Theme Housing - What’s New?


Students and staff alike are very excited about theme housing this year. We had a wonderful response by students, and some staff, for proposing new theme housing communities. This year, we are excited to announce that we now have 17 theme housing communities living in eight residence halls.

Most of the students participating in theme housing attended a theme housing retreat the weekend prior to opening. Students were able to meet with their theme’s advisor and other participants to begin making plans for their theme for the year. While each theme may not be living in the hall with their assigned housing advisor, each theme does have a professional staff member from the housing office assigned as an advisor. In a few cases, there are other Eastern staff who are also advising themes, such as LEAP into Leadership and the Honors Scholars. Theme participants have various requirements for their participation: creation of a leadership council, program creation and/or attendance, working with other offices on campus, maintaining minutes of theme meetings and oversight of a small budget.

We are off to a great start with student-initiated themes, and we are looking forward to what the themes do this year, and how both students and the University can make theme housing better next year. If you have any ideas, please be sure to get involved or visit the housing office to see how we can help. We are always looking for a few good themes!

Spring Housing Cancellations

Because Eastern has an annual housing contract, students who request and are assigned to housing for the fall semester must remain assigned to housing for the spring semester.

Students are able to be released automatically from the contract for the following reasons: leave of absence, withdrawal from the University, Study Abroad or National Student Exchange, and graduation. Verification from the Registrar’s Office is required in order to process these requests and is sent to the Housing Office upon the paperwork being submitted and processed in their office. Students who officially drop to a part-time student can also be released from the contract. Students who have an internship/student teaching or a co-op may be released if the site address is closer to the home address than to Eastern.

All students that are requesting to be released from the contract must complete the on-line “housing contract cancellation request” which can be found here, http://www1.easternct.edu/housing/annual-contract/.

This year’s themes:
Honors Scholars - First-Year and Upperclassman
Community and Civic Engagement
Quiet/Substance Free - First-Year and Upperclassman
First-Year Residential Experience (FYRE)
Education/Math
The Green Theme
LEAP into Leadership
M.E.N.
Experiential Learning
Cultural Celebrations
Food for Thought
Fun and Games
T3 - Transfer Transition
Gender Inclusive Housing
Soph-MORE Experience

“"You can’t make decisions based on fear and the possibility of what might happen.”“
Michelle Obama
From the Director

It is hard to believe that we have reached the month of November and that there are only a few short months left of the semester. By this point of the semester, residence hall communities have been fully developed, a myriad of programs, activities, and outings have taken place for residential students, residents have become aware of campus resources, and residence hall staff have developed numerous ways to positively impact the success of our residential students. As we begin to make preparations to close out this semester, all residential students should make use of the communities that have developed. These communities should have made students more aware of others who are in similar classes or majors and all can serve as a good support as we embark on final exams. Students should take advantage of the programs and activities in the residence halls. Not only will programs help to teach students about time management, test taking skills, and study skills, but, many of our social programs will also provide the needed down-time for students to re-energize so that they can remain focused until the end of the semester. Lastly, students should participate in at least one of our many student success initiatives. Whether it be participating in the IDEAL Portfolio, the residential study-groups, the Dean’s Cup Events, and the various academic initiatives all of our efforts are geared toward giving students a well-rounded experience which, ultimately, will lead to their overall success. In Housing and Residential Life, all you need is the desire to succeed!

Good, Better, Best . . . we’ll never let it rest, until our good is better and our better isBEST!

Dean’s Cup Update

The Dean’s Cup is back and the competition is fierce! This is our best year, as we have moved toward more competition based events each month, such as the Electric Run, Walking Dead Dodgeball, hall lobby decorating contest and the hall chant contest. It may be getting cold out but the chase for the Dean’s Cup is heating up!

The Dean’s Cup Fundraiser this year benefits the Windham Regional No Freeze Hospitality Center. The No Freeze Center provides a safe, clean and warm alternative for the area’s homeless population over the age of 18 from November 15th through April. No one is turned away.

Current Dean’s Cup standings:
1st—Constitution Hall
2nd—Noble Hall
Tie - 3rd—Nutmeg Hall
Tie - 3rd—Mead Hall

Upcoming Dean’s Cup events
November 6th—"A Different Life" in the BTR at 5pm
November 11th—Spelling Bee in the Student Center at 7pm
November 17th-21st—Day of Giving Can Food Drive Competition
November 18th— Hall vs. Hall Floor Hockey Tournament in the Gym at 8pm
December 3rd—Mini Hall Olympics in the Gym at 6pm

Box Tops for Education is an ongoing event that benefits Natchaug Elementary School PTO to help pay for class field trips.
Box Tops can be turned in at the hall office.
Angel Tags Program and the Salvation Army

The season of giving is upon us and Eastern Connecticut State University is in the spirit, however we need your help and the help of your students! Every year, Eastern Connecticut State University teams up with the Windham area Salvation Army for their annual Angel Tags collection so that children in our local community may have a great Christmas morning, the way every child who celebrates should. During the last few weeks of the fall semester, students have the opportunity to adopt a child for the holiday season by visiting their residence hall staffs to receive a tag with a child’s clothing sizes and wish items for them to then purchase and donate. Ages of these children vary from 1 month to 12 years old and their wish items may vary from a children’s book, to a set of crayons, to Tonka trucks and baby dolls. Right before Thanksgiving Break, residence halls will have these tags available for your students to pick up. We often encourage them to join in with their roommates or friends on campus to adopt one child or to have their families join in on the giving. We hope that you encourage your students to help children in our local community so that they can experience the joy of Christmas and the Holiday Season!

Important Dates

November 5 — Credit/No Credit and Withdraw pass/Fail deadline
November 14 — FAD — 8pm in the Betty Tipton Room
November 21 — Box Tops for Education due
November 26 — Halls close at 10am for Thanksgiving break (all first-year halls and Niejadlik Hall).
November 30 — Halls open at 10am
December 1 — Winter Housing applications available (on-line)
December 3 — 24-Hour Quiet Hours begin
December 9 — Classes end
December 11 — Finals begin
December 17 — Halls close at 6pm

“We have participated in this program for years. It is a great feeling to know that we are helping local parents and children to have a Merry Christmas.”

~ Angela Bazin

2014-2014 Dean’s Cup Champion is Constitution Hall, seen here with the Dean of Students, Walter Diaz
Are you nervous about what to expect when you return home after an extended absence? The first year of school brings many tough adjustments along with the many rewards of independence. For the first time in his or her life, a student has the opportunity to create his or her own lifestyle. In college, there are no parents to oversee your actions: You set your own schedule, pick your own friends, and make or break your own rules. When you first leave the nest, the opportunity to exert your independence seems daunting. Once accustomed to playing by your own rules however, the thought of returning home can be just as intimidating.

The Inner Conflict

Many college students, especially freshmen, are tempted not to return home for the holidays during their first semester. The changes that students undergo while away at school will have an effect on how they reconnect with their friends and family back home. The conflict over returning doesn't reflect how much you care about your family; it simply arises because the situation is unfamiliar and most students feel defensive of their newly-established lifestyle. In college, we forsake all boundaries - even in our intellectually stimulating and intensely academic conversations with fellow students. Returning to propriety is understandably jarring.

Resolving to Return

The longer you wait to visit the folks, the harder it will be. The truth is that they love you in spite of what college has done to you (shifted your political views, inflated your ego, changed your hair color, made you feel independent). The fact that they auctioned off your bedroom to a younger sibling is of no consequence. Really. If you are debating about whether to return, go home. In a few short years you’ll appreciate why — there are only so many opportunities and your parents are likely paying for your indoctrination. Thankfulness goes a long way. Pick up a poinsettia and give your mom the greeting she’s been waiting for. Appreciating your family indicates a level of maturity that you may not have had when you left, and this will set the tone for your visit.

What to Expect

When you return, you will notice changes in the family dynamic. While you were living on campus, you gained a level of independence that you probably weren’t afforded while you lived at home. It may not seem like it, but your parents are aware of this. At some point during your visit, your independence will probably provoke you to rebel against a house rule that was established while you were in high school. When this happens, step back and assess the situation. Answer this question: Who’s cooking Thanksgiving dinner? If the answer isn’t you, hold off on your objections. Your parents won’t adjust to all of the changes in your lifestyle overnight.

Tensions may be heightened with your parents, but interacting with your siblings should be a pleasant relief. Typically, when you return you will find that you get along much better with younger brothers and sisters. In their minds at least, you’re an adult now and this has caused their admiration of you to increase and the frequency of petty arguments to diminish.

Cited from scholarships.com