Dear Parents and Family Members,

Hello! Following the long Winter Break, many students came back with renewed energy and enthusiasm to have a meaningful Spring Semester. Our staff has continued to approach their work with a commitment to making your son/daughter's residence hall experience one he or she will remember for a lifetime. We are currently in the process of selecting our Resident Advisor Staff for the 2015–2016 academic year, and we are pleased with how dependable, hardworking and student-oriented the candidates are. Our office will begin assigning new students shortly while the hall Program Assistants, our professional staff who manage the front desks of each of our buildings, facilitate our returner's housing arrangements. Although we are looking ahead to a new year, there are still plenty of activities and events planned to end the semester with a bang.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching, there are several very important deadlines and processes to be aware of. These include the Financial Penalty Deadline for students returning to the halls, when the residence halls close and summer housing opportunities. Once again we would like to showcase two residents as well as a great involvement opportunity for students interested in staying in Bozeman over they summer. Finally, students explain what their days are like living on-campus at MSU.

Thank you for your continued support of your student. We value your partnership in helping your students succeed in and out of the classroom.

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’s/daughter’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.
Also, surrounding oneself with friends and partaking in activities can help one to get ahead in their schooling, especially if they are not sure what they want to pursue. With the help of friends, one can start to find something that they are passionate about, their involvement within a student organization will help make their transition into college easier and provide a positive group of friends.

**ASK AN RA:**

**Jenna Wilson, Bozeman, Mont. • North Hedges RA**

What are the advantages of getting involved either at MSU or within the Bozeman community?

Becoming involved in the MSU and Bozeman communities is important as this will be your home for your college career. It is beneficial to have all resources within your reach. Building relationships helps you to stay committed to your schooling and life here, as well as makes you feel at home. Becoming involved helps one to feel connected to their environment and helps a person to feel they are making a difference in the world.

It’s been pretty tough for my student to get back into the swing of things this semester. Do you have any advice on ways for him/her to stay motivated?

A good way for your child to stay motivated is to seek out assistance when needed. I would recommend taking advantage of the opportunities here on campus such as using the library during class breaks, or studying with a group of friends. Being able to stay on top of homework and studying early for tests will help the student succeed. Also, surrounding oneself with friends and partaking in activities can help raise one’s motivation.

Would it be worthwhile for my student to enroll in summer classes or stay in Bozeman over the summer?

It would be beneficial to utilize the option of summer classes, as it helps one to get ahead in their schooling, especially if they are not sure of their major. However, if the student does not want to take classes over the summer, just staying in Bozeman would be favorable. They would be able to get to know the Bozeman community and find their place here. Either way, staying here over summer would serve as a great opportunity to become invested and connected to both campus and the Bozeman area.

**DEADLINES**

- **February 1**
  - Summer housing registration begins.
- **February 9**
  - Spring Break housing registration begins.
- **February 18**
  - Housing Priority Selection for living on-campus in 2015-2016 closes. Students interested in returning to the halls can still sign up, however, they will lose their “priority” status and will be placed in line with any other applications we receive from incoming freshman.
- **February 24**
  - Spring Break housing priority registration closes. Students will still be able to sign-up to stay, but will be charged a $25 late fee.
- **March 7-15**
  - Spring Break
    - Halls close on March 7 at noon and will open again on March 15 at noon.
    - Dining halls will be closed during break. Select residence halls will remain open for students who choose to stay during break.
- **March 31**
  - Financial Obligation Deadline: After 5 pm, students who have signed up to live on-campus next year and choose to cancel will be responsible for the $2200 cancellation fee.
- **April 3**
  - University Day
    - No classes, offices open.
- **May 4-8**
  - Finals Week
- **May 9**
  - Residence Halls close at noon.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Angus Tomlinson Hamilton, Mont. Sophomore, Computer Science and Applied Math Langford Hall**

With a knack for the outdoors and a passion for Montana, Angus Tomlinson joined the MSU family two years ago as a freshman majoring in Computer Science and Applied Math. He chose MSU for the strong College of Engineering, the opportunities for outdoor activities as well as the financial scholarships that he received. His favorite outdoor activity is backpacking and has done a lot of it with his family around Montana. Angus is currently involved in RHA as the Langford Hall President and says that his one piece of advice for students is to get involved and get involved early. He encourages students to find something that they are passionate about, their involvement within a student organization will help make their transition into college easier and provide a positive group of friends.

**ASK AN RA:**

**Kyle Glose, Lakewood, Colo. • Hannon/Quad RA**

Why did you decide to be an RA and what do you enjoy about it most?

Though receiving free housing is certainly a perk of the job, it is not the primary reason that drove me to become an RA. Being from Colorado, I had little knowledge about MSU and almost none about Bozeman when I moved in to Langford Hall in the fall of 2013. Furthermore, I did not know a soul here in Bozeman when I arrived, which was frankly terrifying. One of the first people who I met at MSU was my RA. He was friendly, inviting and strove to get to know me and let me know that he cared about me right off the bat. His attitude helped to alleviate much of my apprehension, and through getting to know other people around the hall he was able to introduce me to some people he thought I might get along well with. To this day, those people are three of my best friends. The ability to help my residents form those friendships that persist long after everyone has graduated is something that drew me to the job, and having been able to do that this year has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my educational career.

What’s your advice for students that are debating between staying on-campus and moving off-campus for their second or third year at MSU?

Go talk to someone about it. Plenty of students return to campus for second or third years, and plenty also move off campus. Simply discussing with someone to understand the reasons they chose to live where they did can be an eye-opening experience. I would also suggest writing out a clear list of your priorities when it comes to living situations, e.g. proximity to campus, cost, safety/security, meals and using this to help you make the decision.

What are the perks of living on-campus?

Living on campus offers many benefits when compared to the off-campus life. Sleep in too late one morning and wake up to 10 minutes before class starts? On campus, where you live at most to minutes away from a class, that isn’t a problem. Come home from work ravenous and unmotivated to cook yourself a meal? Just swing by one of the dining halls conveniently located to our residence halls and grab a quick bite to eat, as late as midnight. Need to get away from your roommate for a bit? Walk a few feet down the hall and hang out with some other people, or even go to a different floor in your building. These, and others are clear advantages to living on campus.
Dear Parents and Family Members,

Hello! Following the long Winter Break, many students came back with renewed energy and enthusiasm to have a meaningful Spring Semester. Our staff has continued to approach their work with a commitment to making your son/daughter’s residence hall experience one he or she will remember for a lifetime. We are currently in the process of selecting our Resident Advisor Staff for the 2015–2016 academic year, and we are pleased with how dependable, hardworking and student-oriented the candidates are. Our office will begin assigning new students shortly while the hall Program Assistants, our professional staff who manage the front desks of each of our buildings, facilitate our returner’s housing arrangements. Although we are looking ahead to a new year, there are still plenty of activities and events planned to end the semester with a bang.

With the end of the year rapidly approaching, there are several very important deadlines and processes to be aware of. These include the Financial Penalty Deadline for students returning to the halls, when the residence halls close and summer housing opportunities. Once again we would like to showcase two residents as well as a great involvement opportunity for students interested in staying in Bozeman over the summer. Finally, students explain what their days are like living on-campus at MSU.

Thank you for your continued support of your student. We value your partnership in helping your students succeed in and out of the classroom.

Sincerely,
The Residence Life Staff

---

MILLER DINING HALL

An update

In a continued effort to advance the University’s commitment to enhance the quality of campus life and build a better campus community, University Food Services is conducting a series of renovations to the dining hall facilities. Miller Dining Commons was the first facility to undergo transformation and is currently in construction phase two. From March 16 through May 8, Miller will be reconfigured to accommodate the renovation process. During this time, Miller will maintain regular operating hours (including Late Nite Bites), and will feature:

- Savory hot food options
- Salad bar
- Taco bar
- Bagel & cereal bar
- Dessert bar
- Beverage stations

In addition, a new grab-n-go option will be available during breakfast, lunch and dinner in the South Hedges lobby as well as in Miller. The grab-n-go option will feature a variety of:

- Pre-made sandwiches and wraps
- Soup and chili
- Pasta salads
- Leafy green salads
- Coffee/tea, juice, Pepsi products and bottled water

Additional seating will be available in the North and South Hedges lobbies. Don’t see anything on the menu that sounds good? Don’t forget that Harrison and Hannon Dining Halls feature different daily menu items and will remain fully operational during these dates. CNC Cash and Cat Cash can also be used in the retail operations.

Every effort has been made to minimize impacts during this exciting renovation. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we move towards a new state-of-the art and student focused Miller Dining Commons.