

Red Hat CEO strives for values in corrupt business

Rachel Abbott

Business Manager



Laura Hals / photographer

Matthew Szulik, CEO of Red Hat, spoke as part of the Leadership Lecture Series in Whitley Auditorium.

In a world of corruption, some men and women strive to maintain values with courage and conviction. Matthew Szulik, CEO, chairman, and president of Red Hat, aims to do just that.

Szulik, the keynote speaker for the Jan. 12 Leadership Lecture Series, said he is searching for people with the capacity to lead.

"My responsibility," Szulik said, "is to recruit."

Szulik spends 40 percent of his time recruiting future leaders for his computer software technology company. His leadership values revolve around those that guided his World War II generation, he said. As a leader, Szulik turned the vision of giving away free software into a reality, despite criticism and rough patches along the way. Today, Red Hat is sold in 51 countries, by investors like Dell, and ranks among giants on the Fortune 500 list.

Although Red Hat is a rising corporation, Szulik comes from

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Though he was greatly missed at home while traveling around the world and working late hours at the office, I couldn't be more proud of his determination and vision to change the technology industry and use his gifts to improve educational opportunities for students of all backgrounds worldwide.

— Kaitlin Szulik, daughter of Matthew Szulik ”

humbler beginnings. His daughter Kaitlin, an Elon freshman, introduced him to the audience with stories about his first paper route at age seven with his dog Tippy and paying his way through a Catholic high school. His goal in life was to become the leader of a 50million dollar corporation.

Teary eyed, she struggled to finish the introduction about her dad.

"His leadership in our rapidly growing world has instilled values in me so that I hope someday I can make as big of an

impact in anything that I choose to do. I also could never thank him enough for sacrificing so

much in his life just so that I could grow up without the pain he went through aschild and be able to reach whatever star I had my heart set on," she said.

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Business center construction will affect McMichael parking

Sarah Moser

Copy Editor

As work on the new Koury Business Center begins two months early, students and faculty can already see the changes around campus. One change is the closing of the lower McMichael parking lot due to construction. Taking its place will be a new fountain outside of the Koury Business Center.

So far the closing of the parking lot has not brought up many complaints said Smith Jackson, vice president and dean of student life. "We knew that the lower lot would be closing, so we moved the physical therapy students over to the East Gym lot which was doubled in size over the summer," Jackson said. "This parking lot has plenty of room for any overflow."

However, there is a university committee

looking ahead at future parking problems and accommodations, Jackson said. "The McMichael parking lot has always had open spots, but in the spring, during peak class times, spots may be hard to find and students will have to use the East Gym parking lot," he said. However, after 3 or 4 p.m. there should be no problems, he added.

At the moment, the committee is looking at possibly restricting students who live on the west side of campus, near the West End Apartments, from driving to class during busy hours. However, this would not take affect until next fall at the earliest, Jackson said. He went on to say that the restrictions would not be because of the new business facility or the loss of the lower McMichael parking lot.

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