

Rain comes and goes, but Family Day stays

KRISTEN BOSTEDO
Staff Reporter

Vacuum cleaners roared and students scurried around trying to get their rooms in order for Family Day last Sunday. Between the dorm rooms' much needed cleaning and the long drives that many parents had ahead, everyone's day started early.

Parents and students could begin the activities with worship at Jones Chapel. The chapel offered two morning worships—one at 10 a.m. and the other at 11 a.m. Following the last worship, the families were supposed to make their way to the courtyard for a picnic as well as a variety of festival-type activities. These plans were abruptly changed, however, when the rain began.

Organizers made the best of a

bad situation and moved inside the Belk Dining Hall. The first-year side of cafeteria became the moon-walk room and the hot spot for younger siblings. The children could be seen jumping, sliding and laughing as they bounced from one side of the balloon room to the other. Families used the tables to unpack very full coolers or open their picnic boxes that were provided by the dining hall.

On the opposite side, away from the bustle of the moon-walk, worked a DJ, who played diverse music and commented on the events at hand. The middle of the cafeteria was used to house the cakewalk sponsored by Pi Sigma Epsilon. Cakes were given out left and right, and almost everyone walked away a

winner. This was also a time that parents could speak with different members of the faculty as they walked around and participated in the many events that Family Day had to offer.

"I had a great time on Family Day. I enjoyed meeting my students' parents and seeing the students themselves outside of the classroom," said history/politics department head Dr. Michael Novak.

"The whole day would have been grand if Dr. (Carolyn) Happer had not turned the AirWalk into a contact sport," commented Novak from personal experience.

The "picnic" lasted from 12-3 p.m. and after all the food, fun and festivities, it was time to kick back and relax. After lunch was the time for families to see

how their daughters had made their dorm rooms their own, and many took advantage of this opportunity.

Brothers and sisters could be seen running down the halls, and parents could be heard talking about different posters or shelves. Some students got new bookcases, and there were even a few computers found around the halls. Brooke Moore, a first-year at Meredith, and her family took total advantage of the relaxation aspect of the afternoon by watching a movie together and taking a nap.

Many students took advantage of their parents, and their wallets, being near and headed out to the mall. Dads came back laden with bags and boxes, wondering how they managed to get conned into

buying that new jacket or trendy pair of shoes.

Those who did not go off-campus to shop had the opportunity to browse the campus store between the hours of 12:30 and 3 p.m. It opened especially for Family Day and was packed with people as they looked through the new Meredith sweatshirts, mugs and key chains.

Bob Pleasants, father of junior Amy Pleasants, said that it was good to see all the camaraderie on campus.

Jennifer Ricks' father agreed. "It was nice to see so many students so close together," said Ricks. "I have really enjoyed being able to meet Jennifer's friends, as well as their parents."

Urquhart seeks to find the vision within oneself

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Staff Reporter

The Kresge auditorium was filled to capacity, its seats packed with business students from Meredith's MBA and MHA programs. Soon, the hum of chatter dissolved into silence as Susan Wessels, the head of the business and economics department, stepped up to the lectern.

"Welcome to the first session in the series of the Fall Lectures," said Wessels. "The Fall Lecture series began in 1994 with the goal of providing graduate students with opportunities to meet outstanding business leaders."

Thus the Fall Lectures, meeting once a semester, give students fuel for thought, activity and determination in the business world they will soon enter.

The guest speaker for the Tuesday's fall lecture was a strong, successful and dominant business woman, a leader in her field, a contender of excellence, and a willow wise enough to bend—Margaret Urquhart, currently the president of Lowes' Foods.

She joined the organization in 1995, after leaving her position as owner of a management consulting firm which specialized in developing a vision of effective leadership growth. She has held leading positions in retail supermarket and drug store enterprises

for the past 18 years with such titles as Corporate Vice President of Marketing and Distribution for Hook SuperRx, Inc.; President of Wellby Super Drug Stores; and Corporate Vice President of Hannaford Bros. Co.

Additionally, she is the first woman to be president of an American supermarket/drugstore chain—a title she gained through her presidency at Wellby. She is qualified, reliable and determined, and the recipient of multiple awards recognizing her drive and her ability to accomplish the goals she sets for herself.

In 1989 she was awarded the Twin, or Tribute to Women in Industry, Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southern Connecticut State University, both celebrating her achievements in the business world. In 1995, Urquhart was one of only two female presidents in a supermarket chain with 50 or more stores.

"I am happy to speak among women who plan to be leaders or are leaders," said Urquhart. Urquhart repaved the road for thought and relaid the foundation for structure in terms of defining effective leadership, especially for women, in the world of business. She insisted that one cannot be successful if one is working by others' standards. One must instead look at herself and use

what she knows to reach her goals.

"Effective leadership and personal goals are tied to a higher vision," said Urquhart. "The vision is really inside of us—the deeper we dig for that vision, the bigger, broader, further, we reach."

Urquhart continued by telling the story of her rise to the top. She explained that she once was only "successful by everyone else's standards." She had always marched to the beat of her own drum, challenging what women could and could not do. She had the determination, however, somewhere along the way in working to lift herself higher, she realized she was neglecting the really important things in her life.

The business world had shoved her family world, her leisure world, all her other worlds into the shadows. Therefore, upon realizing she would soon be "burned out," she started spending more time with her family and soon realized she needed a vision from within herself to succeed. Additionally, it was at this time she realized her boss commended her more often.

"That was the shock of my life. I had let go of what was controlling me, and I replaced it with what came naturally," said Urquhart.

Urquhart also gave beneficial

advice to those business students who may someday rise to a position such as president. She explained that a good leader is one who knows the way she acts and reacts reflects on those beside her, behind her and below her. Her employees look up to her for guidance, and if she is a reflection of anger, or disagreeability, or weakness her employ-

ees will be filled with the same emotions and attitudes.

"The theory is that, if an organization functions as an individual, then the health or sickness is reflected in the individual and mostly in the leader. Being a perfectionist is a curse in some ways, for perfectionists live in discontent. This rubs off on others," said Urquhart.

Lost Your Voice?

The Presidential Search Committee is still accepting your input to use as they continue to form the College's profile for the new president.

If you would like to offer your suggestions, please send written remarks to the following address:

Mr. Gene Langley
Chair, Presidential Search Committee
P.O. Box 30186
Raleigh, NC 27622

If you would like to send your thoughts via campus mail, those may be submitted to Sharon Woodlief on 2nd floor Johnson Hall.

If you have any questions regarding the search, call Woodlief at 760-8511.

Public input will be accepted through Oct. 31.