Dear Parents and Family Members,

As we come to the end of Fall Semester 2015 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 2016–2017 and share information about student employment opportunities offered by the University and Residence Life department.

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.
OPPORTUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Student Employment at MSU

For a student living in the residence halls the convenience of a job close to home is great. Weekend Student Custodian, Desk Clerk and Resident Advisor are the most popular employment options available. The Weekend Student Custodian is a full time student that insures the cleanliness of the residence halls on the weekends, when the full time custodial staff is out. Desk Clerks manage the desk weekdays from 9am to 6pm and all day on weekends, during which they answer questions, check our keys, act as frontline safety and security, and welcome residents home in the early hours of the morning. The Resident Advisor is a full time student that lives in the residence halls and acts as a resource to the residents that live on every floor. This is a fun leadership position that mobilizes students into leaders. The Resident Advisor application process starts in January for the 2016-2017 academic year.

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 Ball at 406-994-6031 or kball@montana.edu.

Summer Storage

A service that Residence Life provides for students living on-campus is summer storage for students returning to the residence halls for the 2016-17 academic year. More details will be provided to students during the spring 2016 semester and additional details will be included in the spring parent newsletter.

ASK YOUR RA:

Nathan Massey • Roskie Hall, 5th Floor | Exercise Science • Lewiston, Idaho

What advice to freshmen that's living in halls?

Use your freshman year as an opportunity to get involved in the university and use your RA as a resource. One of my own experiences was Hall Council my freshman year, I really wanted to continue to get involved as I transitioned into college and it’s a great opportunity to continue that leadership.

What factors should students consider when deciding between on-campus and off-campus housing for the 2016-17 academic year?

Important things to consider are things like driving to campus every day for class, are you willing to cook for yourself every night, do you have the ability to take on additional bills like rent, utilities and getting a job as needed.

Who should consider applying for the RA job?

People who are willing to be a mentor and a friend to residents should apply for the position. RAs play such an important role in students’ lives when they are living on campus. It’s a great opportunity to be able to mentor these students and assist them in their transition to college.

For any student looking for a job, a great resource is Career, Internship and Student Employment. They have Career Coaches that will help you with résumé critiquing, mock interviews, job searches, and career advice. Another resource is the website mycampusjobs.com, where students can find jobs, internships, and work-study employment. Each spring and fall semester, Career Services holds a Career Fair for students to find summer internships and post-graduate employment. If you have any questions about these services, visit Career Services on campus or their website at www.montana.edu/careers.

Many on-campus jobs require students to have Work Study. Work Study is a federal or state-funded program offered to eligible students who demonstrate financial need. The money earned is intended to assist with meeting educational expenses. If Work Study is awarded as part of a financial aid package, the student is able to apply for a Work Study job. The money earned through a Work Study job is paid in the form of a paycheck on an “hourly” basis. In order to participate in these programs, you must have been awarded Federal or Montana Work Study on your Financial Aid Award Notification. To find Work Study opportunities, visit the Work Study section of the Financial Aid website at www.montana.edu/wwfa.

2016-2017 HOUSING PRIORITY SELECTION

Housing Priority Selection begins at noon Wednesday, January 13 and continues until Wednesday, February 17. This is your student’s opportunity as a returner to secure their room and have priority placement over new students at MSU. They can choose their current room or a new room in any of the halls. Many living options are especially designed for upper class students including our suite-style Headwaters Complex, Rookie fierce houses featuring gorgeous views and plenty of room to spread out. Sophomore and Above Rooms with programming coordinated to fit all your needs and our 21+ living option in Johnstone Center. If students decide to cancel their 2016-2017 housing application before March 31, 2016 at 5 pm, their $200 cancellation fee will be waived. Any cancellation after this date will incur a $200 cancellation fee.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

January 10: The residence halls will open at noon. First meal will be breakfast on January 11 in Miller/Harrison.

January 13: First day of classes.

January 13 – February 17: Students can sign up to live on campus for the 2016-2017 school year through our Housing Priority Selection process.

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no class, offices closed.

February 3: Applications for Resident Advisors are due at noon.

February 15: Presidents’ Day; no class, offices closed.

February 16: Spring break housing sign-up begins.

Spring Break: Residence halls will close Saturday, March 12 at noon for spring break. They will open again on Sunday, March 20 at noon. Dining halls will be closed during break. Select halls will remain open for students who choose to stay during break.

March 31: There will be no financial penalty if you cancel your 2016-2017 room with us by 5 pm on March 31, 2016. If you need to cancel after that time, you will be charged a $200 cancellation fee.

April 1: University Day: no classes, offices open

April 29: Last day of classes

May 2-6: Final exams

May 7: Residence Halls close at noon


LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Arts & Architecture LLC  |  South Hedges  |  Arts, Architecture, Music, Film & Photo

The Arts & Architecture Living Learning Community has been buzzing with creative energy this semester. In the beginning of the year, Resident Advisors Eamonn Casey and Anna Pierce, worked with the Residence Life office to begin updating the lounge. The Arts & Arch lounge is unique to the floor because rather than a traditional lounge, it is a studio. This studio is equipped with drafting tables, light tables and large workstations for the residents to utilize. The lounge is well on its way to being complete and accommodating more areas for students to work. In fact, when all the furniture was installed, architecture students moved their materials from the School of Architecture to the studio.

As far as programming goes, the residents have been privy to multiple events that are specifically for Arts students. “Life After the Gate,” hosted in mid-October, allowed residents to meet with students who have recently gone through the gate process in photo, film, graphic design and architecture. Afterwards, students said they felt more comfortable with the process and appreciated the opportunity to talk with upperclassmen. Throughout the rest of the year, the residents will be able to meet with professors in their major and partake in creative floor events, such as Battle of the Sexes, Wreck This Paper and Photo Scavenger Hunts.

ARTS & ARCHITECTURE LLC  |  CONTINUED