Dear Parents and Family Members,

As we come to the end of Fall Semester 2014 and you welcome your students home for Winter Break, the Residence Life staff would like to thank you for your commitment to your students. Our staff works every day to provide an environment that encourages both academic and social success for your students, from Hall Meet and Greets to Living Learning Communities.

As you have time to reflect on the semester with your student over break, please ask them to share their experiences with you: what they learned, how they’ve grown and what they are looking forward to for Spring semester. Transitioning from college life to home life can be stressful, but take the time to have that conversation to allow for a smooth adjustment. Getting back into 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 some time to look over this newsletter with your son or daughter. We are excited to highlight upcoming opportunities, introduce our reapplication process for housing 2015-2016 and share information about student employment opportunities offered by the University and Residence Life department. On page 4, you will some exciting information about the continuing renovations that are being made to the food service facilities on campus including current construction on Miller Food Service.

Please feel free to use our departmental email address, housing@montana.edu or call 406-994-2661. We always welcome your comments and 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’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.
LANGFORD RESIDENCE HALL INCIDENT

On Thursday, December 4, we had an explosion in Langford Hall in which two of our students were injured. Only one of the students involved was hospitalized and is now in stable condition. Contents from an aerosol can were sprayed throughout the room which was followed by igniting a cigarette lighter triggering the explosion. In addition to where the explosion happened, one neighboring room was damaged. The structural integrity of the building is sound and the rooms will be repaired over the winter break and be ready for occupancy when students return in January. This was a very unfortunate accident, and the university is responding with care to support all of the students and families impacted by this incident.

Although Residence Life strives to provide an incident free experience for our students, we must prepare for the possibility of personal property damage. We encourage students and parents to investigate and consider purchasing renters insurance to protect personal property while living in the residence halls. You can typically find renters insurance through your family insurance company or through a private company for a low-cost.

As noted below in the 2014–2015 Residence Hall Contract:

12. University Responsibility for Student's Personal Property:
   a. The University assumes no responsibility for the theft, destruction or loss of money, valuable or personal property belonging to or in the custody of the Student, no matter the cause or location of the property.
   b. The University does not carry insurance against the loss or damage of individually owned personal property, so students should provide their own personal property insurance coverage.

AST YOUR RA: Sydney Jaramillo, Nagner RA

Can you give us a little background about who you are and why you chose to attend MSU?

I am a senior majoring in English Literature and minoring in German. History and Museum Studies. I am from El Paso, Texas. I decided to come to MSU because I really wanted to attend a smaller school where my professors would know my name and I would be able to form connections with them as well.

What is your favorite part of living in the hall?

The amazing community that is built by the residents living in the building. There are always people around to which you can talk and you never feel alone because you are surrounded by friends.

What is the Housing Priority Selection and why is it important?

Housing Priority Selection is your student’s opportunity to have first choice into the residence hall for the 2015-2016 school year. Being a second semester student rather than an incoming freshman, your student is able to choose where they want to live before the new incoming freshmen are placed. It is important that your student begins to consider where he or she would like to live next year. They can choose to live in the same room as they are in now or move to a new hall. It is a great opportunity for your student to change where they are living and experience a new community.

How can I (the parent) support my student during the Spring Semester?

The spring semester is the tougher semester of the two so encouragement is appreciated. Also understand that Spring Break is a great time away from school but we are often assigned projects and papers to work on over break so understand if we need to work on them while home or on vacation. Overall, support our academic decisions and counsel us through stressful times.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ian Estes  Marketing, Kansas State University  Industrial & Systems Management Engineering

With a passion for the outdoors and traveling around the world, Ian Estes arrived at MSU with a drive and determination to get involved in as much as possible including his floor community. Ian is currently his floor president and takes pride in being a Student Ambassador with the Leadership Institute and wants to pursue a Masters in Public Administration when he completes his Bachelors degree. His favorite experiences so far are the duck pond, the diverse community, huckleberry ice cream sandwiches and Cathy’s eggs from Miller Food Service. Moving from Kansas, Ian is glad to be a part of Bozeman and the MSU community and hopes that he can experience as much as possible while he’s here.
ENHANCEMENTS ARE COMING!

Dining Hall Renovations

In the spring of 2014, University Food Services announced a series of renovations to the Residence Dining Halls with the goal of creating state-of-the-art dining facilities that not only offer fine food, but a warm and inviting atmosphere that will play a meaningful role in our student’s campus life experience.

Miller Dining Hall, the first facility to undergo transformation, is flying through phase one and is in the beginning stages of phase two. The renovation will enhance the ability for diners to experience more variety and customize menu options, including display cooking with made-to-order options. The new featured concepts will include:

- Mongolian Grill & Wok
- Pizza & Pasta Concept
- Old Fashioned Burger Concept
- Smoker/Rotisserie
- Comfort Food Concept
- Montana Made Concept
- Mexican Concept
- Soup & Salad Bar
- Cereal/Breakfast Bar
- Espresso Bar

The renovation is on schedule to be completed August 2015.