

Local Florida State students get big send off

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LEESBURG — Local students bound for Florida State University this fall got a big send off in Leesburg on Saturday.

The 2016 Fall Kick-Off by the Seminole Chapter of Lake-Sumter included a number of activities along with advice to help ease the way for students headed to Tallahassee.

The event was held at Main Street Receptions in downtown Leesburg, where vehicles adorned with vanity license plates for the school filled the parking lot.

The six students slated to attend the event included finance and music majors.

“I just wanted to get a good start,” said 18-year-old incoming freshman Ashley Mangan on why she attended Saturday’s event. She is planning on majoring in finance.

Inside the building was a sea of garnet and gold as alumni, current students and officials dressed in school colors. There was school memorabilia for sale and for auction.

Table clothes were topped with a centerpiece that included makeshift spears.

Sam Lappin, 19, who plans to major in risk management and actuarial science, could be seen with her mother trying on a FSU T-shirt.

Lappin, of Eustis, said she came with hopes of finding a ride to school.

“This is a great way for them to meet other students,” said Carleen Shepp, president of the chapter.

There was a school trivia game and barbecue dinner.

Gene Deckerhoff, the radio voice of the Florida State University football team, and Michael Muszynski, a dean with FSU’s Orlando campus of the College of Medicine, were among the speakers at event.

Muszynski touted the school’s accomplishments, including how workers provided medical care to the victims of the recent Pulse nightclub shootings, the record number of Rhodes Scholars and the famous people who have graduated from FSU.

“I’m proud to say ‘Go Seminoles,’” Muszynski shouted to applause.

Proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will go toward scholarships. Brantley West, a 2016 Leesburg High School graduate, will use the scholarship he won to major in music.



Florida State University Send Off

Incoming Florida State University student Sam Lappin, right, looks at a school T-shirt with her mother, Jennifer, at a send-off event for FSU students on Saturday in Leesburg.

He will play tuba in the school's band and was one of the students who ended his speech with a Tomahawk Chop.