

The Montreal College Student Voice W H E T S T O N E

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President Lindberg Interviewed

The following is a paraphrased interview with President Lindberg, conducted by senior Scott Denkman, a Whetstone freelance reporter. In future issues of the paper, the President will address questions posed by students, staff, faculty, alumni, or any interested party. Questions can be E-mailed to whetstone@montreat.edu with "Questions for the President" in the subject line.

-Tim Tyson, Managing Editor

President Jack Lindberg
As interviewed by Scott Denkman
Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Q. Do you have a philosophy for your ministry, or a set of underlying principles that you follow?

A. I'm a person who likes to make sure that process works well because it gives us good decisions in the end. If process is circumvented, good decisions may be made, but there will always be something that is not handled as effectively as when process plays a role. Following this practice necessitates that there is good communication.

I need to make sure that there are effective procedures and clear communication, and that the procedures put in place are followed.



Then we must begin to work where all aspects of the institution are pulling together and working toward the same goal.

I have a three-dimensional method of leadership, the first being integrity. Who we are and

whose we are are foundational in how we act and what we should do.

The next is intentionality. It's not simply good enough to have a good heart, but we also must be intentional about what we do. If one is intentional, then he is thinking through things analytically and conceptually about what it is we're seeking to accomplish. Intentionality is the real work of leadership.

The third dimension is incarnation. We must represent and model what Jesus did in every situation.

Q. Let's talk about your past at Asbury Theological Seminary. What tools did a theological education give you for the position that you're in today?

A. God never tells us outcomes of situations, even when he calls us to those certain situations. My calling back then was pastoral ministry, and I never doubted that. After seminary, I went into pastoral ministry to be a proclaimer of God's word and to challenge people

into discipling a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. To do that as a senior pastor was very fulfilling and exciting. What theological education gave me was two-prong: first, a solid Biblical and theological lens to look at all of life and to start the process of integration of faith and living, and secondly, it heightened my understanding and desire to make sure that relationships are paramount in all of life.

Q. Tell me about your spiritual life before your conversion in college.

A. A lot of people like to brag about how they were so bad and now they're so good. I didn't have a dramatic conversion experience. Basically, I grew up in a very supportive, nurturing church home. It was a wonderful childhood, but my ears were probably closed. It wasn't until I got into college that I heard the truth, and I heard the Gospel crystal-clear. I didn't run

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Wes gives mud bogging a new name while he proves kayaking is fun no matter where you are.

Lake Repairs Begin

By Wes Waldorf

The only trace of water in Lake Susan is the small runoff from Flat Creek, which is unusually low due to the recent drought. Last year the lake was emptied for a few months of "maintenance." However, due to the unexpected rainfall, repairs were halted. Lake Susan filled up only to be drained again in August.

Montreat Conference Center
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Freshmen First Helps with Retention

By Erin Maguire & Becca Snyder

This semester's *Freshmen First* orientation involved almost twice as many students as last year. Twenty-seven students opted to come to school early for the intense four-day program.

Freshmen First was developed in 2001 to provide a relationship-building experience to ease students' transition into college life. Another aim of the program is to "help us with retention issues," says Anita Darby, director of admissions.

"Last year's retention rate for first time degree seeking students was 67%," says Pam Betker, Montreat's registrar. The *Freshmen First* alumni boast a retention rate of 88%. "We would love to see this program grow exponentially until it eventually is available to all incoming students," added Darby.

Outdoor education professors Jay Guffey and Dottie Shuman led the program, challenging the stu-

dents to grow in Christ and in relationships with each other. The group rafted the Nantahala River, overcame the Camp Greenville ropes course, picnicked with the Montreat Presbyterian Church, served in the community, and swarmed Shadowbrook Mini Golf in Black Mountain. The freshmen

wrapped up the week with a time of communion and a prayer walk through campus.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life," says freshman Eric Spoon.

"*Freshmen First* is something I do not regret at all going to. I

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Freshmen First: fun, service, excitement, and friendship.

Record Breaking Freshmen Class

-Alex Miller,
Director of College Advancement

When asked what contributed to record numbers on campus this fall, Lisa Lankford, dean of admissions and financial aid responded, "Montreat College is becoming a first-choice provider of Christian higher education in the southeast. That and a lot of hard work by Anita Darby, director of admissions, and her staff."

The number of new students attending Opening Convocation on August 20 was 163- a record class

in recent school history. "You'd have to go back to sometime in the early 1990s to find an equal or larger number of freshman and new students at Montreat for the fall," Darby said.

New students attending the 87th opening session of Montreat College heard the new President, Dr. John S. Lindberg announce new majors in biology and computer information systems, choices which were not available last year at this time.

Verse of the Week:

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's powers.

- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5