Housing Selection for Fall 2019

Kim Proulx, Associate Director of Housing Services

The time of year is quickly approaching when current residents who will be living on campus next year will have the opportunity to choose their future roommates and housing assignment. Referred to by our department as “Housing Selection”, this is one of the largest processes managed by our office with up to 9,000 students participating over the course of several weeks.

We have a variety of resources for students to review in advance of this process, including video tutorials, infographics, and floorplans and in person opportunities to meet with staff and also tour certain residence hall areas of campus.

It may be helpful for you to discuss your student’s plans and expectations with them for the upcoming year. Important factors to consider are cost, location of campus, how many roommates they plan to have, etc. Students get very excited for this process but we find it can also be stressful for them. Our staff are available via email, phone, and social media and in person to answer any questions your student might have and to try to guide them through the process.

If discussions with your student turn to the option of living off campus, please be sure to review with them the housing cancellation deadlines and polices. We send email reminders to students to help them plan accordingly if they will be living off campus so that they can notify us and avoid fees.

We are here to help make this process for your student be as user friendly and low stress as possible, so please encourage your student to contact us with any questions. Don’t hesitate to reach out yourself if you are looking for information!
Departmental Diversity Initiatives

Charles Holmes-Hope, Associate Director Residence Education

Charting our future in the Department of Residential Life at University of Connecticut is guided by our motivation, passion and drive to reach new heights in diversity and inclusion. Our commitment is to infuse diversity and inclusion into all aspects of our department through engagement and collaboration with our residence hall students and staff. We are aiming for transformative leadership in our department, a core value that can be held by all members of our department team and students who live in the residence halls at UConn. Through collaborative efforts, we will transform our residence hall student/staff experiences to become a distinctive inclusive community that foster student success.

Creating a diverse and inclusive culture within our department goes beyond simply being representative of the nation and communities we serve at UConn, although that is a basis first step. Our ultimate goal is to maximize the strength of diversity through high-performing diverse work teams with the premise that diversity drives innovative, creative thinkers. Each of us in Residential Life contributes to the fabric of making this work a reality to drive greater success, thereby developing an environment that is inclusive, welcoming and highly productive.

During the Spring of 2018, the Inclusion and Diversity Taskforce a group within the Department of Residential Life created our department inaugural “Reaching New Heights in Building Inclusive Excellence.” Inclusive Excellence was introduced by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) in 2003 and assisted many institutions to rethink their approaches to diversity and quality. Diversity in higher education is also a priority nationally as higher education accrediting agencies and national organizations make their own commitments to advancing diversity.

The Reaching New Heights in Building Inclusive Excellence plan contained goals and measurable outcomes designed to enhance fairness and inclusive values for all members of the Department of Residential Life’s residence hall students and staff, in particular to increase opportunities for staff and students to come together on specific topics. Our goal is to own our destiny in creating a climate where all of our residence hall students and staff can thrive, be successful and flourish in each and every way in our residence hall communities. To that end, we believe by engaging all members in our community, we are building an inclusive community to where everyone knows that they are valued, respected and honored in our community. Our overarching expectation is to increase commitment to diversity and inclusion opportunities department-wide, support the University academic enterprise to support retention and graduation, focus our efforts on scholarship for diversity, continue action in response to change, just to name a few.

(continued on page 3)
To highlight some of our diversity and inclusion initiatives to date, please take a read of those opportunities below.

In closing, diversity is a top-priority in our department and our objective is to encourage excellence, diversity and engaged learning by providing creative approaches and knowledge. Our goal is underscore student and staff excellence that provides exceptional learning that will result in positive outcomes for all. We will be a place of opportunity for those who seek truth, strive toward excellence and seek a better life for others to be successful.

Ensuring our success in the future and cultivating change means advancing a cultural of intellectual inquiry and thinking for rich dialogue that support the educational success and personal development of our students and staff at UConn. It means putting diversity and open mindedness at the center of all we do, making it a focal point in our department mission, working collaboratively for our residence hall students and staff and supporting intellectual growth and development altogether.

We are creating communities that support student success.

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<tr>
<th>Highlights of Departmental Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives</th>
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**Department Diversity Dialogues (D3):**
Our D3 Series is an opportunity for professional staff in the Department of Residential Life to participate in an open dialogue around social justice and diversity topics. Based in the UConn Student Affairs Strategic Themes, Association of College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I)’s NHTI competencies and Learning Outcomes from the Department of Residential Life’s Residential Learning Model, learning outcomes will be achieved through a combination of pre-selected topics and open discussions. Topics are selected to promote all members of the department to feel comfortable participating and feel like they can contribute to the conversation, regardless of position, experiences and previous knowledge. The learning outcomes for the series will be assessed at the end of each session, to measure professional staff learning and development.

**Educational Workshops:**
Building culturally competent communication skills is critical in today’s society and focuses on fundamental principles of communication that encourages respect for diverse perspectives and beliefs. This initiative can serve as a vehicle in creating safe spaces for conversation and providing our team with tools to foster an inclusive environment. Focus topics include: (1) Developing an understanding of cultural competency; (2) Self-awareness and understanding of biases, myths and stereotypes; and (3) Defining diversity and building tools, skills and knowledge.

**Affinity Group Resource Guide**
Staff are valued members of the Department of Residential Life at University of Connecticut. The department actively strives to attract and retain a diverse and exemplary staff workforce. The department supports our team which aim to enhance the personal and professional development of staff, foster a sense of belonging and assist UConn tp create a workplace where everyone feels connected and can thrive.

The department created an Affinity Group Resource Guide that complements the University resources and professional Association opportunities for our colleagues to get involved and acquainted with those opportunities. Our goal is to ensure that our staff are proud, satisfied and can find their way throughout the University community.

**Narrative 4 Project (based on the Narrative 4 website)**
Narrative 4 is working in 4 continents, 12 countries and 18 US States. Narrative 4 is rooted in story exchange, equips people to use their stories to build empathy, shatter stereotypes, breakdown barriers and ultimately make the world a better place. If we share today, we will change tomorrow.

As a department, we strongly believe that this project will build relationship among individuals in our department, strengthen understanding of diversity and inclusion around gender, ethnic and race, sexual orientation differences and enhance our climate and success of diversity at UConn through developing trust and credibility.

This diversity initiative will be launched this coming fall semester 2019 to our department.
Summer Housing

Vince Walker, Interim Assistant Director Housing Services

For the summer of 2019, summer housing students will be housed in Werth Tower. This is an exciting location to host our summer residents as the facility includes an abundance of study space throughout the hall, a game room, air-conditioning, breathtaking views of campus, and many more amenities that residents will enjoy throughout the summer. Graduate student housing will be hosted in on-campus apartments.

All summer assignments will be made in double occupancy spaces and based on availability. If a summer resident needs a medical housing accommodation, they should work with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) as soon as possible.

To be eligible for summer housing, residents must be enrolled in one or more summer session courses, be employed on campus, and/or working in a campus lab during the time frame they apply to live on campus. The summer housing application will be available beginning on March 1, 2019. Additional information about summer housing, including room rates, will be posted on our website in late February 2019.

St. Baldrick’s Fundraiser

A cure is not enough.

For many years, researchers struggled to give kids just a few more months of life. While many kids now survive, the search goes on for cures for many childhood cancers.

But even for kids who survive, the battle is not over. A recent study shows that because of the treatments they had as kids, by the time they’re 45, more than 95% of survivors will have a chronic health problem and 80% will have severe or life-threatening conditions.

So in addition to finding cures, a lot of research is focused on preventing the lifelong damage that results from surgeries, radiation and chemotherapies given while young bodies and brains are just developing.

Even during treatment, kids face all kinds of side effects, some very uncomfortable, others life-threatening. That’s why St. Baldrick’s also funds research to improve supportive care for patients.

UConn’s National Residence Hall Honorary is proud to once again host our St. Baldrick’s Day event on April 5th from 1-6pm in the Werth Tower Forum.

Spring Recess 2019

All residential areas on-campus remain open during Spring Recess, March 16-24, 2019.
Residential Life Student Advisory Committee

We value the input of the students who live in the residence halls at UConn. As a way to receive feedback and suggestions, the Department of Residential Life hosts the Residential Life Student Advisory Committee (RLSAC).

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.

RLSAC meets monthly throughout the semester. The meetings are hosted by a staff member from the Residential Life Central Office and a Hall Director and snacks and professional development are all part of what is offered to members.

Weekly agendas are shared with participating students to guide the conversations, but an open floor is consistently 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 RLSAC enjoy the opportunity to share feedback and suggestions.

Students 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) or another campus leader.

During the spring semester, our meetings will be held on March 13, April 3, and May 1 from 1:30 - 2:30PM in Rome Portico, lower level. New members are welcome to join at any point in the semester and can simply email livingoncampus@uconn.edu to express interest and will receive additional details about upcoming meetings.

2019-2020 Housing Rate Update

Rae Ellen Cabral, Billing Manager, Residential Life

Residential Life is excited to inform you that we are already planning for Fall 2019 housing assignments and the fee bill schedule update. We appreciate the choice and commitment that your student has made by accepting UConn housing and strongly encourage our residents to continue to live and learn in our residence halls in addition to the traditional classroom setting.

Online Housing Selection will be available later this semester for 2019-2020 assignments for eligible residents. Even though housing selection will occur before the end of the current semester, housing fees for Fall 2019 will be posted during the summer months on student fee bill accounts. The Bursar’s Office will notify students after fees are posted for Fall 2019.

You may be interested in reviewing the housing rate schedule for Storrs shown below by semester/year for all housing spaces available in Storrs:

**STORRS HOUSING RATES ONLY - 2019-2020**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate 4:</th>
<th>$4,434/$8,868</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Busby/Garrigus/South Suites Double</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Husky Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mansfield Apartments</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Northwood Apartments -Single in 2 Bed/2 Person – for Grads Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Northwood Apartments -Single in 2 Bed/3 Person – Undergrads</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Regular Single</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Traditional Double with Private Bathroom</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rate 5:</th>
<th>$4,503/$9,006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Peter J. Werth Residence Tower Single</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rate 6:</th>
<th>$4,726/$9,452</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Busby/Garrigus/South Suites Single</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Charter Oak - 2 Bedroom/4 Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hilltop Apartments Double Efficiency</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rate 7:</th>
<th>$6,097/$12,194</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Charter Oak/Hilltop Apartments - 4 Bedroom/4 Person</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rate 8:</th>
<th>$7,065/$14,130</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Charter Oak/Hilltop Apartments – 2 Bedroom/2 Person</td>
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Housing rates in 2019-2020 for Stamford have not been finalized yet so please check back with us.
Spring 2019 Room Change and Summer Room Change Process

The spring semester room change process opened to Storrs campus students on Monday, February 4th and closed on Friday, February 22nd.

The next opportunity for students to change assignments will be the online summer room change process. Students will be able to register from April 29th until May 27th in MyHousing.

Registered students will be issued a selection time for when they can go into the system beginning on June 3rd and change assignments. Once active in the selection system, students will be able to change rooms as many times as they would like until the system closes on June 9th.

More information on this process will be emailed to students and also posted on our website.

Important Dates

March 1st
- Summer Housing Application available in MyHousing
- Campus Change Application Deadline

March 15th
Current UConn students begin to choose roommates online for Honors, Learning Communities, and General Selection for the 2019-2020 year

March 16th-24th
Spring Recess
(no classes, halls remain open)

March 26th - 29th
Current UConn students choose rooms online for Honors and Learning Communities for the 2019-2020 year

April 1st - 21st
Current UConn students choose rooms and roommates online in the General Selection Process.

April 29th
Summer Room Change Application available in MyHousing.

May 13th
Halls, Suites, Northwood Apts., & Mansfield Apts. close for all students at noon for Spring 2019

May 31st
Hilltop & Charter Oak Apartments close for Spring 2019

We Hope That You’re Enjoying Winter!
We are here for you and your students if you have any questions!

Contact Information
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livingoncampus@uconn.edu
http://reslife.uconn.edu