

IntroDUCKtion prepares freshmen for college life

The program aims to help incoming students become familiar with campus, while helping their parents 'let go'

By Sara Boettcher
for the Emerald

Katie Peterson, an incoming freshman from Minneapolis, was one of the hundreds of students who attended IntroDUCKtion on Thursday and Friday. Last week's program marked the summer's final IntroDUCKtion event, which included seven sessions throughout the month of July.

IntroDUCKtion is a two-day event run by Student Orientation Programs for incoming University students and their families. The program, which features events such as advising and financial aid workshops, campus tours, placement tests and many social events, attempts to help new students succeed by familiarizing participants with campus life.

All IntroDUCKtion sessions are run by the Student Orientation Staff, a group of current University students who train to answer questions, give tours and generally assist new students during a spring-term seminar class.

Josh Mann, a current SOS member, was one of this year's many IntroDUCKtion staffers.

"I like to feel like I'm helping people," said Mann, a University senior and former camp counselor, during an outdoor luncheon Thursday.

Peterson said people like Mann really do help answer questions and ease fears about college life. She said that IntroDUCKtion is a fun and effective way to get to know students, faculty and the campus area. While Peterson felt "scared but really excited" at the program's start, each event helped calm those fears, she said. Her mother, Carole Peterson, agreed. After making the trip from Minneapolis to help her daughter "get Oregon-ized," the elder Peterson was grateful for the ac-



Adam Jones Emerald

Robin Eisenbach, far right, leads a group of anxious freshmen on a tour through campus during IntroDUCKtion.

cessibility of faculty and staff at IntroDUCKtion events. The best part of the program, she said, was the opportunity to listen to faculty and talk to other parents.

For many parents of new freshmen, IntroDUCKtion plays a large

role in the "letting go" process.

Student Orientation Programs, which coordinates IntroDUCKtion, writes on its Web site that easing the fears of parents as they watch their children transition from high school to college is one

of the main goals of the program.

As for the Student Orientation Staff, most will get a break before returning to assist with the University's Week of Welcome, Sept. 25 to 29.

Sara Boettcher is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Baseball

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player an important lesson.

While Gardner agreed that Jones made the catch, he understood why the batter was not called out. To prove that Jones made the catch, Gardner advised the 2002 third-round draft pick to voluntarily display the ball next time.

"You've got to show (the umpires) you've got possession of the ball," Gardner explained.

And just like Jones' miscue, it was small mistakes that cost the Emeralds (14-26) the decisive fifth game of the series.

Gardner cited an inability to get outs and throwing errors as focal problems in Sunday's game, but he also noted that the Emeralds have made many mistakes this season in crucial middle innings.

"Today was a perfect situation," Gardner said.

Eugene tied the game at 2-2 in the third inning with a double by designated hitter Mike Richardson. The Ems added to the lead in the fourth inning when second baseman Brian Burgamy jacked a two-run home run to left-center field to put Eugene on top 5-2.

But the lead didn't last long, as the Hawks took command in the

sixth inning.

With two outs and ahead in the count with no balls and two strikes, Ems pitcher Luke Steidlmayer gave up a single to right field, then hit the next Boise batter. Pitcher Scott Martin entered in relief but saw his first opponent knock in two runs on Jones' fielding error. Boise went on to score another run in the sixth, two in the seventh and two more in the eighth.

"Luke threw a good game," said Richardson, who finished 2 for 2 with three walks and two RBI's. "We played good enough to win."

The Ems didn't notch a victory, however, and it appears that losing is beginning to take its toll on the team. Burgamy said his 2 for 5 performance didn't "mean anything" because Eugene lost.

"Losing is always irritating," Richardson agreed. "This game would have been big to win."

The Ems open a five-game series tonight in Spokane and will be on the road for 13 of their next 16 games. The season has passed the halfway point, and the players know the time has come to improve the team's last place standing.

"We have enough time to turn it around," Burgamy said. "It's just a matter of doing it."

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com.

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