

the Wolf's Den

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919.513.2910

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919.515.3088

Dear Parents:

Greetings from Wolfpack Country! Fall semester is moving by quickly and exciting things are happening all over campus. Our students have already organized a variety of activities to help develop a sense of community and to provide learning opportunities for our students. Living on campus is designed to promote personal and academic growth, and we see evidence of that every day.

Learning occurs best in an environment that includes both challenges and supports. The challenges to our students are obvious. Support is available from many sources across campus. University Housing staff members are here to provide both challenge and support through a wide range of transition issues. Sometimes we hold hands, but most of the time we work side by side with your students to help them find their way. Your students will learn important life lessons from their efforts to find solutions to sometimes complex problems.

Soon after the December holiday break, your students will be asked to consider where to live next

year. Our Housing Application Renewal Process to return to campus begins in early February. The great majority of our freshmen choose to come back to campus for their sophomore year, and many juniors and seniors continue to live on campus as well. Students who live on campus will continue to benefit from convenience to classes, the library, dining, and other services. The experience of living in a diverse community of fellow students is invaluable.

Best of luck to you, parents, as you experience the challenges and rewards of your students as they pursue their academic and personal goals. Our hope is that every student will attain a sense of direction and develop the confidence to accomplish great things. Make sure your students call on our staff members for support whenever needed.

Timothy R. Luckadoo, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor
for Student Affairs



Students enjoy burgers and bands at the IRC sponsored Chillin and Grillin event the first week of Fall semester. This was just one of the many Wolfpack Welcome Week events that students enjoyed as the school year began.

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NC STATE

Hall Councils

Developing Leaders, Building Communities

By *Scott Iverson and Jennifer Ofstein*

Some call them area councils. Bragaw Hall calls theirs the "Board of Governors." Whatever the name, hall councils provide three very important purposes for the building they serve: leadership development, hall programming, and hall feedback.

At the beginning of each school year, resident students have an opportunity to join their respective hall councils and run for leadership positions. Even if they are not elected to be an officer, ALL students are welcome to attend hall council meetings to give feedback regarding the development of their hall community. Experience as an officer or as a general member of the council helps lay the groundwork for future leadership experiences. Many hall council members go on to become leaders in other campus organizations, based on skills

they acquire in their hall councils.

Another important role of the hall councils is to plan fun, exciting, and often educational events for their residence hall community. Hall councils generally have the very important task of generating good programming ideas that will be of interest to a wide variety of students. After the ideas are formulated, the program must be planned and then executed. More often than not, it is this aspect of hall council that takes the most time and energy!

Finally, hall council is the best way for students to give input into their living community. Hall councils are the ideal place for students to express the ideas they have for the improvement of the hall community. Every council has a professional staff advisor who is always on hand to hear and respond to student concerns as needed. More important-

ly, hall councils are a place where students can bring concerns to the attention of other community members and work as a single voice to address issues and create positive change.

If any resident would like to join hall council, IT IS NOT TOO LATE. Interested students may contact any hall staff member for more information!

Scott Iverson is an Assistant Director for University Housing. He can be reached at Scott_Iverson@ncsu.edu. Jennifer Ofstein is the Residence Director of Bowen Hall and can be reached at Jennifer_Ofstein@ncsu.edu

The Advantages of Living On-Campus

By *Chris Pfitzer*

As the time approaches for your student to make a decision about living arrangements for the 2006-2007 academic year, University Housing would like to remind you that while any landlord can satisfy your need for shelter, no other residence can provide the level of support or services that come from living on campus.

Living on campus is convenient

Our residence halls and Apartments are within walking distance of classes, labs, libraries, theatres, art galleries, sports facilities and dining halls. If you don't feel like walking, the free Wolfline bus service can take you anywhere on campus that you need to go.

Living on campus aids academic success

Housing staff members provide support and referral services to help students meet the demands of academic programs. Our living and learning villages offer unique opportunities for students to network with mentors, professors and fellow students. And living on campus plays an important role in higher GPAs!

Living on campus provides special opportunities

The on-campus community gives students opportunities to get involved in leadership activities through hall councils and the IRC, as well as other activities like intramural sports, cultural events, theme parties, study skill programs, and impromptu gatherings--all without leaving "home!"

University Housing is committed to giving your student the on-campus advantage!

The Top Ten Reasons To Live on Campus!

1. Get better grades because you are close to tutors, professors and mentors
2. Stay in bed until 10 minutes before class and still make it on time
3. Connect with your friends via the high-speed internet in every room
4. Specialized communities offer you the opportunity to live and learn with like-minded people
5. Study, hang out or have fun in the many computer labs, study lounges or game rooms on campus
6. Exciting cultural events will show you diverse viewpoints
7. Make friends for life
8. Eat good food! There is even a Taco Bell and Chick-fil-A on campus
9. Need a study break at 2am? Microwave popcorn without leaving your room
10. Meet people from all over the U.S. and the world

Chris Pfitzer is the Information and Communication Specialist at University Housing. He can be reached at chris_pfitzer@ncsu.edu



Student organizations raise money for Habitat for Humanity at the annual Shack-a-thon on the brickyard.

How To **Talk** To Your Kids!

By *Tresa Barlage*

Recently a student shared with me an interesting discussion she had with her mother. The mother was concerned about "Nancy's" recent weight loss and had approached "Nancy" about the possibility of her having an eating disorder. Nancy shared with me that she was very disturbed that her mother would think such a thing. Regardless of Nancy's reaction to her mom's concern, this parent deserves much praise for her willingness and courage to engage her daughter in such a tough topic.

In college, students deal with making ethical, moral, and health decisions that can include alcohol and drug use, sexuality issues, eating disorders, and multicultural issues. Most college students are in the process of clarifying exactly what they believe and value, which might contradict the way you raised them. Be assured that it is normal for many students to experience this sense of confusion sometime in their college career. Consequently, this makes the difficult conversations even more important for you to have with your students. Parent-student conversations on tough ethical/moral/values topics are likely to be much more intense than casual updates about classes. These discussions require that the students have a great deal of trust in their parents because they must allow themselves to be vulnerable and talk through real issues. They also require that parents realize and treat their students as adults, by giving them the freedom to make choices on their own.

The people who can be most effective in addressing tough topics are the people who know these students best - their parents! Below are some tips to consider when engaging your student in meaningful dialogue:

There may be more silence than you are used to in these conversations; silence is ok and may in fact be productive as it signifies thinking and processing.

You may need to ask more questions and talk less to keep the conversation going. Open-ended and reflective questions are most helpful: "How does your view or behavior relate to your long- or short-term goals?" "Does your view/behavior feel right or logical to you?"

Allow students to be tentative in their responses and help them feel loved and accepted even if they are indecisive (they are trying to sort through important things).

You can expect disagreements to arise if your student expresses that they feel/believe differently than you would like them to. This is normal; students may be testing both you and themselves.

There aren't any easy answers or approaches to questions related to tough topics.

As an additional resource, there are University Housing student staff members, Resident Advisors (RAs), who live among your students and serve as role models, problem mediators, campus resources and peer leaders. These staff are trained to have and initiate difficult conversations with students about behaviors or issues that raise concerns for the RA or the hall community. Though these RAs are trained and ready for those meaningful conversations, perhaps the most effective person for your student to process difficult issues with is a loved one-you.

Tresa Barlage is an Assistant Director of Housing at NC STATE. She can be reached at Tresa_Barlage@ncsu.edu.



The competition was intense at the Battle of the Beach. The right to rename Tucker Beach was up for grabs. Competitions were held in three categories; Tug-of-war, Volleyball and a Brain Bowl. Tucker Hall was the winner, so the beach will remain Tucker Beach for another year.

Considering a Change in Housing? **Know the Rules**

By *Rena Gobble*

Is your student contemplating a move to an off-campus accommodation for Spring, 2006? You and your son/daughter may want to give that idea some serious discussion before making any irreversible decisions. The Residence Hall Agreement that all students entered into when they moved onto campus is for both the Fall and Spring semesters.

Substantial Monetary Termination Charges Apply

Any registered student who moves to off-campus accommodations during the 2005-2006 Residence Hall Agreement will incur Termination Charges of fifty percent (50%) of the price of the remaining term of the Agreement plus daily charges for the number of days of occupancy in the residence hall. Exceptions to these terms are National or International Exchange participants, co-op students or students moving to on-campus fraternities or sororities.

Graduating Seniors

Seniors graduating at the end of Fall semester need to complete a cancellation form; however, cancellation charges do not apply.

Official Withdrawals from NC STATE

Students withdrawing from NC STATE with proper documentation from the Counseling Center will be charged the daily rate based upon the date of checkout from the residence hall.

Students Not Returning to NC STATE (Not Registered for Spring 2006 Semester)

Any current on-campus student not returning to NC STATE for Spring, 2006 (i.e. not registered for classes) will be assessed a \$200.00 cancellation charge. They must also complete a Housing Cancellation Form at 1112 Pullen Hall and check out of their Residence Hall room properly, returning the room/suite key(s) to their RA and signing checkout paperwork by the deadline of noon on December 14, 2005.

If you have a question about housing cancellation, please call (919) 515-2440.

Rena Gobble is the Student Service Manager for NC STATE UNIVERSITY Housing. You can reach her office at housing@ncsu.edu.



Battle of the Beach winners from Tucker Hall show off their trophy after successfully defeating rival Owen Hall.

Housing Application Renewal Process

for Fall 2006-Spring 2007 to Take Place in February

By Rena Gobble

The process by which current resident students reserve their room on campus for the 2006-2007 academic year will take place in February, 2006. All current registered on-campus residents for the Spring, 2006 semester are eligible to participate in the fully computerized room selection process. Students may indicate

their choice of room, hall and roommate by following the step-by-step directions.

In January, upon their return to campus, all students will receive an email linking them to information explaining the process. As part of the room confirmation process, the student agrees to the terms of the Residence Hall Agreement and authorizes University Housing to

place a non-refundable \$200.00 housing charge against the student's account at the University Cashier's Office. This \$200.00 is forfeited if the student cancels the housing assignment any time through June 30, 2006. On or after July 1, through July 31, 2006, students will be charged 25% of the fall semester rent. Students who cancel on or after August 1, 2006, will be charged fifty percent (50%) of the

price of the remaining Agreement term plus appropriate daily charges.

Rena Gobble is the Student Service Manager for NC STATE UNIVERSITY Housing. You can reach her office at housing@ncsu.edu or by calling 919-515-2440.

Important Dates

November 14 - Registration to stay on Campus during Winter Break (Watauga & Avent Ferry Complex Bldg. F ONLY)

November 23-25 Thanksgiving Break (Halls remain open)

November 30 - Fall room changes end

December 14 (Noon) - Residence Halls close to all non-graduating students for Winter Break

December 14 (5pm) - Residence Halls close to graduating seniors

January 7 (10am - 4pm) - Residence Halls re-open

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