University Housing Newsletter, August 2011

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. University Housing

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University Housing Newsletter

The University Housing Newsletter is a monthly publication of the department for staff members. It is YOUR news - you are encouraged to contribute articles or information to share with the department.

To contribute an article to the newsletter, email the entire article by the 25th of each month to Kent Perrodin at kperrod@uark.edu.

Articles will be reviewed for content and may be edited for publishing.

MOVE-IN!

My husband and I moved our son into Pomfret this morning. This is our third time moving a child to college, but the first time to the University of Arkansas. It was a FANTASTIC experience – well-organized and efficient- everyone was very friendly and extremely helpful. I would actually call it an enjoyable day! I just wanted to compliment you on doing such a great job.

Thanks,
Patty Martin
Pittsburg, KS

http://housing.uark.edu
Total for Cardboard Recycling During Move-In

Not only have we set a record with our student enrollment numbers this year, we have also set a record for the amount of cardboard that was recycled from the residence halls during the Move-In period.

University Housing recycled 11 tons of cardboard during Move-In this year. Great job to all of our students and our staff!

Thanks to Austin Hammons and Gary Enzor (Facilities Management) for their work with the recycling and the record-keeping of our cardboard recycling totals.

Contributed by Felisha Perrodin
Posted to the Housing Facebook Page:
A Big Thanks to all of the Housing Staff and the Lead Hogs that made move in day so easy!!:)  Glenda Seale Bordelon
Boottles of water and Gatorade purchased by University Housing for Move-In: 6072
To Housing Staff & Volunteers:

Please send my ultimate compliments on the easy move-in for my son who moved in to Yocum Hall on August 18th. Your volunteer support staff (students and faculty) was absolutely awesome! I have moved in 2 other college kids and never had such a great community help out with the effort. You guys were unbelievable! My son and I had students and a great professor from Hospitality help us. I can’t begin to thank you enough. This was a big improvement over the move-in at Pomfret 4 years ago and made the job so much easier.

Good Job & Well Done!
Kimberly Waller
The International Students & Scholars office (ISS) is located in Holcombe International Living Learning Community (HILLC). This unique structure allows students to easily explore different cultures through various programs and community service projects both on- and off-campus.

The International Student Orientation organized by ISS started on August 8th for graduate students and August 15th for undergraduate students. HILLC became full of energy by those newly arrived students. RAs genuinely helped some of the programs: promoting HILLC’s programs at the resource fair, taking students to the Ice-cream Social and joining the Pizza and Game Night.

One of unique programs that the Sponsored Student Program Office at the U of A and ISS have been responsible for is called Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD Program). Several educational organizations in Washington D.C. administer the Global UGRAD Program on behalf of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Global UGRAD Program provides one semester and academic year scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students from underrepresented sectors in East Asia, Eurasia and Central Asia, the Near East and South Asia and the Western Hemisphere for non-degree full-time study combined with community service, internships and cultural enrichment.

Twelve UGRAD students live in Holcombe Hall and one student lives in Gregson Hall during the Fall 2011. They are from Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Serbia and Tunisia. This program has added diversity to HILLC and the campus itself.

We expect that those students will share their cultures through our signature program, Holcombe Geography Series, and other opportunities during the semesters. All UGRAD students are excited to soak up American culture and maximize their study abroad experience. Please stay tuned with HILLC programs to experience diversity the U of A has to offer!

Several international students made a Welcome Video for new students. If you are online, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDA6v7qysW8

Photo: UGRAD students from 2010-2011

Contributed by Nami Bagirimvano
Devan Ford, Coordinator for Residence Education, Humphreys Hall, has been selected to present at the NACA (National Association for Campus Activities) Central Regional Conference in Tulsa in October. Devan will be presenting along with MarTeze Hammonds on Advising Students. The presentation is entitled “Reviving the NAACP: The Rebirth & Importance of Historical Minority Organizations at PWIs”

Devan is also a 2011-2012 recipient of the Ron Miller Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship. She will join other undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Education and Health Professions at an honorary luncheon on October 7th at Fayetteville Town Center.

Contributed by Devan Ford

WHO’S NUMBER ONE?
WE’RE NUMBER ONE!

Pomfret Hall won the Freshman Pep Rally Spirit Award for the third year running!

Plus...a strong shout out to Maple Hill. They had more participation this year than in Maple Hill history. They had a very strong showing, which speaks to the great work that Adam, Briceli, EmmaLe and the RAs do over there. They deserve recognition for their dedication to the students and their experience here at the UofA.
Beginning July 1, the Residence Education area went into training mode. Our new Coordinators for Residence Education (CRES) began their training on July 1 with the returning CREs joining the training activities beginning Tuesday, July 5. A key component of our CRE training is pairing a new CRE (or CREs) with a returning CRE to create a “buddy” relationship. The returning “buddy” will go over some of the details related to the CRE position including a tour of the Fayetteville and a tour of the residence halls so that the new CRE staff can become familiar with our buildings.

A variety of topics were covered during CRE training including StrengthsQuest, conduct training (including working with the RMS Judicial module), Purchasing, hall senates and an introduction to University of Arkansas traditions. A component that was reintroduced into this year’s CRE training was a “shadowing” time. The “shadowing” time with various Housing staff members in Purchasing, Assignments, the Hotz front desk and IT allowed the new CREs an opportunity to learn hands-on about each of those areas. It also gave the new CRE a chance to build relationships with the staff members who work in those areas. CRE training was planned and coordinated by the CRE Training workgroup.

As the CREs were going through their training, they were also preparing for the arrival of their Resident Assistants for RA training. The RATraining Workgroup identified skill areas that are essential for success in the RA position and then built a training schedule that incorporated skill-building sessions in the identified skill areas. The skill areas are: Leadership Skills/Team Building, Academic & Campus Resources, Mediation/Policy Enforcement, Mental Health/Healthy Behavior, Communication/Administrative Tasks and Appreciation of Diversity. Some sessions were done in large groups and other sessions were broken down into groups of returning RAs and new RAs.

RA training included sessions on safety and security, drugs and alcohol, StrengthsQuest and the First Six Weeks (including Welcome Week programming). Additionally, the new RA staff had the opportunity to handle potential student scenarios that they might come across in their RA role during some Behind Closed Doors scenarios. Some of the scenarios included student mental health concerns, alcohol, drugs and roommate issues.

The RA staff also had the opportunity to attend some conference-style breakout sessions that focused on topics like bullying, partner violence, icebreakers and student/staff recognition. Presenters for the breakout sessions included returning RAs, Housing staff, Student Affairs and other University staff as well as some presenters from the local community. The breakout sessions allowed staff members to learn about a variety of topics and they could also take that information back to share with their staff.

There were several “spirit days” included in RA training this year including Hat Day, School Pride Day, Manic Monday and Most United (for Field Day). This year’s Field Day activity was a dodgeball competition amongst the staffs. Several of the staffs created staff “uniforms” for this event.

While training is a major focus in July and August for our Residence Education staff, we will continue to provide on-going staff development for both our Resident Assistant staff and the CRE staff over the course of the academic year.

Submitted by Felisha Perrodin
The entire Housing Department staff has been given approval to wear RED RAZORBACK REGALIA every Friday that there is a home football game on Saturday in support of BIG RED FRIDAY’S AND NATIONAL COLLEGE COLORS DAYS (to include wearing work-site appropriate jeans).

THE FRIDAY DATES ARE THE FOLLOWING:
- September 9, 16
- October 7
- November 4, 11, 18

Congratulations to the Housing staff, Lead Hogs and community volunteers for a successful, student-oriented Move-In period.

Thanks to the Hog Database for this information:
http://www.hogdb.com/razorback-helmet-history/