Greetings from Residential Community Life! I hope you are enjoying a happy and healthy winter. My name is Anne Everett and I am the Assistant Director for Program Development in the Department of Residential Community Life here at SUNY Oneonta. I am part of the Central Staff that oversees the residence halls, Residence Hall Directors and the RA (Resident Advisor) staff.

To share with you a little about what I do in Residence Life, I will tell you up front … my job is a fun one! I work with the Residence Life staff on building community in the Residence Halls. These efforts make your student’s residence hall feel like a “home away from home.” We achieve this through a multi-pronged approach. There are many educational and social programs that occur in the residence halls to help your student develop life skills such as communication, career development and time management. Additionally, we provide opportunities for personal growth for our students through the residence hall system. Hall Governments exist in each residence hall to serve as a sounding board for student ideas and concerns. Beyond this function, Hall Governments plan social and community service based programs for the residents including Finals Food, Halloween in the Halls, Angel Tree and various food and clothing drives. We encourage all students to become a part of their Hall Government to fulfill their desire to be involved in their community and gain leadership skills.

This does sound fun, right? Well, in Residence Life we recognize that students have basic needs that affect their ability to be successful at SUNY Oneonta. They need to feel accepted and safe in their environment so that they can flourish in their academics. They need to gain life and academic skills that will complement their study. They need opportunities to grow. And I feel lucky that my job is to assist in that growth and development!

If there is anything I can do to be of assistance to you or your student, please feel free to contact me at (607) 436-2514 or Anne.Everett@oneonta.edu.

Happy Winter!
Anne Everett

RA Selection

The Office of Residential Community Life will begin their search for new Resident Advisors in February! An RA is a student leader who lives in the residence halls and is a role model, community builder, programmer, campus resource, disciplinarian, or just a listening ear. As an RA, your student has the opportunity to learn skills such as conflict mediation, team building, communication, event planning, budget management, and much more! Being an RA is an awesome addition to any resume, as well as other perks. There will be an interest meeting held on Wednesday, February 13 at 7pm in room 3 at the Instructional Resource Center. Your student can talk to their RA or Residence Director with questions regarding the application or interview process. The online application closes Monday, February 25. Encourage your student to check it out!
Consolidation: What does it all mean?

Students who are left without a roommate in the Spring semester and want to continue to pay for a double room must move in with another student. ALL students will receive general information of their responsibilities and options if they lack a roommate. These options include:

Your student can request a specific individual to be reassigned to the room in which they reside. If this person resides in your student’s residence hall, they should contact their Residence Hall Director immediately. If this person lives in a residence hall different from your student’s, they should go to the Residence Life Office immediately.

If your student does not utilize one of these options additional charges WILL BE ADDED TO THEIR ACCOUNT.

Once notified, a student is given a date that single room charges will be added to their account for occupying a double room as a single.

Why is consolidation important?

1. Financial Inequity (paying for an Individual Room Program room vs. getting one for free).
2. Save on wear and tear of rooms and furniture, and to save on maintenance/energy costs.

Q: If my student does not consolidate, is paying for a single but subsequently moves together with someone, will the single room charges be dropped?

A: Yes, the charges will go back to being double room charges on the date that the two students become roommates.

Room Selection Process

The room selection process here at Oneonta State is coming up very quickly. Over the years we have tried to make room selection easy for everyone to understand. The entire process is completed on-line, and your student actually selects the room they want to live in for next year. Here’s a quick overview of the steps for room selection:

1. Beginning on March 4, students can pay their $100 housing deposit via MyOneonta, or at the Student Accounts office.
2. Once the deposit has been paid students may pick up their ‘housing key’ in MyOneonta. The housing key is a unique identification number assigned to your student for room selection, and serves as their ‘key’ to enter the room selection process. Also, if students wish to request a specific roommate, they will need this number from their desired roommate.
3. Beginning on March 18, your student will be able to view his/her appointment time on MyOneonta. Students will not be able to select a room until their designated appointment time.
4. Appointments will begin on April 1, and are assigned based on credit hour seniority. (In other words, seniors select first, then juniors, then sophomores, then freshmen.)
5. Room selection will be turned off during class registration, and then turned back on in order for students to make any changes they wish to their room assignment. Room selection will be turned off for the summer on Thursday, May 16.

Students will receive information regarding room selection in their e-mail inbox at the end of February. Also, during the week of March 18 we will offer an informational meeting in each residence hall. Please encourage your student to come and ask any questions about room selection they may have at that meeting.

Saturday Night Fever!

Residential Community Life strives to provide a variety of opportunities for students to attend programs on campus. One way we do this is through a late night series of programs called Saturday Night Fever.

Each residence hall on campus offers this event once an academic year as a fun way to spend a Saturday evening!

Upcoming SNF Dates:
March 3: Blodgett Hall
March 9: Higgins Hall
March 16: Littell Hall
April 6: Curtis Hall
April 13: Tobey Hall
April 20: Grant and Ford Halls
Matteson Fire Overview

On January 16th, 2013, no one expected that the first day of classes were to become one of the most stressful days in the lives of over 174 students. As 4pm approached the fire alarms in Matteson Hall began to sound. Not knowing what was the cause of the fire alarms, Residential Life Staff acted as procedure dictated ensuring that every student got out of the building rapidly and safely. Suddenly, the unknown became a real situation. Smoke began to gush out of the building. Matteson Hall Residents and Staff found themselves witnessing a life-changing event that would forever embark in their memories. What came after was beyond unexpected. The support of a community and college campus was vividly felt as students, college employees, and community members aided Matteson students during 9 days of displacement.

The Department of Residential Community Life along with the college rushed to set up shelter for the Matteson displaced students on the night of the fire. Students across campus donated clothing; toiletries, bedding, and other needed supplies for Matteson students. In difficult situations, it is hard to see what is been done behind the scenes, nonetheless, through constant communication with students through the Director of Residential Community Life, everyone in Matteson was been updated daily as to the status of the building, retrieving their belongings, and possible time frame to return home to Matteson Hall. On numerous occasions, students were allowed to enter Matteson Hall to reclaim their belongings to sustain them until the re-opening of the building. On the other hand, for third floor residents, they were escorted to completely retrieve all of their belongings, as the third floor would remain closed for the remainder of the semester pending its reconstruction this summer. The reconstruction of the third floor was scheduled for after the spring semester to prevent further disturbance to students once they got back into Matteson Hall.

Entering Matteson was emotional for every student. The emotion was from seeing the building after the fire and the level of support that the campus community showed during the first two days students was allowed into the building. It was for sure that students of Matteson Hall were never alone starting from January 16th until January 25th when the building re-opened at 10am.

Despite the previous 9 days, there was a lot of joy in Matteson Hall on January 25th. Students were up bright and early and ready to move back in. As students returned to Matteson, they were greeted by their RAs and Residence Hall Director. Smiles were infectious. At around 8pm, Matteson Hall hosted a pizza party for Residents sponsored by the Department of Residential Community Life. “Horrible things happen, we learn from the experience, we move on, and keep living,” said Residence Hall Director Thomas Rouse. Prior to the fire Matteson Hall’s Hall Government was planning their Football themed Saturday Night Fever scheduled for February 2nd, 2013. Many anticipated it to be cancelled, but the showed continued and residents looked forward to getting back to normality and what better way to do it than by having a football themed event for campus with amazing food and prizes. Matteson students and staff were overwhelmed by the love and support shown by the campus and Oneonta community.

Today, Matteson Hall is an even stronger community. It stands strong and ready to continue serving students as usual.
Health and Wellness Updates

With the flu season still in swing, the campus has taken several preventative measures as well as measures to aid in the care of our ill students. The Health Center has flu shots available; flu shots are free of charge for students. The Health Center also has information regarding sickness and being healthy on their website. Their hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 8am-5pm and 8am-4pm on Friday. The Health Center Staff has appointments available every day as well as walk-in times for students who need to be seen. Residential Community Life has also jumped onboard with this effort. There are miniature bottles of hand sanitizer available at each residence hall front desk area as well as thermo-dot disposable thermometers for students to use. There are also large bottles of hand sanitizer at the residence hall front desks and hand sanitizer dispensers all over campus to prevent the spread of germs. Other advice to students regarding staying healthy includes...

**Eating a well balanced diet and staying hydrated.** Is your student getting their necessary intake of vitamins and minerals and other essentials to maintain a healthy body? There are some great options on campus to not get caught up in eating the same few things.

**Sleep!** Many students forget to get a good night’s sleep of roughly 6-8 recommended hours. Sometimes it’s due to studying, other times it’s socially related. Either way, it is important to remind them to get a good night’s rest!

**Keeping the living space clean.** General cleaning and sanitizing can also help keep the students living spaces healthy. Bathrooms are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Students can also help themselves by wiping down their belongings, furniture and other surface areas in their rooms to help kill any unwanted germs. Personal garbage should be removed from rooms by the students on a regular basis.

The Health and Wellness Center on campus offers a wide variety of care for our students. For more information, please feel free to visit their website at http://www.oneonta.edu/development/health/.

---

**SUNY ONEONTA**

*Students have basic needs which affect their ability to succeed and develop at SUNY Oneonta. They need an environment conducive to healthy living and learning. They need a sense of safety and security within the student community. They need to learn life skills to complement their academic progress and assist them in becoming well-balanced individuals. They need opportunities and encouragement to grow.*

Everything we do in Residence Life relates to students and our goal to respond to their basic needs. Residence Life maintenance and custodial efforts, food service, hall facilities (i.e. laundry, vending machines, desk operations), grounds maintenance and building renovations are all responses to a student’s need for an environment conducive to living and learning. The hall and university policies, emergency procedures and resources, conduct system and hall staff coverage of buildings respond to the safety and security needs by providing a structure for the living environment. Hall Governments and committees, corridor meetings, intramurals and hall/campus activities provide opportunities to satisfy a student’s desire to become involved in the community. Programming in the hall or on campus involves many of the life skills students need to develop, (i.e. communication, career development, research, time management or relating to others. Personal growth opportunities are also provided in hall and campus programming as well as through the many resource centers on campus.

---

**Like Us on Facebook!**


**Follow us on Twitter!**

@Oneontastatereslife