Remarks by Tom Weede, vice president of enrollment management

It is my pleasure to introduce you to, well, to yourselves. You are Butler University’s class of 2017. As a way of introducing you, I would like to provide some statistical information.

9,369 students applied for admission, a 43% increase over three years ago. 6,188 students were admitted.

By now, you may have heard that you are the third largest class in Butler’s history, with, as of Friday, 1,021 freshmen and 86 transfer students. Congratulations!

But there’s more:

You also have amongst the highest academic credentials in the University’s storied history, with an average GPA of 3.76, an ACT middle 50% that ranged from 25 to 30 and an SAT mid 50 that ranged from 1600 to 1900.

More than 62% of the class who reported class rank were in the top 10% of their graduating class.

16 of you are Lilly Scholars.

146 of you identified yourselves as multicultural, making this our most diverse class ever.

143 are legacy students, meaning that you identified a close relative who attended Butler.

Geographically, 43% of you come from Indiana, and 57% of you come from outside Indiana – that is highest percentage of out of state students ever. You represent 32 states and 22 counties. The top ten states represented are:

1. Indiana       6. Wisconsin
2. Illinois      7. California
3. Ohio          8. Kentucky
5. Missouri      Tied for 10th are Massachusetts and Tennessee
The largest representation from a metropolitan area is from Chicago with 181.

Are you thinking about how long it takes you to get to campus? The student coming from the farthest distance to attend Butler comes 8,358 miles from Secunderabad, India. Domestically, the longest “commute” is 2,252 miles from Bothell, WA, in the northern suburbs of Seattle. The student with the shortest “commute” lives approximately 10 feet from campus in a home that is adjacent to a campus building.

So what will you be studying? Our largest majors, as recorded on your applications are:

1. Undecided or exploratory
2. Pharmacy
3. Biology
4. Education
5. Psychology
6. Dance
7. Accounting
8. Marketing
9. Chemistry
10. Political Science

Regardless of your intended major, 23% of you identify yourselves as pre-med, pre-law or one of our other pre-professional programs.

You were involved in high school:

- 565 played on at least one athletic team.
- 330 won multiple letters.
- 194 served as a team captain, 49 were all-conference, and 56 were members of a state championship team.

In the arts,

- 227 were members of the band, choir or orchestra.
- 44 were first chair and 27 were part of the all-state band or choir.
- 79 were cast members in a theatrical production, and 28 played the lead.

In your schools and communities,

- 585 were members of the National Honor Society.
- 257 were members of student government.
• 82 were class officers and 56 were editors of either the school newspaper or yearbook.
• 603 have you have been involved in formal community service, although I suspect that number is larger.
• 217 were members of a church youth group and 87 have been on mission trips.
• While all of these activities were happening alongside schoolwork, 502 of you also held part-time jobs.

Finally, a quick note about essays. With almost 10,000 applications, the Office of Admission has a love/hate relationship with essays. Sometimes they are routine, some are outstanding, some are just plain bad, and some are submitted without a second thought - literally. This year, we had 5 students who mistakenly ended their essays by telling us how much they hoped to attend Indiana University, and 3 who said DePauw. We wish them the best.

You are special as a group - incredible and amazing may be better words. But even more important, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the course of the past two years, and I can tell you that you are even more impressive as individuals. To the class of 2017, we salute you and wish you the very best as you begin your studies at Butler.