

Assembly welcomes students

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State's Class of 2014 kicked off their college careers Saturday night at the President's New Student Convocation, where administrators and student leaders welcomed the freshmen to the university.

The speakers' main message to students was to take advantage of Penn State's many opportunities and to have a positive impact on the school.

Penn State President Graham Spanier began his welcome address by throwing out some Penn State trivia. One of the tidbits was that, in their first semester, most students only change their bed sheets four times.

After encouraging students to take advantage of Penn State's many opportunities, Spanier also discussed some of the university's principles, including academic, personal and social responsibility.

Making good decisions — like

choosing to attend all classes, not excessively drinking and being careful on social networking websites — can lead to later opportunities like studying abroad or internships, he said.

"We hope you feel like you're joining an extended family," Spanier said.

Students were welcomed not only to the Penn State family, but also to the State College community. State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham invited students to explore the downtown area — the permanent residents are friendly and love students' enthusiasm, she said.

Goreham also had some advice to dispense to students.

The most important lessons students learn in their first year aren't learned in classrooms, she said, and include things like learning to live within a budget, knowing when to leave a party and discovering how to be an independent adult.

Above all, Goreham stressed that students should register to

vote. The advice didn't come only from university officials.

University Park Undergraduate Association President Christian Ragland talked about how UPUA allowed him to give back to the university, urging students to find their niche within the community.

"When you're passionate about something, you give 110 percent all the time and give back to the university," Ragland (senior-political science) said.

The welcome was well-received by many students.

"It was nice to learn about what everyone thought and to get their opinions on everything and see how much enthusiasm the president and faculty had," James Rohan (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said.

After the event, many students headed to the HUB-Robeson Center for the semester's first Penn State Late Night.

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Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Students wait in line to buy textbooks at the Penn State bookstore.

Freshmen move in, begin life at college

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Just a day after moving in to his room in East Halls, Penn State freshman Chad Colopy had already reached his verdict on college: It's glorious.

Colopy (freshman-premedicine), who moved in Saturday, said he is already beginning to feel at home in his East Halls dorm, calling his newfound freedom "awesome."

Colopy is one of about 8,000 new students who moved into Penn State residence halls for the first time this weekend. Director of Housing Conal Carr said.

Many of the students lugged carts piled with boxes, as their parents maneuvered their cars into the packed dorm parking lots.

Downtown, dozens of people waited their turns in lines at restaurants and bookstores, hoping to catch a break.

But despite the chaotic appearance of move-in weekend, Penn State parent Thomas Gall said it ran like a well-oiled machine.

Gall helped his son Preston Gall (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) move into Pollock Halls Friday.

"Everything was well organized. A very good system was in place," Gall said. "Security forces

were in place. There was no animosity. It was not us versus them."

Gall — a resident of Columbus, Ohio and an Ohio State Buckeyes fan — said he couldn't help but admit that he likes Happy Valley.

"I love the area up here," Gall said.

Carr said hundreds of people have helped in the move-in process, ranging from police giving directions to lost parents to faculty conducting college-advising meetings.

And behind the scenes of all of the hubbub is the Fall Arrival Committee, which has been prepping for the mass exodus of students to University Park this fall since March, Carr said.

The committee, which Carr chairs, includes representatives from University Police Services, the Schreyer Honors College, Housing and Food Services, Residence Life and ResCom, among others, Carr said.

Their hard work appears to be paying off for new students like Colopy, who said he's acclimating well into Penn State.

"It's awesome," Colopy said. "All the people are friendly and everyone is in the same position. Everyone is looking to meet new people."

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UPUA distributes handbooks

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Distribution of a new student handbook began Sunday at the orientation event held for Commonwealth Campus transfer students, student body president Christian Ragland said.

"The 'S' Book" — initiated by former University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Gavin Keirans — is a glossy, 92-page handbook for all new students, Ragland (senior-political science) said.

The tradition of distributing student handbooks at the university dates back to the 1890s, but the books fell out of print in the late 1990s, UPUA Assembly Chairwoman Jessica Pellicciotta said.

Pellicciotta (senior-political science), along with Lion Ambassadors President David Frankenfield, spearheaded the book's production over the summer.

Frankenfield (senior-economics) said he was glad distribution of the handbook has begun.

"Just seeing the work that so

many people put into it and we gave it to them and 30 seconds later people are reading it and hopefully learning from it [was rewarding]," he said. "I just hope it helps."

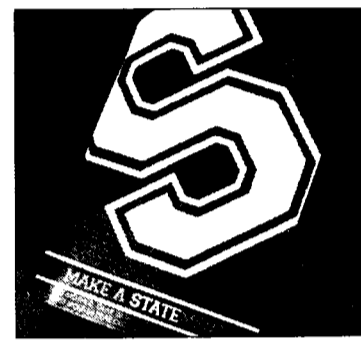
About 800 copies of the handbook were handed out at Sunday's orientation, and details for distribution to first-year students are still being nailed down, Pellicciotta said.

"We'll definitely have everything done within the second week of school," she said. "We're looking at the different options we have and making sure each student gets one in their hands, so [the book] is not just sitting on a table and making them come to us. It's us coming to them."

Along with the history and traditions section, the book will also include letters from the president of the university, the student body president and the handbook committee, Pellicciotta said.

There are also sections on academics, on- and off-campus housing, campus landmarks and buildings, student involvement, student services and fight songs, she said.

Though the exact handbook



Steph Witt/Collegian

UPUA's 'S' Book is available to all incoming first-year students.

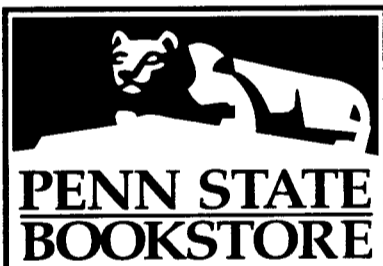
production cost has not been determined, Pellicciotta said it will be under \$15,000 for about 10,000 copies.

Ragland said he has heard "a lot of positive feedback" from those who have already received the book.

"A lot of students really like the idea that pretty much every aspect of student life is touched on, and they like the tradition of it, too," he said.

Ragland said publishing the book is a "growing process."

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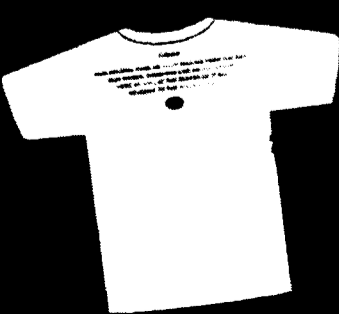
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