COMMUNICATING | CONTINUED

Dear Parents and Family Members,

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 extensive 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.

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 October and November; however, a note from mom, dad and siblings can do wonders.

Please feel free to use our departmental email address housing@montana.edu or call 406-994-2661. We always welcome your comments and/or questions.

Sincerely,
The Residence Life Staff

We want your feedback!

Parent Newsletters are designed to give you, as parents of residence hall students, information on all of the processes that affect your son’sdaughter’s housing situation, educational and social programming opportunities within our environment, and academic initiative updates so you are aware of the efforts made to create inclusive living/learning communities. Are we meeting your needs? What else would you like to read about? Please submit your feedback via our departmental email address at housing@montana.edu. We also welcome questions or concerns of any type, which you can email or call in to 406-994-2661.
### Upcoming Deadlines

**Spring Confirmation:** Starting November 3, 2014, students will be asked to review their room and board options for the upcoming semester and make any change requests they might have by December 1. 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. We anticipate most, if not all, halls being open. Sign-up occurs from Monday, October 27 through Tuesday, November 11. If students need to sign-up after that time, they will be charged a $25 late registration fee.

**Thanksgiving Break:** The residence halls close at noon on Wednesday, November 26. They will open again on Sunday, November 30 at noon.

**Winter Break Housing Sign-up:** If your student needs lodging at any time during Winter Break, Residence Life will be providing accommodations for a flat rate of $39. The following halls will remain open for students: Roskie, Johnstone, Freshman Apartments and the Headwaters Complex; other halls will be closed as needed. All students wanting to stay on campus over break at any point must sign up between Monday, October 27 and Tuesday, December 2. If students need to sign-up after that time, they will be charged a $25 late registration fee.

**Winter Break:** The residence halls close on Saturday, December 13 at noon. They will open again on Sunday, January 11 at noon.

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## Student Spotlight

**Dallas Flager**

Freshman Apartments, Spokane, Washington

Dallas originally decided to attend MSU to play basketball, but after realizing that she wanted to help others and commit herself to her academics, she made the decision to focus on her nursing degree. She is an active student involved in many sports including frisbee, golf, soccer and basketball. She comes to MSU with a strong work ethic and a dedication for her academics which is one of her greatest accomplishments in high school; achieving a 3.9 GPA while also taking at least 2 AP courses each year. She credits much of her success to her parents who gave her the drive and ambition to set her goals high and go after her passions in life, to help people. Dallas has possible connections for a job in Atlanta or New York if she so chooses after graduation.

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## Ask Your RA:

**Imel Wheat**

4th floor South Hedges RA/ARD

**Business**

Redmond, Washington

**Why did you apply for the RA position?**

When I first came to MSU I wanted nothing more than to get involved. Coming from high school and having a large group of friends I was eager to meet a lot of people. One group of peers who stood out to me were the Resident Advisors. The RAs seemed like they knew everyone. They were loud, fun and most importantly, involved. I decided within the first week of school that I needed to become an RA. I immediately asked my advisor what I could do to be considered for the job and I never strayed from his advice.

**Office on campus that students should take advantage of:**

One of the most underappreciated resources on campus is the Office of Student Success. They will do everything from life advice to finding you a job. Most students only know them as the people who contact the students when they’re struggling in a class, but this office is so much more than that.

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## Tips for Roommates from MSU Students:

- Talk to each other ahead of move in day. Get a feel for what they like and when they sleep and study.
- Decide who is being what for your room so you don't end up with two microwaves and no fridge. Set your room up together so that you each have your own space.
- Fill out a roommate agreement together. Lay down some boundaries and hold each other accountable.
- Bring up conflicts as soon as they happen and be respectful.
- Ask your roommate before you have friends over, especially if they are staying the night.
- You don’t have to be best friends, but you do have to live together so make the most of it.
- Ask for advice from your RA, sometimes they have handled these situations before and can give some great input for the situation.

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## Student Interview

**Jason Chugani**

Johnstone Center, Manila, Philippines

Jason comes all the way from the Philippines to attend MSU with a degree in business accounting and hopes to work as a public accountant after graduation. Jason originally attended the University of Washington before transferring to MSU for the smaller class sizes and university setting. After moving to Bozeman, he quickly got involved in his RHA in South Hedges as a senator before applying to be a Resident Advisor for the 14-15 academic year. He says that his biggest influence in his life is his mom because she always gives him great advice and has his best interest at heart. She knew that even though he didn’t want to transfer at first, she knew that it was the right thing for him to do. He hopes that from his years of living in different countries; Dubai, China, Nigeria and the U.S., that he can contribute this year to his residents’ experiences and time at MSU in a positive way.

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## Roommate Advice and Input

**Tieler Soumas, Langford RA & Kayla Bartlett, Johnstone RA**

My first college roommate talked in her sleep. I’m not saying she would groan or mumble; she would talk. I would lay on the bottom bunk at midnight Skyping with my friends and she would be on the top bunk, fast asleep, and having a full conversation with her grandma in her dreams. She also would spend hours in front of our mirror straightening the same section of hair over and over again, insisting that it wasn’t straight enough and she would change clothes in the closet so that no one would see her. Now, I’m not saying I was the most normal roommate ever. I lined the whole bottom of my bunk with post-it KEs, Alice Cooper and Shaz. I listened to load classic rock constantly and I would hog the TV on hockey night to watch the Blackhawks play. What I’m saying is that we were different, very different, but we worked it out and ended up being good friends.

Moving into a residence hall can be an uneasy experience. You are going to a university for the first time, mom and dad are leaving you in this building where you have to share a bathroom with 30 strangers, and you have to live and sleep in a room with a complete stranger. Sometimes you get paired up with someone who loves the same music you do, watches the same shows you do, and has the same sleeping habits. Most of the time you are with someone who is completely different from you, they may even be from another country and speak a different language than you, and this is where the whole experience can either go terribly wrong or be exciting and help you grow.

We have provided a few tips below that you can share with your student if they seem to be having trouble with their roommate or don’t know how to discuss an issue they might be having in the room.

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Follow us on Facebook at MSU Residence Life for updates and announcements.