It’s that time of the year again! We are busy preparing for the housing selection process. There are several steps and deadlines students must meet in order to be eligible for the housing selection process. More information will be provided via email as the various steps in the process get closer, below is a brief overview of the process. The housing selection process is only for current residential students. Current commuter students who wish to move back to campus for the fall will be placed from the waiting list over the summer once all current residents have been assigned.

**Housing Deposits:** The $250 non-refundable housing deposit is due Friday, March 27th. Students must have the deposit paid in order to participate in the roommate matching and selection process, which begins April 1st. Students who do not pay the deposit are not eligible to participate and are automatically wait-listed. Paying a housing deposit does not guarantee housing (Eastern does not guarantee housing), it guarantees you will be permitted to participate in the process.

**Housing Application:** Due on Thursday, April 2nd. Students who do not complete the application (and pay the non-refundable deposit on time) are not entered into the system to participate in roommate matching or the selection process.

**Housing Intent:** A housing intent survey is required for all students not planning to return to housing, as our office tracks the reasons students decide to leave housing. Students who do not pay the deposit by the March 27th deadline will be sent a link to complete the survey. By not paying the deposit, this is the first indication that you are not planning to return to housing.

**Priority Points:** April 1st is the last day to earn priority points. On March 27th, students will receive their point totals (as of March 27th) and will have until April 1st to audit their points. Students will receive an email on Thursday, April 2nd with directions on logging into the system to check their assigned housing pick time.

**Roommate Matching:** All students with a paid deposit and a housing application will participate in roommate matching from April 6th – 9th. Roommate matching does stay enabled throughout the housing selection process, some groups may have to break into smaller groups/singles if spaces are not available for the group. If a group has to break into smaller groups, or select as individuals, the new pick time is based on the individual selection time, or the highest in the group if a smaller group is formed.

**Housing Selection:** Friday, April 10th – Sunday, April 12th. Students must log in at their assigned time to select housing. Selection will continue through the weekend until all available spots have been selected. Students not having an opportunity to select are added to the wait list, per below.

**Important Note:** Historically, there are not enough spots for all students who participate in housing selection. There will be a wait list, typically those students who earned very few points or did not select during their assigned time (most are current first-year students). Students who cannot select housing because we run out of beds before it is their time to pick will be placed on a waiting list based on their point totals (roommate groups are not accommodated from the wait list, as it is based on individual point totals). We have always been able to accommodate all students that are on the wait list, but not necessarily with preferred roommates or in preferred halls.

Please also be sure to familiarize yourself with the Annual Contract information, as students only have until May 31st to cancel their housing request for the 2015-2016 year with a guaranteed release. You can find more information at: [www1.easternct.edu/housing/annual-contract](www1.easternct.edu/housing/annual-contract/).
“There is flattery in friendship.”
William Shakespeare

Dean’s Cup Update

The Dean’s Cup is back and the competition is fierce! We kicked off this semester’s competition with the Residence Hall Cake Wars. All residence halls were provided with cake, decorating supplies, and supplies and opportunities to sabotage other hall’s cakes. Cakes were judged on creativity and use of the hall mascot. Students in attendance had a lot of fun, and there were some pretty cool cakes (above). Nutmeg Hall took first place.

The Dean’s Cup Fundraiser this year benefits the Windham Regional No Freeze Hospitality Center. The 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—Crandall Hall
2nd—Constitution Hall
3rd—Niejadlik Hall
4th—Nutmeg Hall

**Upcoming Dean’s Cup events**

February 27th—Residence Hall Community Service Check-Point in the halls at 4pm
March 3rd—Hall vs. Hall Basketball Tournament in the Gym at 8pm
March 11th—“How a Straight Man Ended Up in a Gay Relationship” in the Theatre at 3pm
March 27th—Residence Hall Community Service Check-Point in the halls at 4pm
March 30th—Hall vs. Hall Talent Show in the BTR at 7pm

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 your hall office.

O U R  H O M E  T O  Y O U R S
From the Director

As winter slowly draws to a close and the snow soon begins to melt away I am reminded of the phenomenal year we have had in Housing. Without a doubt, it is always our endeavor to be able to provide a safe, comfortable, and enriching living/learning environment where students at Eastern are able to fully embrace the college environment and all that is has to offer. It is my sincere hope that we are succeeding in doing so and that you reflect as fondly on your residential life experience as I do. Throughout this year, all residential students have been given opportunities to attend RA Programs, participate in Residence Hall Associations, travel on residential trips and excursions, compete in Dean’s Cup competitions, enjoy Friday After Dark (FAD) events, earn Priority Points, engage in community service projects, be active the University Residential Outreach Council (UROC), and connect interests via theme housing. As you can see, the sky is the limit to make your housing experience the best that it can be. As we embark on the Housing Selection Process for the 2015-2016 academic year, I can assure you that the best is yet to come. Our goal is to get better and better with each passing year. In fact, you can have input regarding things you would like to see within Housing. I invite you to attend a University Residential Outreach Council (UROC) Meeting which meets at 4:00pm on Tuesday in Student Center - Room 107 and I also invite you to speak with me personally regarding any ideas or thoughts that you have pertaining to making Eastern Housing the best that it can be. As you know our motto is Good, Better, Best . . . We'll never let it rest, Until our good is better and our better is BEST!

What you need to know about Financial Aid!

The Financial Aid Office and the Office of Housing and Residential Life are working together on a campaign to raise awareness of financial aid deadlines and information. Information has been sent via email to all Eastern students, as well as posting them to all TV monitors on campus in an effort to assist you in not missing out on any of the information you need to know in order to be eligible for financial aid.

Informational financial aid workshops are on-going within the residence halls. Five programs have been completed so far, be on the lookout for information in your hall. Students who get their FAFSA in by the March 1st deadline improves their chance of receiving gift aid from Eastern.

Don’t be left out—get your FAFSA in. The only way we can assist you is by you getting your information in on time!

Important things to remember:

1. Filing your federal income taxes now makes filing your FAFSA easier, as you can transfer your tax information directly into your FAFSA.

2. If you are selected for verification, be sure to submit the requested documentation within two week to financialaid@easternct.edu or by dropping it off in the Financial Aid Office.

Important Dates

Feb. 12th—Priority Point Updates sent to students
Feb. 12th—Housing Deposit notices sent to students via email and to parent/guardian via mail
Feb. 13th—FAD DC Trip leaves
Feb. 13th-16th—No Classes
Feb. 20th—Fantastic Friday (for RA Applicants only)
Feb. 23rd-27th—RA Interviews (RA Applicants only)
Feb. 27th—FAD 8pm in BTR
March 1st—FAFSA Due!
March 13th—Halls close at 6pm for spring break (non-kitchen facilities
March 22nd—Halls open at 10am
March 23rd—Summer Housing Applications available (on-line)
March 25th—Credit/No Credit deadline and Class Withdraw Pass/Fail Deadline
March 27th—Non-Refundable Housing Deposit Due