Pitzer Welcomes Freshmen, Urges Diverse Education

By EUGENE KEILIN

Billing a university education as a means to bridge the communications gap between two cultures, scientific and academic, Rice President K. S. Pitzer formally welcomed the class of 1966 to the University.

Speaking to an attentive audience of freshly-scrubbed freshmen, faculty dignitaries, student leaders, and a scattering of curious upperclassmen, President Pitzer highlighted his Matriculation Address with the admonition that the new student should gain a solid grasp of a broad range of knowledge.

TO SOLVE the problem presented by C. P. Snow in his book, "The Two Cultures," President Pitzer suggested that the university student must minimize the differences inherent in a curriculum divided between science-engineering and academic studies and make a real effort to gain an understanding of both major fields. It is to this end, he said, that students are required to take courses in both areas while they are at Rice.

Representing student government, Student Association President Bob Clarke reminded the freshmen that they were "attending Rice at a very exciting time. The university," he said, "is going through a process of change—as must all institutions which wish to retain high standing and growth. Student government has had and hopefully will continue to have the opportunity to involve itself in these changes which directly affect the students and their activities on campus."

CLARKE listed two of the areas in which student government had produced change as the "problem of academic excellence" and "the development of the residential college system."

President Pitzer pointed out to the freshmen that a university consisted of students and faculty and its success was measured by the effectiveness of the interaction between them. The function of a university, he said, was both to transfer knowledge from the records to the new generation and to add additional knowledge to the existing body. Most faculty members, he added, have research interests which are necessary to carry out this second function.

PITZER continued by congratulating both the class and the university: the class on its admission to Rice, and the university for gaining such fine students. The president made reference here to the widely-publicized high percentage of National Merit Scholars among the class members.

The class, he said at one point, has the real satisfaction of entering a first class operation.