Happy November Parents & Families!

Kohya Lu
Associate Director of Residential Life & Director of Residence Education

I hope this newsletter finds you well as our semester continues to fly by here at UConn! It seems like just yesterday that your students were moving into the residence halls and we are now into November and the tail-end of the semester! As folks gather together for Thanksgiving Recess I thought I would take some time to highlight some of the great work that our office has been doing:

- We have recently begun implementing large-scale programming within the residential communities, courtesy of our Student Learning and Development Model. In October we had the “Res Hall-O-Ween Hunt” and this month we had the “UConn Clean Sweep”, a campus clean-up effort.
- Resident Assistants have been hard at work to provide many social and educational programs for their residents; as a result of these opportunities we have been able to foster strong and vibrant floor communities where students are making connections with their peers and engaging outside of the classroom environment.
RA Applications are out and due on December 11th by 5:00pm. Each year we receive hundreds of applications for this unique and rewarding student leadership position. The application can be found [here](#).

While the end-of-semester can often be an exciting time with the upcoming Winter Recess vacations, internship opportunities, etc., it can also be a time where stress levels are on the rise, particularly as it pertains to academic issues and finals week. Here are some tips for you to help support your student:

1. **Sleep** - All-nighters may seem like the obvious choice for studying, but getting enough sleep is imperative in order for the body to function regularly.

2. **Healthy Snacks** - Late night favorites such as D.P. Dough and Wings Over Storrs are UConn traditions for our students, but sending them back to school with some healthier snack alternatives can increase energy levels and a higher threshold for stress.

3. **Send a Card or Note** - Sending a card (email is great, but nothing beats finding something in your campus mailbox) to say good luck on finals or can’t wait to have you back home in a few weeks can be just the thing they need during a trying day.

4. **Be Receptive** - It is fairly common for college students to become stressed during this time of year. By being active listeners and giving them an outlet to talk openly about how they are feeling you are showing that you understand and care.

5. **Keep Warm** - Gloves, sweatshirts, blankets, winter coats/jackets, and boots are essential to weathering the Connecticut cold. These can also keep your student from getting sick during a very busy time of year.

On behalf of the department I would like to thank you for your continued interest in learning more about our office as well as other resources on campus. Living in the residence halls is often cited as one of the most memorable moments of a student’s college experience and we appreciate the support as we strive to provide quality services in all facets of housing. I hope that everyone has a restful, recharging, and relaxing Thanksgiving Recess! Go Huskies!

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**Staff Spotlight: Kim Beardsley**

Kim joined the UConn Residential Life team in the Summer of 2012 from an Assistant Director position at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. She earned both a bachelor’s degree in Social Work and a Master’s degree in Community Counseling from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford. Kim will tell you that she got into work in Residence Life to give back. Kim was a first generation student and was feeling lost as a new undergraduate. The Director of Residential Life put a lot of effort into her and her development and Kim wanted to be able to do that for others.

She has supervised many areas of campus, sharing her wit and wisdom with the professional and graduate staff under her direction. Kim revitalized our student leadership organizations, [Residence Hall Association](#) and [National Residence Hall Honorary](#), and has helped reshape what it means to be a student leader in our residence halls.

Kim grew up here in the Nutmeg State and is a life-long, proud UConn Husky fan. She is also a proud mom and enjoys spending time with friends and family. Colleagues describe Kim as kind, strong, dedicated and intuitive. Her caring efforts help students work through the challenges of pursuing a degree while being positive contributing members of the campus community.
This year the Humanities House Learning Community, which is housed in Shippee Hall has been working extremely hard to create a cohesive community and provide learning opportunities centered on this academic discipline. The program coordinators, Stephen Dyson along with Assistant Directors Thomas Briggs and Erica MacDonald have worked closely with Resident Assistant Emily Orkins to provide the residents with a myriad of opportunities to engage with each other and grapple with the focus of the learning community.

In early October, Humanities House took a group of students to the Mark Twain House in Hartford where they were able to learn about the literary genius and go on a ghost tour of his haunted house. Another great opportunity that is currently underway is the Poetry Pillars Program. The Art Learning Communities and Humanities House are working together to collect poetry submissions of residents in these learning communities. Poems will be printed and hung around the Shippee Game Room. In early December an official “opening” will take place. Students will be invited to share their poetry in a coffee house setting and tour the gallery. It has already proved to be extremely successful and residents are excited about the remainder of the year.

WiMSE Mission
The Women in Math, Science & Engineering (WiMSE) Learning Community provides ongoing support for female undergraduate students in STEM majors. The members benefit from interactions with peers facing the same challenges, academically and socially. WiMSE offers its residents faculty interactions, academic support, research opportunities, and a tight-knit living environment, all of which will contribute to persistence in their chosen fields.

Women in Math, Science, and Engineering (WiMSE) is an energetic, fun, and driven learning community located in Watson Hall of Alumni Quad. This learning community supports women in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields while encouraging community and engagement. This semester there have been fun activities such as caramel apple making, a Halloween party, and reoccurring ice skating events in addition to the educational (and fun!) events such as the ropes course for team building and yoga for mindfulness and relaxation. Additionally, there is an upcoming panel event with current WiMSE members and alumna speaking on how they picked their majors and what the coursework looks like to assist the new members. At any given time you can find WiMSE members spending time in the WiMSE lounge, hanging out with each other on the floor, or planning the next big event. The vibrancy of the community is contagious!
Winter Recess Housing

Rachel Arpin
Housing Assignments Specialist

Winter Recess housing is being offered to students:
• Enrolled in a Winter Intersession course
• Working for a University department (provide proof of employment)
• Completing an academic internship
• Affiliated with a University team requiring accommodations during Winter Recess
• Currently live in a 9 month area (apartments, Husky Village, Nathan Hale Inn)

Eligibility
Students living in traditional halls/suites or Connecticut Commons who need on-campus housing from December 21, 2015 – January 15, 2016 can submit a Winter Recess Housing Application.

Charter Oak, Hilltop, Northwood, and Mansfield Apartment communities, Husky Village, Nathan Hale Inn, and the University Farm Houses are open during Winter Recess. These residents do not need to pay for Winter Recess housing, however we are asking residents to submit the application so we have an accurate record of occupants and to conduct weekly safety checks.

Winter Recess Fees & Cancellation Information
• All charges will be applied on Spring 2016 fee bills.
• Applications received by December 14th will receive a flat fee rate of $500.
• Applying after December 14th will result in a flat fee of $550.
• Any student who requests to cancel their Winter Recess housing after 5:00pm on December 18th will be charged the full Winter Recess fee and this charge cannot be appealed.

Questions regarding Winter Recess can be directed to (860) 486-2926 or livingoncampus@uconn.edu.

Meningitis Vaccination Compliance

The State of Connecticut requires that any student living in on-campus housing be vaccinated against meningitis. All on-campus residents missing meningitis vaccination information were notified in September and given instructions on how to obtain compliance.

Spring 2016 residents who are non-compliant with this requirement, who submit a 2016-2017 housing application by the deadline (January 25, 2016), will be placed on the waiting list and not guaranteed housing.

Students can view the vaccination information that Student Health Services has on file at http://myhealth.uconn.edu > My Profile > Immunization History.

All vaccination questions should be directed to Student Health Services. Residential Life is unable to accept medical information

Student Health Services
www.shs.uconn.edu
SHS-MedRecords@uconn.edu

Medical Records
(860) 486-8039
(860) 486-2985

View Vaccination Info that is on File with Student Health Services
1. http://myhealth.uconn.edu
2. My Profile
3. Immunization History
Mid-Year Information

Pamela Schipani, Executive Director of Residential Life

What should I do with my belongings for Winter Recess?

Each year at mid-year recess first year students and their families are often unsure about whether or not students need to remove all belongings from their residence hall room for the break period.

Students returning to the same room for spring that they lived in for the fall do not need to remove their belongings at the end of the fall semester. These students should take home belongings that they believe they will need over the recess period, and those that they won’t need until the weather warms again. Students do not have access to their residence hall room during the break.

If a student is leaving the University, moving off campus or changing rooms for the spring semester, s/he must remove all belongings from the room they lived in during the fall. These students must officially check out of their fall assignment and return keys. The hall director for the resident’s hall or area is a great resource for students who are unsure about check out procedures.

Is your student happy with their room assignment?

Ask your student if s/he is happy with their current roommate and in the room they currently live in. Why you should do this now, you might ask. Staff in Residential Life occasionally receive frantic calls from parents during Winter Recess talking about what a horrible living situation their student has endured during the fall. Often this information is news to the staff because the student has suffered in silence and not shared how unhappy they have been.

The good news is that we have a mid-year room change process for students; the bad news is that if a student waits until recess to express their dissatisfaction it is too late to participate in this room change process and they will have to wait a few weeks into the spring semester for the opportunity to change rooms. So ask now and tell them to contact us at (860) 486-2926 or at livingoncampus@uconn.edu if they are unhappy. In Residential Life we believe that if a student is uncomfortable or unhappy after really trying to make a roommate situation work, then they should change the situation, as this negativity can affect their academic success.

Mid-Year Room Change Process Information

Vince Walker, Housing Assignments Specialist

Applications were accepted until November 20th for the Mid-Year Room Change Process. The process is open to students who are currently living on campus and will continue to live on campus for Spring 2016, and allows students a chance to change rooms before the start of the spring semester. Students will have the opportunity to select into any open and available space for the spring semester in December. Students can choose to move into their new space at the end of this semester, or take everything home and move into their new space in January when they return.

Students who missed the November 20th room change application deadline but still wish to move mid-year can contact our office via email to ask about their options. Some students may need to wait until the spring room change process begins in late January, but others may be able to move mid-year.

Email us for more information: livingoncampus@uconn.edu
**Important Dates**

**November 22nd-28th**
Thanksgiving Recess - no classes, halls remain open

**December 1st**
2016-2017 housing app available; room and roommates selected online in Spring 2016

**December 21st**
Halls close at noon for Fall 2015; students can request to remain over Winter Recess for an additional fee

**January 16th**
Date Change
Halls open for Spring 2016

**January 19th**
First day of classes

**January 25th**
2016-2017 housing app deadline for returning residents; deadline for Spring 2016 residents to turn in meningitis vaccination verification to Student Health Services

**February 2016**
Room Reservation Fee info available at www.reslife.uconn.edu

**February-April 2016**
Spring 2016 residents choose rooms and roommates online for 2016-2017

**March 13th-19th**
Spring Recess - no classes, halls remain open

**May 9th**
Halls/suites close at noon for Spring 2016

**May 31st**
Hilltop & Charter Oak Apts close for Spring 2016

**Contact Information**
Department of Residential Life
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Storrs, CT 06269

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