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Jackson speaks of agricultural vision

The founder of the Land Institute speaks to campus.

TRACY SUMNER
Staff Writer

Dr. Wes Jackson, who was named one of the top 100 important Americans of the 20th century by *Time Magazine*, visited Meredith's campus this week. Jackson is president and founder of the Land Institute in Salina, K.S., and he gave a presentation to interested faculty and students in Kresge Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Land Institute, whose mission statement is to "save soil from being lost or poisoned," addresses what Jackson calls earth abuse. He added that the history of earth abuse is "not a pretty story."

Jackson, who grew up in Kansas and earned his doctor-

ate from N.C. State, also founded the environmental studies program at the University of California at Sacramento. In 1980, he published *New Roots for Agriculture*, which outlined the basis for the Land Institute. Jackson has been featured in a number of magazine articles and has received the Genius Grant.

Jackson began his presentation by explaining the history of agriculture, which is about 10,000 years old, a short amount of time in the 4.6 billion-year-old world.

He explained that his definition of homo sapiens is grass-seed eaters, agriculturalists and managers of meristems.

A main problem with agriculture, he explained, is how to keep soil from eroding. Programs at the Land Institute have been designed to study and research this problem in addition to other problems and

questions in agriculture.

The Institute is a farming environment created with an emphasis on natural prairie conditions, which he calls Natural Systems. This system includes four groups: warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses, legumes and sunflowers.

A main objective of the Institute is figuring ways to perennialize major crops such as soybeans, corn, wheat, and sorghum. Perennial plants are those that do not need to be replanted each season.

Jackson explained that the engineers at the Institute have also been working to find ways to develop successful polycultures, which are a variety of crops planted on a single farming plot. Just recently, the Institute developed its first annual domestic prairie polyculture of

sunflowers, sorghum, corn, and soybeans.

The 380 acres of the Land Institute are devoted to testing ways of protecting soil, increasing nitrogen fertility and decreasing weeds and other pests and diseases.

Senior Nicola Vyborny commented that she was "happy that Dr. Swab took the initiative to bring someone informative to campus. Students should take advantage of Wes Jackson's being here tomorrow."

Marcee Tolliver added that Jackson was "fascinating...and had a very interesting approach to agriculture."

Jackson's visit was marked as the spring Honors convocation. Today, Jackson's plans included speaking in chapel and sharing a lunch with faculty members.

Despite rain, students enjoy annual Spring Fling

LEESHA AUSTIN
Staff Writer

In spite of dreary weather, Meredith students and their guests enjoyed the Meredith Entertainment Association's Spring Fling, held Sunday, April 2 from 2 to 6 p.m.

The event was originally scheduled to be held on Meredith's front lawn; however, as a result of the rainy weather, it

was moved to the Cate Center and Kresge Auditorium.

Students and their guests could purchase pizza and drinks, and cookies were provided free of charge.

Spring Fling featured two bands, Five Way Friday and Weekend Excursion. They per-

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The band Weekend Excursion plays to the delight of students at Sunday's Spring Fling.

PHOTO BY JENNY ALTIER

Sophomore dies from illness' complications

CHRISTINA HOLDER
News Editor

Friends of sophomore Stacy Hudson gathered in the Chapel Commons room yesterday at 5:30 p.m. to talk about the special qualities that made her who she was: her contagious smile, her humility, her optimistic outlook on life. Hudson died yesterday morning at Duke Medical Center after her lungs collapsed. Hudson had Cystic Fibrosis, a genetic disease that affects approximately 40,000 people in the US today.

Cystic Fibrosis, or CF, stems from a genetic defect that usually affects the lungs, often resulting in frequent hospital stays and continually taking enzyme supplements and other medications.

Hudson, a biology major from Thomasville, N.C., requested that her organs be donated to other people with Cystic Fibrosis.

Those who were at the meeting recalled, among many things, Hudson's ability to focus on the positive facets of her life.

"She always had a positive attitude, no matter how sick she was," said fellow sophomore Amanda Johnson.

Last night friends gathered in the first Faircloth parlor to cut ribbons for students to wear in memory of Hudson. The red and black ribbons are the colors of her high school, and the purple ones support Cystic Fibrosis. Students can pick up a ribbon in the first floor parlors of the residence halls today.

The wake and the funeral will be in Thomasville later this week though plans have not been finalized. Students should check the campus e-news for details. The college will provide transportation for those who would like to attend.

Students wanting to offer their condolences can sign notebooks in the Counseling Center, the Dining Hall, the Chapel, and the first floor parlors of Brewer and Faircloth.

Campus Minister Sam Carothers and Counselor Lori-Ann Stretch are available to talk to students.