Welcome Back!

Pam Schipani
Executive Director, Residential Life

It is hard to believe that your students began classes over a month ago and that for many they have already taken their first set of exams. That first set of exams can be a little difficult but once through this, students have a greater understanding of what is expected of them and where they might need help. If your student is struggling with a class or other issue, please encourage them to reach out to a staff member in Residential Life so they can be guided to the people who can help them resolve their issue. UConn is a large institution but it is filled with people who choose to work with college students because they want to help.

Since arriving on campus your students have become part of a large residential living community. Being a part of a community, no matter where, comes with a sense of belonging and responsibility. This may be the first time your student has had the opportunity to shape the community in which they live and so there may be times when they are unsure how to express what they want the community to be like. Students come with differing expectations about what living on campus will be like. Hopefully they are learning what reasonable behavior is, both from others and from one’s self. Once again I will say if your student is struggling, they need to reach out for help. If they are not getting along with their roommates or haven’t gotten involved in any campus groups or activities they should seek out advice about how to change these conditions. College is about
learning, not only academic material but information about one’s self and others. This opportunity to attend an institution the caliber of UConn is not afforded to many in the world; we hope that students understand and appreciate this opportunity for growth and change.

I do have a little practical advice that I hope you will share with your student. As the weather is beginning to turn cooler it is important that student think about being prepared for those walks across campus. They will need sweaters, warm jackets, and boots especially waterproof ones. Gloves, mittens and scarves are often missing on students when I see them walking on campus in the winter, and I never hesitate to ask where these items are (I am a mother of three and just cannot help myself.) I am hoping that you will ensure that your student has these items. If they cannot afford these items we can help them secure them.

You may not realize the impact you have on your student’s adjustment to school. What you think and believe means a great deal to them. Continue to support them; they still need you to advise them through this experience. Also encourage them to reach out for help when they need it. We have 290 Resident Assistants, 12 Graduate Assistants and over 40 full time professional staff in our department to serve and support your student. We look forward to getting to know your student. I hope your student is enjoying their time at UConn and that as they change through this experience, the change is positive!

Room Change Process

The fall semester room change process opened on Monday, September 14th and we received several hundred applications.

Our staff are working on making room change offers; students typically have 24-48 hours to respond to an offer. We accepted room change applications until October 2nd and ask that all moves are completed by Friday, October 9th.

The next opportunity for students to move will be the mid-year room change process. More information will be available in early November.

As of September 30th

12,667
Residents living on-campus

296
Room change applications received

Fall 2015 First Year Experience students outside Wilbur Cross Building.
ResLife Gets More Social

Residential Life added another platform to its social media repertoire on move in day this fall. With the launch of our Instagram account, @UConnResLife on Friday August 28th, the department now has a way to share all of the great things going on in the form of pictures. With the addition of Instagram and continued increase of presence on Facebook and Twitter the department continues to try to create move avenues to communicate with students, friends and families. Make sure to keep up to date on all things Residential Life by following or liking all three.

Gender Inclusive Community

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ is an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning, and others. It refers to a population of people united by having gender identities or sexual orientations that differ from the heterosexual and cis-gender majority.

We are excited to share that we have an improved living community for our students who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Since 2007, we have offered this housing option for students in a suite style residence hall but in recent years have noticed a steady decline in requests from students to live there. After meeting with our students through focus groups and individual meetings, we determined that this population preferred to have a lower rate housing option (it was rate 2) and more of a community feel. They felt that having a floor in the East Campus area in a traditional style hall is what they wanted. We were able to make this a reality this for them!

We relocated our Gender Inclusive living community to the third floor of Whitney Hall this fall with 32 students. Residents do not need to identify as LGBTQ+ to live in the community as it is also open to our Ally friends as well. We will continue to work with students, who based on their gender identity, require housing considerations but do not prefer to participate in this community. We have partnered with the Rainbow Center here on campus as well as with faculty to help facilitate programming and to help students to connect to a larger community.

Our students matter and we are fortunate to have the support of the UConn community with this initiative!

Whitney Hall, East Campus
ResLife RA/CA Reunion October 10th

Were you an RA or CA when you attended UConn? Was someone in your family an RA or Hall Director at UConn? If so, we’d love to see you during Huskies Forever [Homecoming] Weekend. The Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2015 from 1:30-3:00pm in the South Campus Rome Portico. While there is no cost to attend the event, you are encouraged to register here.

RA App Info Available October 7th

Was your student active in high school? Have they carried their involvement on to UConn? Are they looking for a great leadership experience? If you responded ‘yes’ to any of these questions, applying to become a Resident Assistant [RA] would be a solid next step!

RAs serve a very important peer leadership role in our residence halls. They are often the first ‘face of UConn’ resident students meet and get to know. RAs provide some of the keys to helping your students establish the goals and boundaries for their communities; opportunities for your students to get connected with and involved on campus.

If your student might be interested, please ask them to visit the ResLife website beginning October 7, 2015. All position information, process details, and application link will be available at www.reslife.uconn.edu.

Questions?

Questions about the RA/CA reunion or the RA application process? Contact us!

Nancy J. Abohatab
RA Program Specialist
nancy.abohatab@uconn.edu
(860) 486-2926

The New Residential Services

In August, The Front Desk was renamed Residential Services and also began a new mission; to assist students with lock-outs and coordinate the on-campus mailrooms.

Work orders can be submitted via the Residential Services website, and are processed and reviewed by the Work Order Control unit of Facilities Operations.

Residential Services • (860) 486-9000 • www.residentialservices.uconn.edu

Sending Mail?

Use the following format when sending mail to your student.

Full Name (No Nicknames!)
Room # & Residence Hall Name
Storrs, CT 06269*

*Mansfield/Northwood Apt residents use zip code 06268

October 2015
Important Dates

October 30th
2016-2017 housing app info available at www.reslife.uconn.edu

November 20th
Spring 2016 housing app deadline

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 additional fees

January 17th
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

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.

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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