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## Students, staff remark on mentors

Monday's convocation honored freshmen, *Tuesdays*.

JAMIE TUNNELL  
Staff Writer

On Monday, Sept. 11, the Class of 2004 was honored with a convocation to discuss their summer reading program. Over the summer, all incoming freshmen read *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a non-fiction book by Mitch Albom.

This book has been on the bestseller list for over 132 weeks and is the true story of a man and his mentor, a college

professor.

Annette Snyder, a freshmen student adviser, noted that there was a warm spirit that shone through each speaker as they talked about who had helped mold them into what they had become.

Each speaker reflected on the role her mentor had played, yet each person who spoke has also been a role model as well.

President Maureen Hartford gave the welcome and began with some background information on Albom. Then, she reflected back to some of the women who had taken the time to listen to her, teach her and guide her. She emphasized that

these relationships are symbiotic, for both the teacher and the student learn from the other.

Erika Lee, '00, was the first student to speak. She gave an emotional tribute to Dr. Ann Burlein, professor of religion, whom Lee said has endlessly helped develop her spiritual growth. Lee told the audience to "seek beauty and perfection in all things—all people."

The next speaker, Kelly Conkling, '98, defined a mentor as a trusted counselor and guide. She encouraged the audience to find an adult with experience and wisdom—someone who has been down

the path that Meredith students are traveling for the first time.

Cathy Rogers, professor of theater, said that her mentor "loved her enough to give it to her straight from her heart."

Dr. Jean Jackson, vice president of Student Development, captured the audience's attention at the end of the convocation. She spoke on the cycles of receiving and giving that spiral through everyone's lives.

Earlier in the semester, freshmen met with discussion groups to talk about Tuesdays with Morrie. The posters that each group made now hang in the Johnson Hall Rotunda.

## Police explain new parking situation

HILARY ALLEN  
Staff Writer

Many Meredith students have had problems with their parking lately.

Over the summer, Meredith made several changes in the status of parking places. Seniors and residence life staff returned to school to see that many of their spots were no longer available.

In addition to fewer senior and residence life parking spaces, the Poteat lot was revamped into temporary senior parking.

And more spaces were also added to the Blue and Green lot.

To build the new parking lot beside the softball field, the recent changes in parking were necessary. However, senior Wallis Kirby believes that the completion of the new parking lot is "taking entirely too long."

Campus Police Chief Frank Strickland, however, said that bad weather has caused a delay in its completion. He hopes the new parking lot will be "completed by the time students get back from Christmas break."

After the new parking lot is finished, Strickland intends to restore parking to its original configuration. Strickland said that the current parking situa-

tion "is a temporary situation because of construction."

Although the current parking situation is temporary, many students are unhappy about the present distribution of spots. Senior Lesley Parr expressed her concern over parking distribution by stating that "too many senior spots have been taken away."

Like Parr, Rebecca Carpenter, senior, believes that there are too many residence life spots and not enough senior spots. She also added that parking in the Poteat lot is not a privilege. Senior Katherine Wit suggested that the first row of the B&G lot should be made temporary senior parking.

Like most parking lots on campus, the B&G lot is also usually filled to capacity. Junior Stephanie Jones believes that there are not enough spots in the B&G lot. The 40 spots that were added over the summer have not made a significant difference in parking availability. Jones said that the "additional spots are dangerous because people fly through the parking lot." Students are now forced to park along the side the road and even in the grass. However, Strickland said that parking on the grass is not permitted and will result in a ticket.

Commuters are also feeling a crunch in parking availability. Stacie Joh, a senior commuter, stated, "There's not enough commuter parking." As a commuter student, Melissa Roberson, senior, believes that senior commuters should also have parking privileges.

Strickland noted that Campus Police the attempting to "provide students with adequate spots where they need them." With the addition of two new 15-minute spots between Heilman and Barefoot as well as in front of Johnson Hall, Strickland believes that "accessibility has been improved tremendously."

In an effort to address student concerns, Strickland has assigned liaison officers to each dorm. The purpose of the liaison officers is to answer questions and address concerns. They will meet regularly with students at hall meetings. Liaison officers are used to "establish a rapport with students and let them know we're here to assist them."

Strickland stressed that students should remember that much of this parking is a temporary situation. Students should contact their assigned liaison officers. Strickland reiterated that campus police is "here to help."



Many students believe that cars are overcrowded in the B&G parking lot.

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