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Room Re-Application 2012

By Bryant Barnett, Associate Director for Operations

Room Selection for the 2012-2013 academic year will begin on February 9, 2012. In order to help you prepare for the selection process, we just want to provide you with the following helpful reminders:

- You should plan to pay your nonrefundable \$150 housing deposit as soon as possible beginning January 3, 2012.
- You should print, read, and complete a 2012-2013 Residence Hall Agreement. Return the completed agreement to the Residential Living Office as soon as possible beginning January 17, 2012.
- You must have paid your nonrefundable \$150 housing deposit prior to submitting the completed Residence Hall Agreement. The agreement will not be accepted until that deposit is received by the Student Accounts Office.
- All room selection processes are completed through an online system.

Please visit our website and click on the “Room Selection” link to read instructions for each process. Room Selection for returning students is done on a tiered system. Students need to consider both their current housing situation and where they would like to live for the upcoming academic year when determining which re-application window to use.

Some students will be “displaced” meaning that they cannot opt to live in the same building and/or room that they currently occupy. Students in this situation, like those in Western Carolina PEAKS who currently live in Buchanan, Scott, or Walker residence halls, still have several options including becoming roommates with someone who participated in Premier Selection or moving into any of the “upper-class” buildings. These include Albright, Benton, Blue Ridge, Central, Harrill (*pending renovation completion*), Norton, Reynolds, and Robertson which will be available through the based system beginning February 18.

Here is a summary of the different tiers of room selection:

Premier Selection

February 9, at 10:00 a.m. through February 12, 8:00 p.m. for students keeping the same room that they currently have.

Platinum Selection

February 13, at 9:00 a.m. through February 14, at 10:00 p.m. for students who completed Premier Selection and want to select a roommate.

Continued on page 3

Mission of Residential Living

Our mission is to serve the communities of Western Carolina University by providing clean, safe and healthy living environments that enhance and support the educational mission, goals and creed of the university. We strive to create living and learning communities where students feel valued as individuals and where diversity and fellowship with others can be celebrated. While maintaining a high level of quality service, we shall encourage and provide opportunities for personal growth and development of character, leadership, honesty, respect and pride.





ABOVE: The Elkay EZH2O water fountain and Scott Hall, where it can now be found on campus!

Within the first two weeks of installation, the Hydration Station had already dispensed 1,000 bottles of water! Break out those Western Carolina PEAKS water bottles and help save the planet!



Hydration Station Makes Debut

By Briton Bennett, student

Residents of Scott Hall may have noticed upgrades to the water fountain in the lobby. Facilities management employees recently installed a new water fountain with a built-in station to fill reusable water bottles on the first floor of Scott.

Located next to the elevators, the filling station is situated in one of the most heavily traveled areas of the building, according to Tim Chapman, residential living's associate director for facilities.

The Elkay EZH2O, or the "hydration station," also includes a traditional fountain that houses a separate nozzle for filling reusable water bottles. When the motion sensor is activated, a stream of chilled water shoots down at a rate of 1.5 gallons per minute, which is three times faster than a traditional drinking fountain, according to the product specifications.

"The cost of a hydration station is about 60 percent more than a traditional fountain," said Chapman, "but we're thinking long-term and moving towards sustainability. The school pays for every pound of trash that students throw out. It would be nice to think that every student is recycling all the time, but that's not realistic." Not only will the fountain help save on trash, but also it might help students spend less buying bottled water, Chapman said.

The station, which was installed at the end of October, already has seen a lot of use. Next to the bottle-filling unit, a bright digital counter displays the number of times the machine has dispensed water. Within 24 hours of installation, the count already was above 100. In two weeks, it broke 1,000.

"I wish they would install them all over campus," said Brian Hass, a senior at WCU and a resident assistant in Scott Hall. "It is really convenient, and I have seen a lot of people using it." Hass, who works out in the Campus Recreation Center, says he uses it almost daily to fill up his water bottle before going to work out.

The hydration station does not filter the water, but it does not need to, said Chapman. Kristy Maddy oversees the treatment of about 900,000 gallons of water per day, or about 645 gallons per minute, at the water treatment plant for WCU, one of only two schools in North Carolina with their own water plant. "We routinely test the water for over 150 different contaminants," said Maddy. "Some things are tested every hour, some every four hours, every day, every week and more." WCU water quality is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and a local agency. Drinking water supplied by the Western Carolina University Water Plant to the university community routinely exceeds all federal and state standards for quality, said Maddy. Copies of the annual water report are available online.

"We hope that use will continue to grow, and that as these freshmen become upperclassmen, that they will start to demand more of these units around campus," said Chapman. Plans are in place to install another hydration station in Harrill Hall during its current \$15.5 million renovation.

For more information about the hydration station, contact Chapman at chapmant@wcu.edu. To find out more about WCU's energy consumption and sustainability, contact Lauren Bishop, energy manager for WCU, at lbishop@wcu.edu.





Break Closing & Opening Information

By Katy Kryzwick, Assistant Resident Director for Scott Hall

As the fall semester draws to a close and you start to make your travel plans, here is some important information about the closing and opening of residence halls to keep in mind so you don't get stuck out in the cold! If you have questions, see your Resident Director or call the Department of Residential Living at 828-227-7303.

- **Friday, December 16 at 5 pm**
The halls close for all students unless they are graduating, participating in graduation activities, have been granted permission by Residential Living to stay past this time or if they have a late final (3-5:30 on Friday) or a long distance to travel.
- **Saturday, December 17 at 9am**
The halls close for all students who had late finals or requested permission to stay until Saturday.
- **Saturday, December 17 at 5pm**
The halls close for all students participating in graduation ceremonies (marshals, band, etc). Graduation begins at 2pm in the Ramsey Center.
- **Sunday, December 18 at 9am**
The halls close for all students.
- **Friday, January 6 at 8 am**
Residence halls open.

Room Re-application, Continued

Honor's Level Selection

February 15, from 9:00 a.m. through February 16 at 12:00 p.m. for current Honor's students who wish to select a room in Balsam or Blue Ridge.

Gold Selection

February 18, from 9:00 a.m. until all buildings are full any WCU student who would like to select a room and has not yet gone through Premier, Platinum, or Honor's selection. Students planning to participate in this selection will select rooms through a first-come first-served process. All Residence Hall Agreements will be issued an assignment number based on the date that both the non-refundable housing deposit was paid and the date the Residence Hall Agreement is completed and returned to the Residential Living Office. Agreements will be assigned the number based on the latest completion date of these two requirements and students will be sent an email to their Catamount email account stating the earliest time that they are able to log into the online system and select a room during this selection process. The first group of fifty students will be able to begin selecting beginning on Saturday, February 18, at 9:00 a.m. with the next group of fifty beginning thirty minutes later. Students will continue having access to the online system from the point that access is granted until they have completed the selection process. Access to the system does not end when the next selection group gains access. Gold Selection will progress using this same pattern throughout that day.

Residence Halls close at 5 pm on Friday, December 16th and re-open at 8 am on Friday, January 6th. Make your plans accordingly!

ABOVE LEFT: A snowman greets Catamounts coming back to Cullowhee. BELOW: Harrill Hall renovation in progress.



Important Academic Dates

Monday, January 9

Drop/Add Begins - 12 am

Classes Begin - 8 am

Late Registration Fee in Affect (\$10) - 8 am

Friday, January 13

Drop/Add Ends

Monday, January 16

MLK Holiday - No Classes

Tuesday, January 17

Drop with "W" Begins

Late Registration Begins

Monday, January 23

May Graduation Application Deadline

Tuesday, January 24

Refund Checks Available

Tuesday, February 21

Advising Day

Tuesday, February 22

Graduate Student / Priority Registration for Fall 2012 Begins

Thursday, February 29

Mid-Term Break Begins



WCU Hosts State Housing Officers Conference in Asheville

By Mistie Bibbee, Associate Director for Residence Life

This past November, the Department of Residential Living hosted the 2011 North Carolina Housing Officers' (NCHO) conference in Asheville, North Carolina. The NCHO organization consists of college and university professionals from across North Carolina who work in/with the residence halls. Over 130 individuals from many of North Carolina's public and private universities gathered for three days of professional development sessions and networking. Attendees were able to attend sessions residence hall construction, diversity programs, learning communities and a wide variety of other topics.

Not only were there continuing education opportunities, attendees were also provided with opportunities to network with other professionals in the field and over 30 companies who provide products and services that are used in residence halls. Individuals attending the conference were able to view the latest in residence hall furnishing options, meet with companies that sell promotional items (remember those wooden pens you got at open house and orientation?), and learn about the latest in residence hall construction trends.

To learn more about NCHO, please visit www.ncho.org.

Advising Day Spook-tacular

By Alyssa Cratty, Academic Resource Coordinator for Albright, Benton, Robertson and Scott Halls

The Office of Academic Initiatives was very excited about the Advising Day Trail Mix! The event was held on Halloween from 5 - 6:30pm in the Blue Ridge Multipurpose Room. Campus partners from the Advising Center, Western Carolina PEAKS, Western Carolina EXTREMES, the Writing and Learning Commons, Career Services, Study Abroad and Service Learning were all a part of this program. Student's entered the room, received a bag, and went from table to table learning fun facts from the campus resources and gathering ingredients to create their own Trail Mix! Students could choose from sweet to salty ingredients, and of course it wouldn't be Halloween without the extra candy!

Have an academic question? Stop by our office located in Balsam 154, or grab your Academic Resource Coordinator.

Highlighting Academic Integrity

By Alyssa Cratty, Academic Resource Coordinator for Albright, Benton, Robertson and Scott Halls

The Office of Academic Initiatives just recently ran a program in conjunction with the Department of Student Community Ethics and the Writing and Learning Commons about Academic Integrity and Plagiarism. Students sampled some popular music, and learned how artists must ask permission before using work from someone else in the music industry. There was also discussion about what it means to have Integrity and how great you feel when you do the right thing. Remember to always give credit (cite) whatever is not your work, and don't forget the quotation marks when you are using a direct quote. If you need help, don't stress – take a trip to the Writing and Learning Commons to get some assistance!

Keep on the lookout for flyers about our upcoming programs! Want to know more about the Office of Academic Initiatives? Talk to your Academic Resource Coordinator or visit our office located in Balsam Hall. And always remember... Be cool, don't cheat in school!

Un-Wrap the Sweet Life of an RA

By Esmeiling Cabral, Resident Director for Blue Ridge and Madison Halls

Becoming a Resident Assistant (RA) can be one of the most enriching and rewarding positions on campus. This position not only allows you to become a student leader here at Western and introduces you to campus; it also is a great addition to your resume. As a Resident Assistant students have the opportunity to work on skills that are not always in course curriculum or in one job. An RA can be seen as a person of authority on campus with many identities essentially wearing many hats. As an event coordinator, an RA plans and implements social, emotional, and educational programs for residents in the residence halls. The RA is a conflict mediator: helping to resolve differences that may arise between roommates. RAs are here for residents, taking the time to listen and assist them with anything they need in the residence halls. They are the ones who provide the information to lead students to those who can help them outside the halls. Overall, the responsibility of an RA is to provide leadership, assistance, and support to residents.

RAs play a critical role in the success of the residence life program here at Western Carolina University. Thus, the department of Residential Living has identified eight “core competencies” that represent the heart of what being an RA is all about. The core competencies include:

Student

Being an engaged student is a high priority for all our RAs.

Character

RAs need to be good role models. They need to set a good example, encourage others, learn from past experiences and be able to ask for help.

Communication Skills

As an RA, you need to be able to communicate ideas, be respectful of others, and be timely in your follow-up on tasks or requests.

Problem Solving Ability

A lot of the RA job involves solving problems. You need to be able to think through situations calmly, analyze situations and find good solutions.

Organizational Skills

RAs need to balance multiple projects, prioritize their importance and be attentive to details.

Concern for Others

Above all, the RA job is about caring for others.

Team Work

As a part of a staff team, you will need to understand when to lead and when to follow and appreciate everyone’s unique talents.

Openness

RAs work to create inclusive communities where everyone feels valued and important. You need to be open to everyone and encourage others to accept and celebrate one another.

Currently, the department is recruiting qualified candidates to serve as Resident Assistants for the 2012-2013 academic year. We are looking for students who are interested in giving back to the Western Carolina University community in a fun and exciting way. We are seeking individuals with enthusiasm, energy, and a positive outlook to take on this leadership opportunity. There are a few minimum qualifications:

- A cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher
- A semester GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Being in good judicial standing with Western Carolina University
- Have lived on campus for two semesters (*2nd semester first-year students are eligible*)
- Strong leadership skills or potential
- A love for Western Carolina University
- A desire to assist other WCU students in their development

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity stop by the first floor of Scott Hall, Residential Living Office for an application! Application deadline: Friday, January 20, 2012



ABOVE: Reynolds RA Beth DeSantis and Central Drive RA Ryan Grace during Tug-of-War.
BELOW: Scott Hall RAs Sami Garvens and Stephnaie Beasley during Fall 2011 RA Training.





ABOVE RIGHT: Students exchange t-shirts from other universities for the WCU "Power of Purple Challenge" t-shirts shown above.



Western Carolina PEAKS T-shirt Exchange goes Viral!

By Katy Kryzwick, Assistant Resident Director for Scott Hall

This annual t-shirt exchange took place during Homecoming week on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 from 8:00pm until 10:00pm in the Blue Ridge Multipurpose Room. This event was held for first-year experience students only; the students could bring one of their t-shirts that had another college or university's name on it to exchange for a new "The Power of Purple Challenge" t-shirt.

Laura Huff, eMarketing Coordinator, and her LEAD 157 Digital Culture class had a major part in this event as they were the ones who helped to design the t-shirt being given to students who attended the exchange. Huff and her class had three criteria in order to meet their goal for this design project. The criteria included: foster pride in Western Carolina University, support a spirit initiative, and contain a 'digital' element (to tie in with their class). Some of the members of Huff's class helped out when it came to: staffing the tables at the event, planning out the necessary refreshments, promotional advertisements and flyers, decorating the room in Blue Ridge for the event, and even making a Prezi to show on multiple screens (complete with music from WCU's on-campus radio station) to show during the event as well.

The 'digital' element the LEAD 157 class designed on the shirt was a QR code than can be scanned by smartphones. When scanned, this QR code brings the user to "The Power of Purple" Facebook page which is being used to help spread pride and spirit for WCU. Approximately 177 shirts were exchanged and will be donated to REACH, a program committed to promoting economic self-sufficiency and zero tolerance of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Jackson County Community.

Western Carolina PEAKS offered Cat Tran trips to Wal-mart during the fall semester. The program will return in the spring. Be on the lookout for dates and times!



Western Carolina PEAKS Programs for Spring 2012

By Jennifer Wilson, Resident Director for Balsam Hall

This semester has been very busy for the Western Carolina PEAKS Leadership team! From passing out September 11th remembrance ribbons and Reverse trick or treating to the Involvement Fair and the 5k Night Race, Western Carolina PEAKS has provided a variety of activities to reach out to all freshmen students. So, what can students look forward to for next semester? See for yourself:

- February 14th: I&L&U buttons
- March 10th: Dance Marathon (PEAKS will have a team there!)
- April 19th: Bookmarks for Earth Day
- April 23rd—27th: C-store Buy-out
- April 27th: End of the Year Block Party

More details to come on these events! Check your local Potty Times or Rumor Has it. And as always, all freshmen are welcome to any Western Carolina PEAKS event.

Beating the Winter Blues

By: Sarah Burkhardt, Assistant Resident Director for Buchanan Hall

As the cold air moves in across the mountains and settles in, the chilly atmosphere can affect people's moods in unfavorable ways. The desire to hibernate kicks in, and it can be difficult to find the energy to keep up with the demands of this time of year. Here are five cool ways to beat the winter blues at Western Carolina University or other places you find yourself in this season of limited daylight.

1. Go outside. You may have to bundle up, but fresh air and sunshine will awaken you. Take notice of the winter scenes, and appreciate the limited opportunities you may have to build a snowman, go sledding, and take photos of the snow-capped scenes and sparkling ice. If you want to avoid driving, consider walking. Keep moving and you'll likely warm up.
2. Brighten up your indoor space. Be sure to allow as much natural light into your working environment as possible, and use this time productively. When it does get dark, use this time to unwind and be sure
3. Stay active. An early morning workout will likely keep you alert for the rest of the day and keep you in good health. Outdoor activities, even the chores of scraping ice, shoveling snow and chopping firewood are great ways to keep the blood circulating and muscles active.
4. Enjoy a hot beverage and some good company. Make yourself some tea, coffee or hot chocolate and catch up with someone you haven't talked to in a while. Reflect on the past year with an old friend, a mentor, or a colleague and become rejuvenated to accomplish more.
5. Think about your summer plans! Where do you want to be? It's not too early to start lining up a summer job or internship by preparing your resume and handing it out to get feedback and have people develop further interest in you.

Warm wishes to all!

Western Carolina EXTREMES

By Jack Harris, Assistant Director for Residence Life

The fall has been a busy one for Western Carolina Extremes! In addition to making even more improvements to our Western Carolina Extremes Resource Guide for Sophomores and Juniors, there has also been a good bit of programming in the halls. In the month of October, Extremes sponsored a program that focused on choosing a major. In the month of November, a panel discussion of current and recently former graduate students shared their experiences of applying to graduate school. Both of these programs were chosen to focus specifically on issues that Sophomores and Juniors often contemplate in the Fall Semester. Extremes encourages residents to think about running a degree audit as well as focusing on time management skills before the busy time of exams begins in December. In the Spring be on the lookout for more information about the revamped Resource Guide as well as more programming focused to make our Sophomores and Juniors successful!



ABOVE: Students enjoying the snow. BELOW: Snow covering the chairs and tables outside of Courtyard Dining Hall.



Mark Your Calendars!

January 6

Residence Halls Open - 8 am

January 7

Women's Basketball vs. UNCG - 2 pm

Men's Basketball vs. Wofford - 4:30 pm

January 9

Women's Basketball vs. Furman - 7 pm

January 14

Men's Basketball vs. Furman - 2 pm

January 16

MLK Day of Service, Part I

January 17

Men's Basketball vs. Toccoa Falls - 7 pm

January 18

Women's Basketball vs. Elon - 12 pm

January 21

MLK Day of Service, Part II

January 26

Men's Basketball vs. Elon - 7 pm

January 28

Women's Basketball vs. Wofford - 2 pm

February 1

Women's Basketball vs.

College of Charleston - 7 pm

Get Ready for Resolution 2012

By Kristen Krapfl, Resident Director for Walker and Buchanan Halls

As December is upon us, the focus is on studying, final exams, and preparing to head home to celebrate the holidays. After great times with friends and family, the WCU family with reunite in January for a fresh start and a new semester. A Western Carolina University tradition, Resolution 2012 provides students an opportunity to come back to a week full of activities, setting goals for the spring semester, and beginning a new chapter of their college career as classes begin. Resolution 2012, taking place from January 9-13, 2012, is a university-wide event that includes programming through the A.K. Hinds University Center as well as individual programs that takes place in each of the residence halls to jump back into the swing of things after time away.

The schedule of events for Resolution 2012 will soon be released, but here is a taste of what will be taking place in the residence halls during the week:

Monday, January 9	Project Linus Blanket Party Scott Blue Lobby, 8 pm
Tuesday, January 10	Face to Face Albright-Benton Lobby, 8 pm Game Night Buchanan Hall Lobby, 9 pm
Wednesday, January 11	A Healthy 2012: Resolution Setting and Snacks Walker Hall Lobby, 9 pm
Thursday, January 12	Open Mic Night Balsam Hall, 8 pm New Year's Party Central Drive Hall Multipurpose Room, 8:30 pm
Friday, January 13	Dance, Dance, Resolution 2012 Reynolds Hall Main Lobby, 8 pm

Returning to Western Carolina University in the spring semester is a great chance to start new, to reconnect with old friends and make new friends, and to look ahead to what the year will bring. Resolution 2012 is a chance to welcome students back to campus and to start off the spring semester on the right foot, so join the WCU family for fun in January!