A Message From Central Staff!

Hello Parents of the College!

My name is Christine Edwards and I am the Associate Director of Residential Community Life. My position is part supervision of Residence Hall Directors and part working with facilities and operations. I am the person who works with building planning for renovations, purchase of furniture for the residence halls, damage billing and other areas of residence life that relate to facilities. In addition to my duties, I also sit on various College committees and enjoy the collaborative approach the College takes with creating a great college experience for the students we serve. It is fitting that the department spotlight me at this time as you may have questions related to a smooth and damage free check out process as the academic year comes to a close.

During the week before finals, the Residence Hall Director for your student’s building will be going door to door discussing the check out process and ways that the students can avoid damage billing. We want to be sure there is a ‘face to face’ conversation with as many residents as possible so they have ample time and opportunity to ask any questions they may have. This is also a good time for residents to communicate any damage that has occurred during the school year that will need to be repaired during summer to prepare for the fall opening. At the beginning of the year all residents received a list of damage billing costs as they relate to furniture, screens, window blinds, wall damage, etc. in their rooms. They will be checked out by a resident advisor. During this checkout, it is important to note that the resident advisor will give them advice on small things they could do to avoid billing (for example, sweeping the floor so the pile of dirt is thrown away). The RA does not have any authority to say that the student will not be billed for damage; they are only there to give some feedback, even though they sign off on the Room Condition Report (RCR) signifying the check out is complete. After closing, the Residence Hall Director and myself assess building damage. If damage is found in the room during this time, the damage will be billed out to the resident accordingly. Students will know if they have been billed for damage by July 1. If you have questions about the facilities, damage billing or other areas of residence life and housing, feel free to give me a call at the office and I can address any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Christine Edwards
Residential Community Life
Move in Crew Fall 2014

After arriving on campus, incoming transfer and first year students are welcomed by returning students who enthusiastically greet and assist them in getting their belongings into their residence hall room. This labor intensive tradition is always greatly appreciated by incoming students and their families, and serves as a special welcome to our campus.

At the end of the spring term, the Department of Residential Community Life seeks volunteers for this position. The requirements to volunteer mean returning to campus a day early so your student can be settled before assisting our new students and wanting to have a great opening day! Volunteers get a free t-shirt, a dinner on the night before opening and they must attend a mandatory training the night before opening day. Interested students should contact Maggie Ostrander at Margaret.Ostrander@oneonta.edu, and provide a name and contact e-mail address. Move-in crew volunteers will arrive on Friday August 22, 2014, and classes will begin on Monday August 25, 2014.

Finals Preparations

As your students begin to wind down their school year, they will be getting ready to take their finals and finish the semester on a high note. The Office of Residential Community Life as well as the campus community put on various events to help the students. Over the course of finals week each Residence Hall Government will put on a finals food event. In this program, the building will provide food for your student as a quick snack so they can take a break during their studies to eat and relax for a few minutes to refresh themselves. There is also a big Midnight Breakfast event that happens during finals week every semester. This semester’s even will begin at midnight on Wednesday May 7th. This is another way for the students to get a break in while they’re studying. Also, our college library will run extended hours during finals so the students will have a quiet place where they can go and study without interruption. Lastly as a reminder, Finals begin on May 8th and run until May 14th. All students who are not a part of the commencement ceremony must be out of the Residence Halls by May 15th at 12pm.
Trash to Treasure!

As the semester begins to wind down, many students begin to look around and realize how much stuff they have accumulated over the course of the year. Many times students begin to purge items or even leave things behind that can cause issues with billing and overcrowding garbage rooms. One alternative is to donate items to community service based collections (drives) that happen right in each residence hall. There are clothing drives for various local organizations, food drives for various local food pantries, and towel and bedding drives for local animal shelters. Local groups that maybe interested in taking some items off of their hands and in turn help a good cause include:

The Family Services Association located at 277 Chestnut Street in Oneonta often looks for donations of hygiene products as well as cleaning supplies. They often times will take other items like alarm clocks, kitchen utensils, and other household items. Please contact them at 607-432-2870 with any questions and understand that they are open at limited days and times, so plan ahead!

The Salvation Army is also located in Oneonta at 105 Main Street next to the Public Safety building. They are available for many types of donations from clothing to furniture to other miscellaneous items that can be sold in the thrift store. Please contact them at 607-432-0952 with any possible donations.

There are also many other local organizations seeking items, so encourage your student to speak to their Hall Director or to the Center for Social Responsibility and Community for more options.

If your student has items that can be repurposed that they are looking to get rid of, please have them talk to their building staff to see if there is a new home for the items. Also keep in mind that just leaving items behind and not properly removing them can result in billing for the removal and cleaning that is left for building staff to do.

*A Friendly Reminder*

FOR FASTER DELIVERY OF YOUR MAIL AND PACKAGES PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Student Name

SUNY Oneonta

Mailbox # and Residence Hall Name

Oneonta, NY 13820

Office of Residence Life and Housing

106 Wilsbach Hall

Oneonta, New York 13820

607-436-3182 ph

http://www.oneonta.edu/development/reslife/