

Event welcomes Greeks

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KANSAN STAFF WRITER

Wearing T-shirts that read, “No matter the letter, we’re all Greek together,” the Pan Hellenic and Interfraternity Council Executive Boards checked in between 500 and 600 new members for Greek Orientation on Saturday at the Kansas Union.

This year marks the second Greek Orientation at the University of Kansas. The new fraternity and sorority members learned about the four pillars of the Greek Community: leadership, friendship, scholarship and service, said Andy Kim, IFC vice president and Shawnee senior.

Kim said he did not have the same opportunity as a freshman.

“I didn’t really know what was going on,” he said. “I just heard through word-of-mouth.”

New members listened to guest speakers from the Freshman Sophomore Advising Center, the KU Writing Center and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. With St. Jude, IFC and Pan Hellenic organize “Up ’Til Dawn,” a program that raises money for the hospital.

Laura Cripple, coordinator for fraternity and sorority life, said based on feedback she received, new members benefited most from guest speaker Paul Vitale.

“He got them really fired up and ready to address their uncertainties,” Cripple said. “They’re ready to go out and be leaders not just in their chapters but throughout the KU community.”

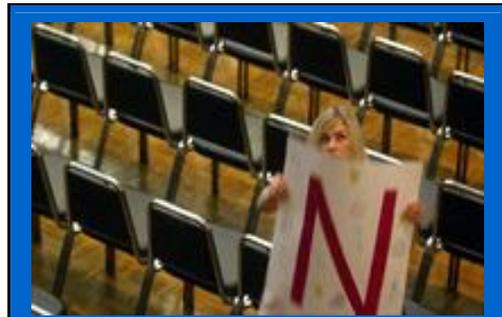
Vitale began by borrowing a pair of flip-flops and a headband from a fraternity member in the front row of the packed Kansas Ballroom. He said all members should be aware of their influences, whether in dress or in leadership.

He also said he wanted them all to become leaders throughout the University, not just the Greek community.

“You are the people who are about to make a tremendous difference on this campus,” said Vitale, author of *Are You Puzzled by the Puzzle of Life?* and former president of his Sigma Tau Gamma chapter.

Cripple said the new members seemed guarded at first, but loosened up through team-building activities. She said the executive boards intentionally split up the groups so they would include members from different chapters.

“New members got an opportunity to get involved and meet new people in a non-alcoholic setting,” Kim said.



*Ashlee Green, Wichita junior, holds up a Greek letter as she waits for her group to file into the Kansas Ballroom for KU's Greek Orientation. There were twenty-nine groups that consisted of students from different chapters. The organizers said it was a good way for new students to get involved and meet different people.
(Courtney Kuhlen/KANSAN)*