible time. The highlight of my trip was watching "Hamilton" on Broadway. I also enjoyed dining at Sushi Lab, further cementing my love for NYC. This summer has been full of growth, learning, and memorable moments, and I am excited to apply the skills and insights I've gained to future opportunities."



## International Alumna Spotlight

"I am currently in grad school and started my MSc in project management with a biotech concentration. I chose to go to grad school after working for a year after graduating because I wanted to make a career pivot back into the biotech industry that I fell in love with from my summer internships while in undergrad. I moved to Harrisburg Pennsylvania last month to start this program and will be taking two years to complete it. Reflecting back to my undergrad days, I miss my friends and how easy it was living so close to everyone and being able to spend time with each other. My social life while I was in college is another big part, all the clubs and traditions that helped me be fully engrained in the Meredith experience is something that miss everyday. Especially since being at a different school as a grad student that doesn't have the magic that the undergrad Meredith experience does. On the flip side I love the fact that what I do now in grad school is very applicable to real work experiences. My classmates are working professionals with valuable experiences that have already taught me a lot, making the work feel very applied rather than theoretical. My advice to current students is very cliché but make the most of your time at Meredith and live the moments to the fullest. Once it's over, it truly is gone so make the most of it!"



Grace Olufemi-Ajai, Class of 2022  
Nigeria

MSc Project Management, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

## Career Fest this Week!!

Take a few minutes to review some of the information below to help prepare for conversations with employers:

- Interested in an **internship before graduation**? Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is the appropriate F-1 employment authorization, which you can find information about on our website [here](#) (scroll down for CPT).
- Interested in **work after graduation**? Optional Practical Training (OPT) is the F-1 employment authorization for after graduation, which you can find information about on our website [here](#).
- **Want advice about navigating a Career Fair** as an **international student**? The University of Minnesota has some great information [here](#).

## Vaccine cost is covered by your insurance

Interested in getting this season's Flu shot, as well as a COVID booster shot? Sign up to get either or both next Wednesday, September 25th on campus! Use this [Flu registration form](#) and/or the [COVID registration form](#) to sign up. **NOTE: the cost of both shots is FULLY COVERED**, whether you have the school's Student Blue insurance or the ISI Defender insurance.

## Upcoming event highlight!

The **Meredith International Association (MIA)** is thrilled to extend an invitation to "**Voices of the World**," a special event dedicated to raising awareness of critical global issues. This event will feature international students who will offer their perspectives on their respective countries, providing valuable insights into significant world events.

### Event Details:

- Date: next Thursday, September 26, 2024
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Location: Kresge Auditorium
- Counts as Academic/Cultural credit
- [RSVP](#) to save your spot!



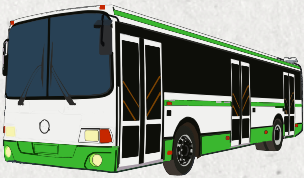
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## Getting Around Raleigh

With the start of September came two big transportation updates we want to make sure you're aware of:

- **Fares return for GoRaleigh buses; TAKE ACTION TO RIDE FOR FREE!** As you probably saw, GoRaleigh has returned to collecting fares this month. Ticket cost is \$1.25 per ride, paid for either with cash (exact change) or through the **UMO app**, which you can add money to or link to a pass. **NOTE!** College students generally qualify for the **Transit Assistance Program** (is your yearly income under \$35,000?! ) - sign up **AND YOU CAN RIDE FOR FREE!**
- **New high frequency bus route!** Say hello to the new **Bus 9!!!!** This new bus runs about every 15 minutes EVERY DAY (hooray weekends!) up and down Hillsborough Street, so you can easily get to and from downtown now, 7 days a week and from early in the morning to late at night.



**WELCOME!**



Ya-Tan   Gabriela   Majo   Hannah   Saliha   Bruktawit

## New Kids on the Block

As we dive into the new academic year, we are thrilled to welcome our **newest international students** to the Meredith community!

### 1. Mercy Agbai

- Major/Program: Biology
- Future Career Aspiration: Medical Doctor
- Country: Nigeria
- One Word to Describe This Year: Challenging

### 2. Bruktawit Workneh

- Major/Program: Interior Design
- Future Career Aspiration: To return to Ethiopia and establish an interior design company that provides job opportunities and supports students.
- Country: Ethiopia
- One Word to Describe This Year: Grateful

### 3. Gabriela Andrade

- Major/Program: M.A. in Industrial Organizational Psychology
- Future Career Aspiration: Work in consulting as an I-O Psychologist
- Country: Brazil
- One Word to Describe This Year: Grateful

### 4. Ya-Tan (Michelle) Cheng

- Major/Program: I/O Psychology Graduate Program
- Future Career Aspiration: Anything related to I/O Psychology
- Country: Taiwan
- One Word to Describe This Year: Exciting

### 5. Saliha Haidari

- Major/Program: Communications
- Future Career Aspiration: International Communications
- Country: Afghanistan
- One Word to Describe This Year: Happy

### 6. Hannah Larbi

- Major/Program: Biology
- Future Career Aspiration: Pediatrician extraordinaire in the making
- Country: Ghana
- One Word to Describe This Year: Whew!

We are excited to see the incredible contributions these students will make to our vibrant campus community. Please join us in welcoming them and wishing them a fantastic year ahead at Meredith College!