President welcomes new students to U of A

Hundreds of first-year and transfer students packed into Hawrelak Park’s Heritage Amphitheatre on Tuesday night to listen to University of Alberta President Indira Samaraweera’s speeches, in which she told students they had a great year ahead of them.

The president’s address capped off two days of Orientation, starting what’s now a new students’ council, campus-attended presentations, performed choirs, played games, and learned about the different university services available.

Species were given by Samaraweera, Rudimentary President Nick Dobbs, SJ Vice President (Student Life) Kyle Tigges, and Alumni Association President Jane Halldor. The students encouraged students to get involved and strive for their best at the U of A.

First-year Arts student Samantha Lee said orientation got her excited about getting involved with clubs and volunteering opportunities at the university.

“I learned a lot about all the services that will be provided that I had no idea we had,” she said.

Lee’s excitement was matched by the crowd of students, who marched into the amphitheatre bearing costumes, matching T-shirts, and enthusiastic cheers for their respective facilitates. One orientation leader received a text message saying that the cheers could be heard as far as the Valley Zoo across the river.

Tight was dressed as famed video game character Luigi to keep the theme of Welcome themed Super Mario.

Week of Welcome theme of Super Mario. He shared with the audience his father had given him about going to university — time will fly by.

When Halldor took the stage, she welcomed students to what she called “the U of A family,” and encourage them on joining an institution of 340,000 alumni worldwide.

“I look around and remember why I’m so proud,” she said. “We join the ranks of previous alumni, prime ministers, and Nobel Prize winners, [and] they’re Olympic gold medalists.”

Dobbs spoke at the event for the second year in a row, having preserved last year’s theme of role as VP (Student Life) last year. He welcomed everyone to the U of A community.

“If you remember one thing, in it this is no more to complete an undergraduate degree, no matter what anybody tells you — whether it’s your friend, your lover, or your fictional Italian noodles siblicick, Dobbs said.

He also encouraged students to persevere through adversity in their first year, and stressed the availability of services like the Campus Food Bank.

The speeches ended with the president’s address, as Samaraweera spoke to students, welcoming them to the school and praising to global nation.

“We welcome to one of the world’s top universities. We are so cool. The reason we’re cool is that we’re one of the greatest northern universities.”

StREETERS

As you may be aware, the Week of Welcome theme this year is Super Mario. It’s the first time the video game character has been used to dress up as.

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