

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods students ready for new chapter

By SUE LOUGHLIN

TRIBUNE-STAR

Sutton Reed is ready for the next, exciting chapter of his life.

And that chapter will take place at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, where he will be a freshman this year majoring in kinesiology and playing on the men's volleyball team.

"I really love the campus and the volleyball team. The team has such



REED

While experiencing some anxiety associated with his freshman year of college, Reed is also confident about what's ahead.

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a great bond, and that's what drove me here," he said during freshman move-in day Friday.



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Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College student Madison Miers greets new students as they arrive on campus Friday.

Woods

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"I'm going to have so much fun here ... I can't wait for it to get started," he said.

Not too far away, college president Brennan Randolph, as well as several faculty, staff and early-report students, gathered on both sides of The Avenue to give new campus students a warm, lively welcome.

The welcome included bubbles, music, noisemakers and "Welcome to the Woods" signs. Those gathered on each side of The Avenue cheered on the new campus arrivals after the incoming students received a personal greeting and welcome from the college president.

The annual tradition is something the campus looks forward to, Randolph said.

"It's fun for faculty and staff to come out and welcome them. I think it helps students and families to see a little bit about who we are, the family-like atmosphere and the culture we talk about in the admissions process," Randolph said.

Campus enrollment will be "very similar" to last year, he reported, with about 217 new students and about 605 total students for the on-campus program.

The incoming, campus-based class is diverse, with students from 24 states, Puerto Rico and 12 countries, Randolph said. Ten percent of the new students are international.

Student-athletes represent 66% of the incoming class.

Total fall enrollment for the college, including



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Brennan Randolph, president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, greets a new student's family as they arrive Friday.

Woods Online and graduate students, is anticipated to be about 1,200 students, which includes those who will start in October.

The college continues to see growth and success in its nursing programs, Randolph said. It also has its second incoming class of graduate

students pursuing a master of science in equine studies.

Among the new freshman on campus is Dante Adams of Fayetteville, Ark., who will play on the men's basketball team. He is an exercise science major.

He's been on campus for about a week. "It's exciting



ADAMS

... I'm ready to get started," Adams said.

His goals for the upcoming year include winning basketball

games, getting good grades and just enjoying the college experience, he said.

Another student moving into Le Fer Hall Friday was Landrie Hayes of Terre Haute; she is majoring in business.

Among the factors she considered in attending the college was its smaller, family-like atmosphere. "It feels very at home" at the Woods, she said.

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