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Final Exams Are Coming (Already)!!!

Does it seem like only yesterday when you said your goodbyes and left your student on their own on the UI campus? Well, believe it or not, that long year you thought would never end is almost over and final exams are fast approaching!

With final exams come final exam care packages! Each semester, Associated Residence Halls (ARH), a student organization which serves as the student gov-

erning body for The University of Iowa residence halls, offers a Final Exam Care Package Program so you may send a package of snack & food items to your student.

This can be a great way to show your support during a challenging part of the semester. There are a variety of care package options and prices, and you can even include a note that is personalized by you. The money raised supports leadership initiatives for

students in the residence halls.

You should have already received a flyer that you can mail in to order a care package. If you did not receive a flyer, or if you want another one sent to you, please email june-severson@uiowa.edu. The orders must be post-marked by April 19, 2008.



Assignment Update For Next Year

The deadline to reapply for housing for 2008-09 has passed. Students who reapplied are now selecting their rooms and meal plans on the University's ISIS system. Students have until Friday,

April 4, 2008 to confirm their current room for next year or to select and confirm a different room. Students who fail to confirm a room by April 4 will not be housed on campus for 2008-09.

Students with a confirmed room assignment will be sent the "Residence Halls Contract Acceptance" letter, which is the official notification of their

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Contracts become binding on May 1, 2008 and cannot be cancelled after that date except as stated in the contract terms & conditions.

Assignment Update (cont'd)

room assignment, on April 11, 2008. This letter is sent to their residence hall mailbox, and notifies them of their building/room assignment, meal plan, roommate name/ address/phone number

and email address. It also states the contract binding date of May 1, 2008—after which contracts may not be cancelled, except as stated in the contract terms and conditions. There will also be a flyer listing

important dates regarding housing for 2008-09 and what to bring/what to leave at home.



UPCOMING DATES

Monday, May 12, 2008

Beginning of exam week

Friday, May 16, 2008

Close of exam week

Contract dining ends at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Contract occupancy ends at 5:00 p.m. (last day for students not attending summer school to vacate)

Monday, June 8, 2008

8-week summer session registration

Tuesday, June 9, 2008

First day of classes for 8-week summer session

Friday, August 1, 2008

Close of 8-week summer session

Contract dining ends at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, August 18, 2008

Early move-in for fall semester (students are charged daily rate on their University bill)

Tuesday, August 19, 2008

Burge & Hillcrest Market Places open for limited hours (cash, charge, or Hawkeye Dollars only)

Saturday, August 23, 2008

Contract occupancy begins

Contract dining begins



Changes & Additions In The Halls

We are already planning for students to return in August, and there will be some changes and some new additions to our residence halls.

Mayflower AB section will now have new "loftable" beds, desks, and dressers.

Rienow floors 2, 3, 4, & 5 will have renovated restroom facilities.

Burge floors 20, 21, & 22 will have renovated restroom facilities.

The Burge Addition is on schedule. There will be disruption to some students



Changes & Additions In The Halls (cont'd)

for the entire year. The administrative offices of University Housing and the Contracts & Assignments Office are expected to move to this new location in January 2009. The student rooms will be available for fall 2009.

In late July, we send a booklet titled **"A Parents Guide to On-Campus Housing"** to the parents of all students assigned to the residence halls. This has information on assignments, moving in, roommates, meal plans, and residence life issues. Also included are important dates regarding residence hall life. Questions such as "When is Thanksgiving Break?", "When is Spring Break?", "When can my student return for second

semester in January?" are covered in this publication. It also lists phone numbers of offices you may want to contact during the school year. We suggest you hang on to it for handy reference.

In August, the parents of all new and returning residence hall students will receive a special edition of the University newsletter, **"Parent Times."** This August issue is devoted to topics regarding residence hall life. Articles of interest will include *Developing Independence*, *Safety on Campus*, and other articles of interest to new freshman parents. ■

WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE PARENT NEWSLETTER?

Subscription requests to the Parent Newsletter are purged at the end of every academic year in May. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, please go to:

<http://housing.uiowa.edu/parentvis/signupfornews.htm>

AFTER June 1. We hope you opt to do this, so we may continue to keep you informed about important information affecting your student in the UI residence halls!

To subscribe each year to the Parent Newsletter, please go to:

<http://housing.uiowa.edu/parentvis/signupfornews.htm>

AFTER June 1.

Birthdays & Other Occasions We've Got The Answer!

Is there a birthday or another special occasion coming up in your students' life?

University Housing offers cakes, cookies, &

fruit baskets to be delivered to the front desk of your student's building for them to pick up. The cost is \$17.50 per item and choices include:

- ◆ Chocolate Chip Cookie Basket (3

dozen)

- ◆ Fresh Fruit Basket (approximately 4 1/2 pounds)
- ◆ Choice of white, chocolate, marble, or yellow cake with white or chocolate frosting (serves 16)

- ◆ Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting (serves 16)

Call 319/335-3000 for more information or to place an order today!

Resident Satisfaction In The Halls

In the late fall of 2007, all UI residence hall students were asked to complete a satisfaction survey regarding many aspects of residence hall living. This is the fourth year University Housing has administered this particular survey, which was developed by a national company. Over 50% of the residents completed the online survey instrument. This article highlights some of the results, along with how we plan to use this information.

Highlights

Resident students continue to be satisfied with residence hall life. The questions listed below are those with the highest percentage of students who rated the questions with some level of satisfaction or agreement (minimally, moderately, very).

Satisfaction with attitude of the cleaning staff	91.3%
Satisfaction with cable TV services.....	89.5%
Satisfaction with how safe you feel in residence hall	89.3%
Satisfaction with how safe you feel in room ..	88.2%
Satisfaction with information desk services ..	86.1%
Satisfaction with RA on floor regarding rules and regulations.....	85.1%
Satisfaction with RA on floor regarding treating everyone fairly.....	84.4%
Satisfaction with RA on floor regarding respecting ethnic diversity	85.8%
Satisfaction with RA on floor regarding promoting tolerance of others	82.0%

Overall

- Four out of 5 students would recommend living in the residence halls to new students.
- Over 51% of residents would prefer to have the Daily Iowan delivered to a public area instead of to their room door.
- Over 43% of residents would accept an increase in room rates to improve recycling services in the residence halls.

Responses to student feedback

- The residence halls have had a 24 hour “courtesy hour” policy in place in previous years. Based on student satisfaction responses, the residence halls are implementing a “quiet hours” policy in the fall of 2008. This will allow the staff to keep student living space quieter so all can sleep and study without interruption.
- University Housing is working with a graduate student development capstone class to develop tips for roommate relationship/conflict resolution to make available to all students and a clear process to assist in roommate issues.
- Residential Dining has and will continue to advertise and inform about their variety of offerings such as organic, low fat, vegetarian, and vegan. Check out the updated web pages at http://housing.uiowa.edu/departments/residentialdining/smart_choices.html
- Residential Dining will also have nutritional information for food items beginning in the fall of 2008, both in the Market Places and on the web site.
- University Housing is developing a tutoring program in the halls to complement current tutoring programs around campus. This program is scheduled to begin during the fall of 2008.
- University Housing is continuing to install wireless network hubs in public areas of the residence halls. All buildings should have at least one wireless public area by the fall of 2008.

Until Next Time . . .
 Von Stange, Ed.D.
 Director of University Housing