

As everyone gears up to write their final exams and head back home for a long summer break, Purdue begins to organize events for freshmen who arrive on campus for the first time in August. The Purdue initiation of sorts, Boiler Gold Rush, is a great event for incoming freshmen to get to know the campus and the resources available to them for the next four years. The University assigns the students to a particular team with sophomore, junior or senior team leaders to have a good time for a week. But what I dislike about the concept of the Boiler Gold Rush event is that it only caters to freshmen of the fall semester. As a student who was a Spring semester freshman, I find the lack of importance given to spring freshmen disturbing. Fortunately for me, I could adjust to campus life just fine as I was able to make friends early on in the semester and had a general idea how things work on campus. For freshman that are not as fortunate as I was, they might have suffered from loneliness, depression and acute stress in their first semesters. They login to Facebook and look to old friends for their only source of comfort. In fact, they still may be going through a lot of difficulties and may be hoping that this semester gets over as soon as possible so that they can return to places of emotional comfort, such as their homes. I believe that this is a much graver matter in the case of international freshmen as this is altogether a new country and new way of living too. I would like to conclude by saying that Purdue University should also give the spring semester freshmen a better welcome. A better welcome results in happy and comfortable students and students who are the above are also more academically-focused.