Dear Parents and Family Members,

After months of intensive training, the Department of Residence Life 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 Movie on the Wall 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 student’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.
They will open up again on Sunday, November 27 at noon. The residence halls close at noon on Wednesday, November 23.

Dining Halls will be closed during Thanksgiving Break.

If your son/daughter will not be traveling home for November 7. If students need to sign-up after that time, they will be charged a $25 late registration fee. For more information, please visit www.montana.edu/reslife/break_housing.

Reminders:
- MSU Residence Life for updates and announcements. montanastatereslife
- If your student needs lodging at any time during Winter Break, www.montana.edu/reslife/break_housing.
- 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 fee. The following halls will remain open for students: Roskie, Johnstone, Freshman Apartments and the Headwaters Complex; other halls will be used as needed. All students wanting to stay on campus over break at any point must sign up between Monday, October 24 and Friday, December 2. If students need to sign-up after that time, they will be charged a $25 late registration fee. For more information, please visit www.montana.edu/reslife/break_housing.

Winter Break Break
The residence halls close on Saturday, December 17 at 7pm. They will open up again Sunday, January 8 at noon. Dining Halls will be closed during Winter Break.

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

Jess Aldridge
Lafayette, Ga.
Freshman, Film & Photography
South Hedges Hall, Arts & Architecture Floor

Jess Aldridge comes from a small town in Georgia where his dad is a game warden and his mom is a teacher. Jess chose MSU after his parents encouraged and pushed him to pursue his dreams and it became harder and harder to leave Montana after visiting family in Big Timber. Since coming to MSU, Jess has come to appreciate the people and community of MSU and Bozeman. He loves how kind, nice and patient people are while still recognizing that students often come far from home to attend MSU and stepping into the first part of their adult lives. Some of Jess’ favorite things about his community in South Hedges is how close-knit his floor community is and how they look out for each other. He also loves his Program Coordinator, Dana, as “Miss Dana” as he calls her and often leaves her encouraging notes when he leaves his shift as a Desk Clerk in South Hedges. Jess spends a lot of time in the Visual Communications Building (VCB) developing his film photography for his favorite class. Photo 11 is a constant reminder that MSU was the right choice for him.

UPCOMING DEADLINES
Spring Confirmation
Starting November 7, 2016, students will be asked to review their room and board options for the upcoming semester and make any changes they might have by November 18. Reminders: 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 fee. We anticipate most, if not all, halls being open. Sign-up occurs from Monday, October 24 through Monday, November 7. If students need to sign-up after that time, they will be charged a $25 late registration fee. For more information, please visit www.montana.edu/reslife/break_housing.

Thanksgiving Break
The residence halls close at noon on Wednesday, November 23. They will open up again on Sunday, November 27 at noon. Dining Halls will be closed during Thanksgiving Break.

ASK YOUR RA:
Chase Dart
10th Floor Roskie
Great Falls, Mont. · Biological Sciences

Why did you apply for the RA position?
I love the on campus community at Montana State, and wanted to be a bigger part of it. Going to college can be an incredible experience, and I wanted the opportunity to help facilitate that experience through being a mentor and friend to the students.

Office on campus that students should take advantage of:
I would recommend checking out the Office of Student Success. They are one of the best resources we have on campus for finding success in your academic pursuits. A couple of the services they offer are tutoring for a wide variety of classes, and success advising to help you achieve your college goals.

What coaching could parents do with their student about roommate issues?
Conflict is something we all go through in life, and roommate conflicts are a way to start learning how to handle it properly. I would recommend talking to your student about the situation, but also encouraging them to work through it using the resources at their disposal, such as their RA, who could help them find a solution to the issue.

Piece of advice to parents:
Stay supportive. College is a dynamic and exciting time of life, full of change and new experiences. Your student may choose to change their major four or five times, and that’s perfectly okay. It will mean the world to them to have the support of their parents as they figure out what they want for their future.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY | RESIDENCE LIFE NEWS

MILLER DINING COMMONS

Now that the 2016–2017 academic year is in full swing, students, faculty and staff are taking advantage of the recently renovated Miller Dining Commons. University Food Services has impressed everyone with the Miller renovation—so much so that there are often lines going out the doors. University Food Services has done such a great job providing so many different dining options for everyone to choose from and enhancing the quality of campus life. There was a record number of commuter (off-campus) meal plans sold during the fall 2015 and 2016 semesters and many on-campus students upgraded their meal plans so they could eat over the weekends.

Dining options in Miller Dining Commons include: Tama (Mongolian grill and wok), Toscana (pizza and pasta), Blaze (burger bar), Grauers (smoker and rotisserie), Froth & Foam (espresso bar), Hummley (comfort food), Route 406 (Montana Made deli), Crosswinds (healthy choices), Picante (Mexican concept), Chop’t (soup and salad bar), Indulge (in-house bakery), and The Nook (breakfast bar). By far, the most popular option is Tama where you will often see students, faculty and staff waiting in line to have their custom creations cooked on a giant round top griddle by the hard working staff. The second favorite option with students is Toscana with their homemade wood fired pizzas and multiple pasta dishes. We could not be more excited to make the new and improved Miller Dining Commons available to all of our students. With the plethora of new dining options, modern design and layout, and comfortable new seating areas, we hope that Miller Dining Commons is a warm, enjoyable place for students to relax, chat and enjoy some great food. With each new addition we bring to the campus living experience, we are able to provide excellent service and a happy environment for all of our students. We cannot wait to see you there.

View of the beverage bar in Miller Dining Commons with different drink options.

Also on the menu: Opportunity
Miller Dining Commons is currently hiring and looking for students who would like to make a few extra bucks in between classes or on the weekends. This is a great opportunity for students to build skills and gain experience while still putting their education first. If your son or daughter is interested in a convenient on-campus job, they can contact Kevin Bull at 406-994-6011 or kbhall@montana.edu.

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The Den is an advising center which consists of Success Advisors, Academic Advisors, Career Coaches and Financial Coaches, available Monday through Friday. Also available through The Den is free walk-in tutoring Monday through Friday for Math, Physics, Chemistry and Writing. We encourage students to come and check-out our services. For just stopping in and talking to the professional working at the front desk of The Den students will receive 700 Champ Change points. Champ Change can be used to buy items as small as a student planner and as large as a semester’s worth of tuition. All of this is free and found right in the lobby of South Hedges Hall.