

Meredith Herald Submission

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If everything goes according to plan, I will graduate from Meredith College in four hundred and five days. I am putting off my anticipated panic at being released once again into the real world. I want to bask in the warm cocoon of college life for one more year. I want to absorb as many positive and supportive statements as my professors and advisors will supply. I need one more year to try to figure out what kind of person I am going to be as a full-fledged adult. A college graduate. A professional.

What does that even look like? The class of 2015 has spent the past three or more years working toward next May 9th. We may have started a portfolio or our internship is underway but to what extent has that directly prepared us for the life of a full-time, no-safety-net, decision-making “real” world? Many of us came to Meredith for the low student to instructor ratio and for the deep community ties found on this campus. As students, have we truly taken advantage of this opportunity to cultivate a genuine mentor from among our instructors, advisors or supervisors? What about from other sources such as an interview subject from a class assignment? Perhaps it is a past roommate that has a masterful comprehension of the universe and has an uncanny ability to look at things from a completely healthy and unique perspective.

At no other time in our lives will we be tasked with simply working to better ourselves. We are all at Meredith to learn and to become optimized versions of our former selves.

Rigorous education is a key part of this transformation. We are doing the work. We must also remember the more human aspect of being in the real world. We are shaping our own values, priorities to form our own unique identities right now. This is formed by the voices

with which we are surrounded. Now is the time to find one or two people who “get it” and try to round out our educational experience by learning about being human beings.