IN HOUSE
The Newsletter for Families of Residential Students

WELCOME BACK!!

I’m sure your home has pretty much quieted down after your student returned to college for the spring term. Here the opposite has happened – students are involved very quickly in all their activities, new classes, and clubs. Before you know it spring break will be upon us, then finals, and then graduation!

Inside this issue we have placed information regarding the many things your student needs to remember to handle this term. We have new job opportunities for career experience and programs for summer internship positions. The Resident Advisor application Kickoff is February 8th, and Room Selection for next fall will occur in March. Don’t forget – with “One Rate” your student’s room rental will not increase as long as they remain living on campus.

If you ever have a question for us, please contact the Residence Life Office, or your student’s Residence Hall Director. We will try our best to get you the information you need.

Thank you – Your Residence Life Team

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CONTACT INFORMATION
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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:

A. 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.

B. Your student can move in with another individual to another room. 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.

NOTHING TO DO?? NOT SO!!!

Q: What if I want to keep my room as a single—how much will it cost?

A: Contact the Residence Life Office to receive this information.

Upcoming Saturday Night Fever Parties in the Residence Halls

Saturday Night Fevers (SNF) are theme based parties hosted by Hall Governments in Residence Halls each Saturday night. They have lots of fun, alternative activities for students to participate in on weekends. Students are welcome at ANY residence hall to join in! Next up is the Carnival SNF in Sherman Hall on February 6th beginning at 8:00 pm. Sherman advertises food, fun, games and prizes for all attending!!

The rest of the spring schedule is as follows:

2/13  Curtis Hall
2/27  Golding Hall
3/19  Grant Hall
3/26  Matteson Hall

CONSOLIDATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

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Spring break dates:
Residence Halls
Close: 9:00 AM  Saturday-March 5th
Residence Halls
Open: 1:00 PM  Sunday, March 13th
TALKING TO YOUR COLLEGE STUDENT ABOUT GRADES

Starting a conversation with your son or daughter about grades may be completely natural for some parents and more awkward for others. But talking to your student about their grades are important. Don’t take them for granted or assume that all is well if you don’t hear anything. Remember that in college, grades go to the student rather than parents. Your student has ultimate responsibility for their grades, but it is reasonable for you to ask to talk about them. This is especially important if your college student is a new college student in his first or second semester. Help him consider what his grades may mean and what he can learn from them.

Here are a few suggestions to help you with that all important discussion about semester grades.

☐ Set a careful tone when you ask to talk about grades. You are not going to make judgments, but rather help your student use grades as a measure of progress, to keep track of accomplishments or difficulties, and to understand and interpret what grades might mean.

☐ Take time for a real discussion. A “How are your grades?” in passing will probably get a “Fine” in response. Set aside a time when you both have at least a few minutes for a real conversation.

☐ Remember that first semester grades for new students are often lower than expected. They will probably be lower than high school, and the first semester is a time of tremendous transition for most students. This doesn’t mean that you should dismiss them, but don’t panic if they do not look like high school grades.

☐ Don’t take good (or great) grades for granted. Congratulate your student on high grades and remind her that you recognize that good grades are usually the result of hard work and successful transitions.

☐ Look at the entire picture provided by grades. Are they generally good with one bad grade? That may indicate a particularly difficult subject (not all students do well in all subjects), a particularly difficult professor, or some other special circumstance. This is very different than grades that are all low.

☐ Help your student understand that the purpose of good grades is not to please you, but to accomplish the learning necessary to do well in college. Although there is often a vast difference between grades and actual learning, overall, grades are seen as an indicator of classroom success. Your student needs to accomplish his goals educationally, not worry about pleasing you.

☐ Help your student look for patterns. Is she receiving good grades only in her major? Are her poor grades all early morning classes, evening classes, once a week classes? Does she do better in classes with many papers or many tests?

Article provided by collegeparents.org

For more information go to: http://www.collegeparents.org/members/resources/articles/talking-your-college-student-about-grades

RESIDENCE HALL CLOSE FOR THE SUMMER:
9:00 AM, Thursday May 12th

GRADUATION:
Saturday, May 14th
Graduates may stay in their rooms until 6:00 PM May 14th
POSITIONS AVAILABLE -

The Resident Advisor (RA)/Community Development Specialist (CDS) is a student, a member of the campus community, and a paraprofessional who lives in a residence hall and develops community with students. They assist, support, and develop community through various programmatic initiatives. RA/CDS provide administrative support for the department and the College. RA/CDS foster respect for the campus and college policies through floor meetings, conduct peer counseling, and providing on-call duty coverage during evening hours. RA/CDS are expected to plan programs, attend training workshops, in-service sessions, and weekly staff meetings. RA/CDS always strive to help make students feel like SUNY Oneonta is their home.

Specific to the Community Development Specialist: The CD will work specifically with transitioning students (freshmen and transfer students) in First Year Experience and Transfer Living Communities. They will be responsible for creating and fostering community on a building-wide level rather than on a particular floor or section. The CD will be responsible for transitional and new student traditions and programming, as well as large-scale community development events with New Student Services

HOVER BOARDS—WHAT'S THE STORY??

Students often bring back new electronics and gadgets in January and we wanted to alert you to the concerns of a popular item: hover boards. Many campuses nationally are banning hover boards from their residence halls and campuses due to safety concerns related to the batteries used in the product. Although we are not banning them from our campus, we do expect that they are UL approved and that such approval can be confirmed by the owner so it can be documented. If you plan on bringing one back to campus, please let your building RD know and they can write down confirmation of UL approval. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Open house for room selection for fall 2016:

March 1st 7:00—9:00 PM  Tour the following residence halls to choose your new place to live next year:

♦ Blodgett—suite style
♦ Matteson—suite style
♦ Sherman—quad style
♦ Grant—quad style
♦ Higgins—apartments
FIND THE RA IN YOU

WHEN:
Application Kick Off
Monday, Feb. 8th @ 8:30pm

WHERE
CME Multi-Purpose Room
Application will Close: Monday, Feb. 15 @ 12pm
The room selection process at SUNY Oneonta 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 online, 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 February 22nd, 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 March 14th, your student will be able to view their appointment time on MyOneonta. Students will not be able to select a room until their designated appointment time.

4. Appointments will begin on March 21st, and are 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 their wish to their room assignment. Room selection will be turned off for the summer on Thursday, May 12th.

Students will receive information regarding room selection in their email inbox during February. Also, during the week of March 14th we will offer informational meetings in each residence hall. Please encourage your student to come and ask any questions about room selection they might have there.

TIPS FOR ROOM SELECTION:

- Sign up on time
- Know which building and room you are looking to move into
- If you are moving with friends, make sure you have their assigned key
- Make your housing deposit as early as you can!