

Montana State University
Residence Life
Parent Newsletter
January 2008

Dear Parents:

Hello! As we begin another semester, I would like to take time to reflect on some of the wonderful events that occurred in the halls just prior to closing in December and share some of the opportunities we have planned for your sons and daughters in the upcoming months. We continue to strive to make MSU a "home away from home" for your children, and take educational programming and social involvement activities very seriously. Readjustment to college life and refocusing on academics are two topics we cover at the beginning of Spring semester to ensure a smooth transition back to the halls and stress the importance of getting the right start. Please take a few moments to review the following pages!

Important Information:

✓ **Returner's Application Process:** Current residence hall students have the opportunity to secure their room for Fall 2008 from January 16th to February 15th at 5:00PM. There will be no financial obligation (cancellation fee) to your son/daughter until March 31, 2008, so we encourage anyone who is uncertain of their living arrangement for 2008-2009 to take advantage of this process. If your son/daughter misses this deadline, please have him/her speak with the Hall Program Assistant, who works the Front Desk from 8a.m.-5p.m., Monday-Friday. Special Living options for the upcoming year offer students variety and personalization that is essential to their success.

✓ **North Hedges Suites Application Process:** To live in the North Hedges Suites, our premiere apartment/suite-style living option, residents were required to turn in a separate application (which allows our office staff to evaluate if minimum requirements are met). The Suites "line-up" will take place the night of February 5th into the morning of the 6th, however, applications will be accepted after this date, and can be obtained through the Hall Program Assistant.

✓ **Progressive Housing Plan:** In an effort to reward students who choose to stay on-campus a second, third, and even fourth year, Residence Life and Family & Graduate Housing have teamed up to create a dynamic, new progressive housing plan. Under this plan, current residence hall students have the option of securing their double-as-single room before the incoming freshman class, moving in to the North Hedges Suites (certain criteria apply), moving into a 10th/11th Roskie Deluxe room (newly remodeled with modular furniture and carpeting), or participating in our Sophomore and Above floors (floors with specialized programming geared towards meeting the needs of sophomore). As fifth semester juniors, students have the option of purchasing a reduced 12 meal/week board plan, which allows them more freedom and cost savings. As sixth semester juniors, students participating in the Progressive Housing Plan will be given priority status to move into private or shared apartment options at Family & Graduate Housing. Family & Graduate housing offers year around opportunities for adventure, entertainment and personal growth. The convenience of

living on campus, combined with the perks of the Progressive Housing Plan, makes for an attractive and affordable option. Encourage your student to secure their spot now, there is no penalty for cancelling a progressive housing application. Applications are available in the Residence Life Office.

We always look forward to hearing from parents of our residents, please continue to use our departmental e-mail address housing@montana.edu or call 406.994.2661 with comments, questions, or concerns!

Sincerely,

The Residence Life Staff

Johnstone Masquerade Ball

Residents from all over campus joined the Johnstone RHA to celebrate Halloween at the annual Masquerade Ball. Held in Harrison Food Service, students put on their best costumes and danced with friends until the wee hours of the morning! All proceeds, \$350.00 were donated to the Big Brother and Sisters of Bozeman.

Langford Mistletoe Hop

In the holiday spirit, Langford RHA members worked diligently for over a month to gather door prizes, sell tickets, and decorate for the annual Mistletoe Hop, a dance open to all residence hall students. Proceeds from ticket prices, over \$450.00, were used to purchase Christmas presents for the Toys for Tots program. Students danced the night away, took pictures with Santa, and spent some quality time with friends.

Hapner Day of Cheer

To help the women of Hapner calm their nerves prior to Finals Week, the Hapner Hall RHA facilitated Hapner Day of Cheer, an all-day craft extravaganza! Participants were able to choose from many different activities—making/decorating ornaments, movies, games, cookie baking and decorating, and creating festive candy cane reindeer crafts!

Roskie Superbowl Party

On February 3, 2008 Roskie Hall RHA will host their annual Superbowl Party for residents of all halls! Frequent giveaways, catered appetizers, and the big game projected onto a large screen are just a few of the things offered to residents. There isn't a bad seat in the house!

Hannon Date Auction

The Hannon Date Auction, another popular charitable fundraiser facilitated by the Hannon RHA, will take place in February 2008. Residents of all seven halls are given the opportunity to become participants in the auction through an application process. Over 250 audience members typically bid on their potential dates, who are all excited to be volunteering for charity. After matches are made, everyone goes on a group date, compliments of RHA, to a local restaurant. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to a charity of the Executive Board's choice (past recipients include Special Olympics, the Network against Sexual and Domestic Abuse, and the Women's Cancer Network).

Hapner Formal

On April 12th, 2008 Hapner Hall RHA will be hosting the annual Hapner Formal at the Bozeman Elk's Club. Traditionally the Hapner Formal has been one of the year's highlight events, a chance for students of all halls to get dressed up and go out for a night on the town! This year's dance should be no exception. Again, all proceeds go towards a charitable donation made by the Hall Executive Board.

Academic Initiatives in the Residence Halls

The Department of Residence Life is committed to providing an environment that is conducive to both social and academic success. Students are exposed to academic programming, both on a hall and campus wide level each month. Peer Academic Involvement Coordinators, along with Resident Assistants, have been busy providing both passive programming opportunities (bulletin boards, posters, mailbox stuffers), as well as active events. Below is a brief summary of the activities provided this fall and some plans for spring!

-3.0 Club: Of the 348 registered 3.0 Club members an estimated 66% who participated received a 3.0 or higher! All those who signed up to participate in the 3.0 Club received several informational e-mails throughout the semester, along with newsletters and academic related brochures. For those who accomplished their goal, an incentive prize will be distributed early in spring semester.

-Academic Assistance: Throughout the fall semester students were able to take advantage of English Writing and Math Assistance up to five nights a week from a tutor trained at the University Writing Center and Math Lab. This service, free to students, will also be offered in the spring, and has become very popular among residents who need help proofreading a paper, brainstorming topics for essays, or assistance working through a tough Calculus problem. In addition to weekly English Writing and Math Assistance, Residence Life also organized study groups for difficult Science classes.

-Last Lecture Series: Students were treated to two wonderful "Last Lectures" this semester, both very relevant and helpful to residents facing transitions in both their personal and professional lives. The first was given by Bob Gough, the Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and the second by Craig Ehlert, a professor with the College of Business—who worked specifically with our co-ed Business Academic Theme Floor in North Hedges.

-Academic Programming: In conjunction with the First Year Initiative staff, Residence Life has provided numerous opportunities for students to enhance their study habits, take control of text anxiety, and manage the stress of difficult college curricula. Students enjoyed multi-media presentations, as well as encouraged audience participation and printed guides outlining important information.