Happy Fall!
Pam Schipani
Executive Director, Residential Life

I am writing this article on a mid-October day while enjoying the unpredictably warm fall weather in Storrs. With the temperatures still above 70 during the day it is hard to believe that it has been two full months since opening day. So much has gone on in the two months! If August was the first time your student moved onto a college campus I am pretty confident that you are hearing interesting stories and beginning to see some changes in your student, this is normal. It is also normal for some students to share very little about their new experiences- so don’t worry if you aren’t hearing much!

I want to assure you that although UConn may seem large, the staff and faculty who work here care about each individual student and want them to succeed academically and personally. If you know or suspect that your student is struggling with issues, whether they be academic or interpersonal I strongly suggest that you remind them of the resources that exist on campus for them. If they don’t know where to go for help, they can ask their RA or any residential life staff member. Our staff are aware of campus resources and can help students get the support they need. UConn staff choose to work with college students because they like students and want to help them succeed.

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College is an exciting experience! Learning to live with others who are different from you contributes to the development of empathy, compassion, understanding and reflection. It helps create citizens who are prepared to contribute to society and the world in positive ways. I hope that your student is taking advantage of this unique opportunity to embrace the diversity of our state, our country and our world through their interactions and involvement at UConn. This experience presents students with an opportunity to closely examine their beliefs and to explore their values and beliefs. I hope that you are encouraging your student to be engaged in this activity of self-reflection.

By moving onto campus, your student has become part of a large residential living community. Being a community member, 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 on-campus community to be like. Students come with differing expectations about what living will be like. Hopefully they are learning what reasonable behavior is, both from others and through self-evaluation. 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. The temperatures will soon be lower so it is important that students think about being prepared for their 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 things let us know so we can try to help students secure these.

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 320 Resident Assistants, 10 Graduate Assistants and over 40 full time professional staff in our department to serve and support your student. We look forward to continuing to get to know your student and we truly hope your student is enjoying their time at UConn!
NEACURH Regional Leadership Conference

Jacob Nathaniel Jones, Towers Hall Director

The University of Connecticut is very excited to host the 2017 North East Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) Regional Leadership Conference (RLC) in November. This year, the conference theme is loosely based on The Hunger Games with the tagline, “May Marty Be Ever in Your Favor”, referring to Marty the Moose, which is the North East region’s mascot.

During this conference, which takes place November 17 – 19, over 400 student delegates from around the North East will participate in workshops ranging from improving residential programming and supporting efforts of equity and inclusion in our residence halls. Additionally, the RLC will offer students an opportunity to network and establish relationships with hundreds of students who attend universities and colleges throughout our region.

If your student would like to get involved in making this conference a success, please encourage them to send an e-mail to regionals17volunteer@gmail.com.

Midyear Move Room Change Process

Vince Walker, Housing Assignments Specialist

Applications are being accepted until November 17 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 2018.

Students who participate in the process will completely check-out of their fall assignment including taking all belongings home and handing in their keys to the Hall Staff by December 18 at 12pm. Students will then return in the Spring on either January 14 or 15 to a centralized check-in location to receive the keys for their new Spring space.

Students will have the opportunity to select into any open and available space for the spring semester the last week of November/first week of December.

Email us for more information: livingoncampus@uconn.edu

As of October 30th

160
Room change applications received
Living with Others

Jacob Nathaniel Jones, Towers Hall Director

As we watch October pass by, the semester is more than halfway over! The leaves are changing color and students are bundling up for class, but more importantly, your student is likely beginning to notice the small things their roommate does that annoys them – and vice versa. Oftentimes, roommates avoid talking to each other about the “bad” stuff because they do not want to make a problem out of something small; however, it is important to talk to your student about open communication both in terms of providing feedback to their roommate and being willing to listen to feedback in return. Living together is tough sometimes, and we all have little things about us that make coexisting a struggle without open and honest communication. We’ve compiled a couple of tips for your student, if they find themselves in a troublesome roommate conflict:

1. Communicate: Small issues can become much larger if they are not addressed appropriately from the outset. Share your likes and dislikes openly so you and your roommate can negotiate your needs and wants. We’ve created the HuskyMate Agreements to assist with this process.

2. Establish Boundaries: Establishing ground rules can provide you the space to discuss important expectations you have for the year with your roommate(s).

3. Don’t Make Assumptions: Don’t make assumptions about things when it involves your roommate – or their stuff! Always ask for permission before using their items, snacking on their food, or inviting friends into your shared living space.

4. Share Your Interests: Share things about yourself with your roommate so you can establish a relationship, and in return, be excited to learn about them and their interests as well. Whether they have a different cultural or social background, be willing to learn more about each other.

5. Be Willing to Change: Use this time to challenge your thinking. Approach situations with humility and an excitement for the opportunity to learn, grow, and become a well-rounded person. Even the most frustrating situations can teach us a lot about the world if we give it a chance.

6. Have Fun: It’s easy to get stressed out over school, work, and the countless stressors of college life; however, remember to have fun and to keep the atmosphere of your living environment light and inviting. Sharing a space with somebody can be a very rewarding part of college life if you let it!

Also encourage your student to reach out to their Resident Assistant for advice on how to approach difficult conversations throughout the year – we train our RAs extensively, but they’ve also shared a living space before and have their own experiences to share.
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 2018 residents who are non-compliant with this requirement, who submit a 2018-2019 housing application by the deadline (January 22, 2018), 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.

Residential Curriculum Institute Presentation

Ashley Robinson, Assistant Director

From October 15-18, four Residential Life staff members attended the Residential Curriculum Institute (RCI) in Norman, Oklahoma, to present a poster session and seminar session on UConn Residential Life’s efforts to focus on students’ learning and growth in the residence halls. RCI is an annual institute for Residential Life educators to gather and share best practices for focusing residential life and housing on resident students’ learning. UConn staff presented on the details of our Residential Learning Model and the changes that our department has undertaken to enhance students’ learning and growth. During the presentations, the team focused on organizational change, training and educating Residential Life staff, making meaningful changes to the Resident Assistant role, and enhancing assessment and evaluation of students’ learning and experiences.

Residential Life’s educational priority is that students will grow personally, interpersonally, and intellectually as a result of living in the residence halls. Our plans and activities for the year are designed to support this priority. A significant part of our plan involves intentional, one-on-one conversations between RAs and residents, as well as community conversations that help residents to consider their role within and impact on their community. As UConn Residential Life continues to work to improve the learning and growth of our students on-campus, the opportunity to share those efforts at an international conference was a great addition to our department’s forward progress.
Not all superheroes wear capes... Some apply to be RAs!

Call for RA Applications for 2018-2019 Positions

Is your student looking to take their peer educator experience to a new level? If they are a new student this fall, do they have leadership experiences from high school which they would like to share?

Residential Life is looking for students show evidence of:

1. An understanding of resident student needs and interest in working with resident students.
2. An understanding of, sensitivity to, and desire to live and work with a diverse student population.
3. A desire to serve as a resource and provide assistance to students.
4. Experience communicating and building relationships one-on-one and with groups.
5. A desire and ability to work as part of a highly functioning team.
6. Personal, interpersonal, and intellectual growth that has prepared the candidate for the competencies and responsibilities of this position.

Please help us reach out to your student. All information related to the actual process, as well as a list of informational meetings, and the link to the application, are located on our website: http://reslife.uconn.edu/resident-assistants/

Living in on-campus housing is not only about living close to your classes, it’s about the relationships you make and learning more about yourself while you are part of this community! Now more than ever, students are choosing to #LiveonandLearn at UConn!
UConn Recovery Community (URC)

Eileen M. Stone
Director, Wellness and Prevention Services

The UConn Recovery Community (URC) provides an environment that is supportive to the therapeutic and educational needs of UConn students recovering from addiction. The URC provides support through community building, social support, academic support, substance free activities, advocacy, outreach, and creating greater opportunities to access resources and services available on campus.

Beginning in January 2018 the URC will be providing an opportunity for URC members to live together in a supportive, sober community while participating in the URC programs. Recovery Housing is on a first come first serve basis. Students in recovery, with three (3) month's sobriety and abstinence from substances may be eligible for recovery housing.

Eligible students in recovery may apply by doing the following:
- Indicating they are interested in recovery housing on their Residential Life Housing Application
- Applying for URC Membership - Contact Gilda Leonardo Cabral, Acting Coordinator, at (860) 486-8774 or at gilda.cabral@uconn.edu

ResLife Student Advisory Committee

Martin Sagendorf, Housing Assignments Specialist

We value the input of the students who live in the residence halls at UConn. As a venue to receive feedback and suggestions, the Department of Residential Life hosts the Residential Life Student Advisory Committee (RLSAC). The RLSAC has existed for a number of years to provide students from around campus the opportunity to discuss and share their perspective on the services, facilities, programs, processes, and staff of Residential Life. The RLSAC meets bi-weekly throughout the semester. The meetings are hosted by a staff member from the Residential Life Central Office and a Hall Director. Weekly agendas are shared with participating students to guide the conversations, but an open floor is always provided to allow students to contribute their thoughts to the conversations.

As a department, we have found the RLSAC to be a valuable resource to guide our work and ensure that we're providing the best residential experience. We also find that students who participate in the RLSAC enjoy the opportunity to share feedback and suggestions as they are challenged to think critically about concerns and how to best address them. Participating in the RLSAC is a great leadership opportunity for residential students and many go on to apply to be a Resident Assistant (RA). During the fall semester, our remaining meetings will be held on November 15 and December 6 from 3-4pm in the Student Union. All residential students will receive an email at the start of the spring semester to schedule spring meetings. New members are welcome to join at any point in the semester and can simply email livingoncampus@uconn.edu to let us know that they will be coming.
Important Dates

**October 31st**
2018-2019 housing app info available at http://reslife.uconn.edu

**November 17th**
Spring 2018 housing app deadline

**November 20th-24th**
Thanksgiving Recess - no classes, halls remain open

**December 1st**
2018-2019 housing app available; room and roommates selected online in Spring 2018

**December 18th**
Halls close at noon for Fall 2017; students can request to remain over Winter Recess for additional fees

**January 14th**
Halls open for Spring 2018

**January 16th**
First day of classes

**January 22nd**
2017-2018 housing app deadline for returning residents; deadline for Spring 2018 residents to turn in meningitis vaccination verification to Student Health Services

**March-April 2018**
Spring 2018 residents choose rooms and roommates online for 2018-2019

**March 11th-18th**
Spring Recess (no classes, halls remain open)

**May 7th**
Halls/suites close at noon for Spring 2018

Contact Information
Department of Residential Life
Whitney Hall, ground floor
(860) 486-2926
livingoncampus@uconn.edu
http://reslife.uconn.edu

Find us on Social Media!
www.facebook.com/UConnResLife
@UConnResLife on Twitter and Instagram

We encourage all residents to use #LiveonandLearn to showcase the benefits of living on campus!

We Hope That You’re Enjoying the Fall!

We are here for you and your students if you have any questions!