

Letter for Front Cover:

Dear Parents,

Hello! After months of intensive training, the Residence Life Department and its staff members welcomed your students with open arms and have happily been helping them adjust to their new “home away from home.” Ongoing activities and educational programming opportunities have been taking place since our doors opened in late August, many of which your students have used as a vehicle to meet new people, learn about the wonderful services Montana State University has to offer, and expand their horizons. From Fall Games to Safety and Security Programming to Academic Initiatives, our department strives everyday to provide an environment that is both academically and socially conducive to student success. Take a few moments to review the following pages!

Your students love hearing from you...please think about sending those letters and care packages! Staff members will continue to program towards homesickness and lifestyle adjustment issues throughout the month of October; however, a note from mom, dad, and siblings can do wonders!

Upcoming Events:

✓ Contract Modifications: Starting October 22, 2007, students will be asked to review their room and board options for the upcoming semester. It is important that ALL students fill out their Contract Modification Form (which will be administered on-line) by November 8, 2007. Reminder: All students with less than 30 credits are required to live on-campus.

✓ Thanksgiving Housing Sign-Up: If your son/daughter will not be traveling home for Thanksgiving, Residence Life will be providing housing for a flat rate of \$40.00. Roskie, Johnstone, and the North Hedges Suites will all remain open for break housing; other halls will be used as needed. Sign-up begins on Wednesday, October 31 and ends on Friday, November 9.

Please feel free to use our Departmental e-mail address housing@montana.edu or call (406) 994-2661. We always welcome your comments and/or questions!

Sincerely,
The Residence Life Staff

Programming Updates:

Move-In Day:

Move-In Day, August 22, was a huge success! Resident Advisors were not only educated for a whole semester on the importance of their role in the residence halls but underwent ten intensive days of training prior to Opening Day in preparation for the arrival of residents. A three stage check-in process helped ease lines and necessary paperwork. Volunteers from campus and the Bozeman community contributed their time to help residents get situated in their new homes. With the exception of trying to flag down a dolly or moving cart, move-in went incredibly smoothly! Thank you to all the parents, family members, and

friends for your patience and cooperation in making Move-In Day an exciting jump start to a fantastic, fun-filled year.

Catapalooza:

What's that? It was a great way for MSU students to start the year! With over 200 exhibits by local businesses, student clubs, and other campus organizations, there was something for everyone. Local bands provided live music for the annual event, while exhibitors gave away lots of freebies ranging from Nalgene bottles and posters to food. Wonderful weather and exciting activities made for a great two days! For new students, Catapalooza was a fun way to relax after joining more than 2,500 other students moving into the halls.

Fall Games and RHA Ice Cream Social:

Activities such as Fall Games and the RHA Ice Cream Social, gave residents from all around campus a chance to get to know their fellow residents in a fun and safe environment. Fall Games included an all-day, round-robin volleyball and softball tournament, along with an exciting game of Ultimate Frisbee. This gave students the opportunity to develop relationships and close friendships with their teammates...maybe even their opponents! The RHA Ice Cream Social was a special occasion for residents of all the halls to mingle and learn about the opportunities that lie within the Interhall Residence Hall Association (IRHA). By becoming involved in IRHA, students have the ability to make decisions that impact their communities, interface with departments and staff members on campus, and meet many new people in the process.

Spirit BBQ and Roskie Beach Grand Opening:

Over 1,000 residents gathered to show support for MSU student athletes, collect free spirit gear, dine with friends, and help recognize the brand new Roskie Beach recreational facility. Constructed during the summer of 2007, Roskie Beach consists of a full-size basketball court, sand volleyball, horseshoe pit, and tetherball area. Tom Stump, Director of Auxiliary Services, and Champ, MSU's Mascot, cut the ceremonial ribbon and ushered students into the new space.

Safety and Security Programming:

August 26-September 2 Resident Advisors in all seven halls facilitated safety and security programs including self defense, alcohol awareness, "lock your door" campaigns, interactive programs with University Police and the Sexual Assault Response Team, campus safety awareness, and important tips when using internet connectivity sites (facebook, MySpace, etc.). Residents in all the halls were receptive to the programming efforts and reminded of the continual need to always be aware of their surroundings.

Academic Initiatives in the Residence Halls:

Residence Life staff members are committed to providing an environment that is conducive to both social and academic success. To fulfill this commitment, the department creates an Academic Enhancement Advisorship to facilitate campus-

wide academic programming, to oversee Academic Involvement Coordinators from each hall, and to network with academic departments to arrange guest speakers and solicit faculty support. Listed below are some of the academic opportunities your student can take advantage of...

- **3.0 Club:** ANY residence hall student can sign-up to be a part of the 3.0 Club! Membership includes monthly academic newsletters, academic related brochures, and constant encouragement throughout fall semester to reach their goal of a 3.0.
- **English Writing Assistance:** Residence Life has hired two English Writing Assistants to work five evenings a week for four hours to help residence hall students with their term/research papers. English Writing Assistants, trained in the University Writing Center, can help students brainstorm ideas for papers, assist them with structure, or simply help correct grammatical errors. Best of all, the assistance is FREE!
- **“Last Lecture” Series:** Each month, residence hall students will have the opportunity to listen to an MSU Faculty or Staff member present his/her “last lecture.” This series has been incredibly popular with students in the past, due the content of the lectures (including the power of love, career, and finding one’s passion). Bob Gough, the Associate Dean of Agriculture will kick off the 2007-2008 series at the end of October.
- **Campus-Wide Academic Programming:** Academic Involvement Coordinators from each of the seven residence halls will be trained to assist Resident Advisors in providing programming for their floor or hall-wide community. Programs on memory retention, test-taking skills, and study habits, for example, are a great way for residents to get important information that will increase their success.
- **Sophomore Year Experience (SYE):** New this year, Residence Life staff members have created a Sophomore Year Experience program that explores the needs of second year students. SYE programs promote career/major planning, academic success, leadership, and co-curricular involvement.