

E.A.G.L.E. ONLINE

EXPERIENCE A GREATER LIVING ENVIRONMENT



ONLINE ISSUE

FALL 2008

News for Residence Hall Students

Department of Residential Life

WELCOME!

Welcome, and welcome back to the residence halls and apartments of St. Cloud State University. This is the first edition of the EAGLE newsletter for this academic year. The EAGLE is a periodic publication that links important information regarding campus living to all of our community members.

This first issue will highlight information gleaned from our student satisfaction survey completed last April, as well as initiatives we have taken as a result of your feedback. Your involvement in the community is an important part of the residential experience. We value your feedback, but more importantly, we value your participation. I hope you have already started to establish friends and settle in with your other community members. I also hope you are making connections with your Community Council, Residence Hall Association, or other campus clubs and organizations. It's important to take advantage of these activities while you are also focusing on your academic pursuits.

On behalf of all of the employees in the Department of Residential Life, I want to wish you all the best for this upcoming year. We are all working hard to provide you with the best residential experience possible. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you in pursuit of your goals.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Daniel Pedersen

Director of Residential Life

Dan
Pedersen



Samantha
Richardson

Welcome to the beautiful campus of St. Cloud State University. As we're diving deeper into our classes, continuing to meet new friends and getting to know more about resources, clubs, and organizations available on campus, I'd like to take the chance to tell you about the Residence Hall Association (RHA). By making the great decision to live on campus, you're already a part of this organization, but there are many ways to utilize your membership.

Last year, RHA was named Student Organization of the Year and YOU have the chance to be a part of it! Each hall on campus gets to have five representatives come to RHA meetings for an hour every Monday to discuss issues on campus, plan fun events and share what's going on in your hall. RHA's first major event of the year is during Homecoming week; we'll be having our annual Block Party on October 13th. Come by for an exciting night including a mechanical bull, events and food. And, by coming to our meetings, you'll have the chance to help plan all of the evening's events!

When you drove to campus on move-in day you most likely noticed the "St. Cloud C's" in all of the windows. The C's are for RHA's No-Hate Campaign, an annual proactive campaign to prevent hate-related crimes on campus. Typically RHA brings a speaker (last year Jane Elliot came!) as a part of the campaign. There is more information to come on which events will be taking place for this year's campaign. In the mean time, read the back of the poster to find out more about the No-Hate Campaign and RHA.

Recently, each hall's Community Council met for a social event. All Community Council's meet each Tuesday at 9 pm in your hall's main lounge. Meet new people, get involved, make decisions and plan events for your hall by joining. You may even want to become a part of your hall's executive board! If you choose to become an executive board member, you'll want to write down Friday, September 19th-the first day of our Jump Start Retreat. It's an overnight event at Camp Friendship that gives you the chance to meet your fellow Community Council Executive Board members and prepare for a great year! If you'd like to be a part of this great organization, ask your CA, Residence Hall Director or Assistant Hall Director for more information; check out the website at http://studentorg.stcloudstate.edu/scsu_rha/; or show up Monday at 4 pm in the Atwood Cascade Room (2nd floor near skyway).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Samantha Richardson, President
Residence Hall Association



WHO ARE YOU?

Students living on campus this year come from all over our planet, ranging from Arizona to Zhou-Cheng City. There are 175 students who are members of our communities this fall that arrived from abroad. We also have students from 31 different states living on campus. While the vast majority of residents are from Minnesota and the upper Midwest, we also have Huskies from places like California, Connecticut, New Mexico and Virginia.

Most people assume that our residence halls are home to only freshman. While freshman make up the largest part of our population, we also have a variety of upper-class students living on campus. In addition to over 2200 freshman, we have over 400 sophomores, 177 juniors, and 126 seniors living on campus. The average age of our campus population is 19 years old, but we are all not as young as you think. We have 130 students that are over 22 years of age.



STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Last April we administered our annual Student Satisfaction Survey. 51% of our students participated in the survey last spring. Here is a snapshot of some of the significant feedback you provided:

- 87% would recommend living on campus to a new student
- 86% felt safe in their room
- 84% were satisfied with the performance of their Community Advisor
- 82% felt safe in their hall
- 82% were satisfied with cable TV services
- 82% indicated that they respected their fellow community members
- 82% felt living on campus enhanced their learning experience
- 80% felt living on campus enhanced their ability to appreciate different cultures
- 79% felt living on campus enhanced their ability to meet other students
- 78% felt living on campus improved their communication skills
- 77% were satisfied with postal services
- 75% were satisfied with desk services
- 75% felt they were accepted by their fellow community members
- 74% were satisfied with how fellow students showed respect for differing races/ethnicity
- 72% felt they benefited from interacting with persons who were different from themselves (ethnicity/race, beliefs...)

- 71% were satisfied with the dining environment (Garvey Commons)
- 52% were only mildly satisfied, or dissatisfied with the amount of cultural/educational, and recreational programs in their hall
- 45% were dissatisfied with the quality of food in dining (Garvey Commons)
- 40% were dissatisfied with the hours of operation for dining (Garvey Commons)
- 38% were dissatisfied with the temperature regulation in their room
- 37% were dissatisfied with the internet connectivity in their room
- 36% were dissatisfied with laundry room facilities



...SURVEY RESULTS, CONT.

While there were many positive areas noted in the survey, we will continue to build upon those successes this year. Additionally, we have noted the areas we can do better, and here is a sampling of what we are doing with your feedback.

- You told us you were not pleased with the internet connection speed. So we worked with ResNet to increase the residential internet bandwidth by 50%.
- You told us you were unhappy with the equipment in your laundry rooms. So, we now have a new partner for your laundry services, ASI Campus Laundry solutions. All of our laundry rooms now have brand new, energy efficient washers and dryers. ASI is currently completing the installation of new technology that will connect their equipment to new card readers in your laundry rooms, enabling you to use your Campus Card Cash to do laundry.
- We also launched a new web based service for logging all your work order requests, from room repair to requesting voice mail. We hope this service improves your ease of reporting, but also helps you track our ability to meet your needs.
- Your Community Advisors are already planning more programs to focus on cultural and recreational opportunities.
- You told us you have concerns about the hours of operation and food choices in Garvey. Sodexo, our dining partner, is conducting focus groups with students to learn more about what you want. Garvey has already made some changes like adding Starbucks Coffee, Hydration Stations, and the baked pasta dishes at lunch and dinner. Watch for some expanded operation hours on a trial basis later this fall.
- Finally, we spent the summer continuing to work on our comprehensive facility planning process, which started last March. We reviewed our student survey data from spring semester and started to look at different financing scenarios. The final phase of this process will involve various design options, which we hope to share with students in the coming weeks. The ultimate goal of this process is to develop a plan for new and renovated residential facilities on the SCSU campus. While this planning process will lay the ground work for future projects, we were still able to accomplish a number of smaller projects this past summer, including:
 - New roof for North Benton
 - New desk and chairs for Benton
 - New bathroom fixtures for Benton
 - New tile floors in Stateview Apartments
 - New retaining walls at Stateview Apartments
 - New doors, ceilings, lights and windows in lobby, offices and rec rooms at Hill/Case

RAMADAN

The month of September is a very significant period for the Islamic members of our community as they observe Ramadan. Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Ramadan began on September 2nd and will continue for 30 days until October 2nd. During Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours. Traditional fasting during Ramadan begins at sunrise or Fajr, and ends at sundown or Maghrib, when foods prepared especially for the month of Ramadan are eaten. Fasting Muslims usually eat a meal before sunrise and then gather for a large meal to break their fast and pray when the sun sets. The entire month culminates in the Festival of Fast-Breaking or Eid-ul-Fitr which is observed by families or entire neighborhoods who come together to worship and celebrate the end of Ramadan.

Please be aware that there are members of your community who are currently observing Ramadan. If you are observing Ramadan, and need to make special arrangements for your meals, please contact the staff in Garvey Commons. They are able to offer meals "to go" that are pre-prepared and can be taken out for evening meals. Please talk with them if you have other special needs, or require assistance with your meal planning during Ramadan.

HUSKY RES HALL FOOTBALL CHALLENGE



The residential hall with the highest percentage of students to come to the game will win a pizza party for all those that attend, as well as a free T-shirt. The winning hall will be announced during half-time at the game.

Get free tickets at your front desk or pick them up right outside the stadium.