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"One thing I saw in orientation this year that we didn't have when I was a freshman, but that they had last year, was laptop training. This adds on more for the freshmen because they have to go through this training to get their laptops."

Another difference in orientation this year was the opportunity for students who were accepted for early decision to take placement tests in the summer instead of packing the tests into the already busy days of orientation.

These students were also offered a chance to register

for fall classes during the summer. About 43 students took advantage of the opportunity to pre-register. They were afforded this opportunity through a pilot program sponsored by the Office of Academic Advising with help from the offices of Admissions, the Registrar, Student Development, the Dean of Students, and Technology Services and the departments of English, Foreign Language and Literatures, and Mathematics and Computer Science.

This program was piloted so that it can be implemented for the Class of 2007. The staff in the Office of Academic Advising feels that this program will be

beneficial to both students and faculty once fully executed.

Another difference in this year's orientation program was a change in the diversity training exercise. This exercise typically required that students play games designed to make them think about diversity in different ways.

Koning said that the orientation committee decided that this method was not working as well as they wanted.

"We felt the students were not grasping the ideas we created the session for so we decided to alter our approach to diversity," said Koning.

Instead, on Monday after-

noon in Jones Auditorium, students attended a program led by Tia Doxey, residence life coordinator at North Carolina State University. Doxey spoke on communication problems between the increasing number of cultures present in our country as well as how diversity affects everyone, regardless of race, sex and ethnicity.

The registration process was altered as well this year. Upperclass students may remember standing in lines in Witherspoon Gym to register for classes during their freshmen orientation.

However, this year, registration moved to Johnson Hall, where faculty sat at tables lining all three floors of the building.

For some freshmen, however, the process was still frustrating.

"I thought registration would be less confusing than it was," said freshman Amy Pike, "It was also upsetting that most of the classes I wanted were closed."

In conjunction with orientation, the freshman summer reading program and a campus-wide effort to make Meredith students more interested in events happening on campus during the weekends, there will be a tour of Raleigh on Saturday to introduce freshmen and transfer students to the city.

Students can sign up in the Dean of Students Office on the second floor of the Cate Center.

Another event planned for this weekend for freshmen is a trip to the Exploris IMAX Theater to see *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure*. This movie will correspond with *Icebound*, the book the freshmen read as part of the summer reading program.

Freshmen have the first opportunity to purchase tickets at a reduced price of \$1. Tickets are available from student advisors and the Dean of Students Office.

Faculty, staff and upperclass students may purchase tickets also, and guests of the Meredith community may buy tickets for \$4.

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