University of Scranton welcomes class of 2017

BY SARAH SCINTO (STAFF WRITER)
Published: August 25, 2013

They unpacked their cars, met their roommates, and on Saturday afternoon, the University of Scranton's class of 2017 gathered for the first time for the new student convocation Mass.

Nearly 900 incoming students filled the seats in the Byron Recreation Center, all sporting purple T-shirts emblazoned with the university's signature "S" and the number 2017. University officials said the class was chosen from among 9,000 applicants and hail from 15 states, Ireland, China and India.

New student John Towey, 18, of Westfield, N.J., posed for pictures with his parents and older sister before heading into the convocation.

"I'm really excited," he said. "It didn't take very long to settle in, so I'm not nervous anymore."

Move-in for resident students began at 8:30 a.m. with the help of the university's "purple people," student volunteer movers. For new students and their parents, the help was a pleasant surprise.

"Move-in was way quicker than I thought it would be," Mr. Towey said. "I only carried one bag."

Anna Heckman, 21, of Clarks Summit, a senior, helped with move-in and orientation this year.

"It gets more and more organized every year," she said. "It's cute to see the families' reactions when we show up to help."

After snapping their first class photo, the class of 2017 processed into the convocation. Vice President for Student Affairs Vincent Carilli, Ph.D., welcomed the class and encouraged them to meet their classmates.

"Look around the room; you are surrounded by your classmates," he said. "Today marks your entrance into our family."

University President the Rev. Kevin J. Quinn, S.J., formally accepted and welcomed the class, encouraging them to make the most of their college years.

"My prayer for you is that you will find this place as welcoming and supportive as I have," he said. "Welcome to the start of a great adventure."

Contact the writer: ssconto@timesshamrock.com, @sscintoTT on Twitter
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