

# Eagle Newsletter



EXPERIENCE A GREATER LIVING ENVIRONMENT *December | 2011*

## *Winter Break is just around the corner!*

### **As Final Exam Week approaches, Please be aware of the following important information:**

The Residence Halls will close at 7:00pm December 16th, 2011 and will reopen on Saturday, January 7th, 2012 at 1:00pm.

Break Housing will be available in the following Residence Halls only: Benton Hall, Hill Hall, Lawrence Hall, Sherburne Hall, Shoemaker and Stateview Apartments. Semester Break officially begins at 7:00pm on Friday, December 16, 2011. All students desiring to stay during break must complete a break housing registration form at their residence hall front Desk by Tuesday, December, 13th by 4pm. Registration is required. Students who live in halls with no available break housing must vacate their residence hall by 7:00pm on Friday, December 16th, 2011.

Meal service in Garvey Commons is not available during the break period.

24 Hour Quiet Hours for final exams will begin on Friday, December 9th at 8:00pm and continue through exam week. Please respect the rights of your friends and neighbors to study in a quiet atmosphere.

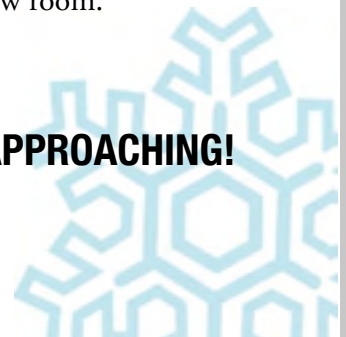
### **If you have signed up to change rooms or halls for the Spring Semester you must be aware of the following:**

Room/hall changes must be completed during finals week, since new students move into vacant rooms in January 2012.

Moves must be worked out with the students currently living in the room into which you are moving. Contact the staff on your floor or in the building if you have any problems. Make sure you are in the proper room as indicated on your e-services account.

You must have your current room checked for damages by a staff member who must formally check you out of you room. You must complete a room condition report for your new room.

**FINALS ARE APPROACHING!**



**ATTENTION all Residents!**  
Dont miss this opportunity!

Sign up for  
Coborn Plaza Apartments  
**COMING SOON!**

**PRIORITY  
ROOM  
SIGN-UP**

# Check-Out

## Check-Out Procedures for Students with Approved Cancellations:

Failure to check-out of your residence hall/room results in a \$25.00 charge, plus lock change fees as well as cleaning charges. To prevent this, please follow these procedures.

- Schedule a time to check out with your CA or another staff member.
- Make sure you have removed all belongings from your room prior to the check-out time.
- Turn in your keys and check-out at the prearranged time.
- Complete the check-out form, keeping the gold copy for your records.

## Return Times for Rented Lofts & Fridges:

Representatives from Bedloft.com will be on campus to pick up lofts and refrigerators that need to be returned. They will be on campus Friday, Dec. 9th at the following locations:

4 - 5:30pm Stearns Hall Horseshoe Parking Lot  
6 - 7:00pm Shoemaker Northwest Entrance Lot

If you have additional questions about rental returns, please refer to the following website for more information: [www.bedloft.com](http://www.bedloft.com)

Before you leave for break, please be sure to do the following:

- Close your windows, empty the trash, turn off all lights, and lock your door.
- Turn off most electrical appliances.
- Unplug any potential fire hazards (i.e. hair appliances, twinkle lights).

## Payment Reminder:

Spring Semester Housing Payment Information:

You have the option to pay the full amount with your tuition and fees, or follow the installment plan shown below (an additional \$30.00 fee is assessed for using the installment plan).

Dec 23rd	_____	\$200
Jan 20th	_____	\$1040
Feb 21st	_____	\$1040
Mar 20th	_____	Balance Due

Rates and Due Dates are Subject to Change.

Room and board payments should be sent directly to the CASHIERS OFFICE, Administrative Services Building, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Bills will not be mailed. Students may check their account balance anytime at [www.stcloudstate.edu](http://www.stcloudstate.edu). Student ID and PIN numbers are required.

## Reslife Cinema

Do you know about your own movie channel?

Channel 75 is the channel showing movies specifically chosen by students living on campus. To get involved in selecting movies for this channel, contact one of the RHA representatives in your hall or attend an RHA meeting. RHA meets every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Cascade Room in Atwood Center.

## Watch Here:

<http://watchnow.reslife.com/scsu/SDC/Content/Browse.aspx>



# Winter Break Housing

**Halls Close:** Friday, December 16, 2011 at 7 pm

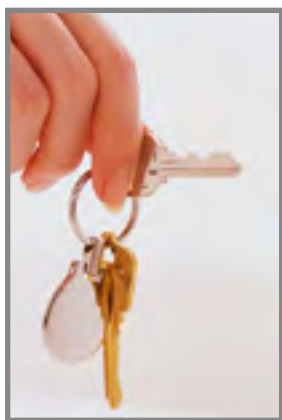
**Halls Re-Open:** Saturday, January 7 2012 at 1 pm

**The following halls will offer semester break housing:** Stateview Apartments, Benton, Hill, Lawrence, Shoemaker, and Sherburne.

**Anyone wishing to stay on-campus during semester break needs to pre-register by:** 12 pm on Monday December 12th.

**Registration forms available:** Online at [www.stcloudstate.edu/reslife](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/reslife), look for the “winter break registration” link. You may also pick up a form at your Residence hall’s front desk or The Department of Residential Life.

**Garvey Hours:** Friday, December 16th - Closes at 3:30 pm  
Friday, January 6th - Opens at 10:30 am



## *Key - In Reminder*

Please note the number of key-ins a student has accumulated is not reset at the beginning of spring semester. If you are granted a hall change, your new Residence Hall Director will be informed of the number of key-ins you have incurred during this academic year. For your safety please remember to close your room door when you leave and carry your keys with you at all times.

## *Meal Plan Changes*

The deadline to change your meal plan for Spring Semester is January 13, 2012.



# Final Exam Survival Hints

From [www.reslife.net](http://www.reslife.net)

1. Be prepared. The most important factor in exam success is preparation. No matter how many helpful hints you employ nothing works as well as making sure you've studied enough.
2. Do your homework. Often an exam question will parallel a homework assignment. Doing your homework regularly will give your practice where you need it.
3. Review regularly. If you spend a few minutes each week reviewing your notes, your final studying will be a review, not an attempt to learn the entire term's work.
4. Study your weakest subjects first. Why? You'll be fresher and therefore better able to deal with difficult areas, and you'll have more time to deal with any problems that arise.
5. Ask for help. If you're having trouble with a particular subject, don't be afraid to ask for help. Your teacher and fellow students will be glad to give you a hand.
6. Look at old exams. Review exams and quizzes that you took during the semester.
7. Attend end of the semester classes. A lot of valuable information is outlined in the last few classes for the semester. Points of misunderstanding can be cleared up, exam format explained, and potential exam questions given.

8. Review in a group. However, make sure the review doesn't take the place of your own study time. Brainstorm possible test questions with your classmates, compare notes and test each other on the material.

9. Don't study too long. A 10-hour study marathon will only wear you out. You'll learn more if your study periods that are short, frequent and include regular breaks.

10. Eat well and get a good night's sleep. Take care of yourself during exam week - you're going through a lot of stress. Make sure you hold up well.

## Exam tips

1. Your first instinct is usually correct; don't change your answers unless you are sure you made a mistake.
2. There is nothing more frustrating than knowing the material but losing marks because you did not follow the directions.
3. Keep things in perspective. Although exams are important, they're not a matter of life or death.
4. Use your strongest points first to make an immediate impact. You want to convince your professor right off the bat that your answer is worth a high mark.
5. If your workload seems overwhelming, don't get discouraged.



# December Holidays

Around the globe, people mark holidays with various special traditions, festivities and services. The month of December is an excellent time to learn about the variety of celebrations, observances, and activities that are being observed by students in our residence halls. We have provided some brief historical information on a few December holidays below. There are many more holidays and celebrations in December than the ones we have listed. We hope you'll take the opportunity this month to talk with your roommate and fellow community members about winter traditions and celebrations that they honor and practice.

## **St. Nicholas Day** (December 6)

This is a Christian holiday that embodies the spirit of giving gifts and sharing. St. Nicholas Day originated in Europe and is now celebrated around the world. St. Nicholas Day honors Nicholas of Myra (Myra is located in modern day Turkey) who was born in 271 A.D. and died on December 6, 346 A.D. St. Nicholas was a well known saint and Bishop. He was keenly known for giving secret gifts during his life, including putting coins in people's shoes when left outside. Santa Claus (and by extension Father Christmas) is derived from the stories of St. Nicholas, for in Dutch, St. Nicholas is pronounced Sinterklaas.

## **Human Rights Day** (December 10)

Human Rights Day is a holiday honoring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations proclaimed that respect for human rights and human dignity are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Global celebrations observing this proclamation occur on this day as well as year-long observances. The Universal Declaration of Human rights was the first international enunciation of its kind and is the most translated document, appearing in over 360 languages.

## **Hanukkah** (December 20 to 28, 2011)

Hanukkah (or Chanukah, both meaning "dedication") is also known as the Festival of Lights. This traditional Jewish holiday is celebrated starting at sunset on the

25th of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar.

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem. The holy Temple was originally desecrated and converted to a dedication of Zeus by the Hellenist Syrians in 168 B.C.E and was reclaimed in 165 B.C.E. by Jewish soldiers under Judah Maccabee. After the Greek soldiers left, people began to restore the temple. Once they finished restoring the temple, the menorah was lit with enough oil for a day and miraculously stayed lit for eight days until new oil could be prepared. Based on this occurrence, lighting the menorah, one day at a time, is a common practice during Hanukkah.

## **Christmas** (December 25)

Christmas is an annual celebration that is most often associated with the Christian celebration of the nativity of Jesus, the biblical story of Jesus' birth to the Virgin Mary. Some secular traditions include participating in advent, fasting, attending worship services, or reenacting the nativity scene. Christmas may also correspond with the winter solstice and the Roman celebration of Saturn. These festivals celebrated at the same time influenced many of the non-secular traditions often associated with Christmas such as gift giving, carols, trees, lights and feasts. These traditions are often practiced in both religious and non-religious contexts.

## **Kwanzaa** (December 26 to January 1)

Kwanzaa is a non-religious, week-long holiday invented in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga ( a Black Studies professor) to celebrate family, community and culture. As Dr. Karenga stated, "to give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society". Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Kwanzaa has seven basic symbols which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture; unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Each night of Kwanzaa a candle is lit and corresponds to a particular value.



# TEDDY BEAR TOSS



DECEMBER 3rd, 2011  
SCSU vs. Bemidji State  
National Hockey Center

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Toss your teddy bear/stuffed animal on the ice during the 1st intermission and they will be donated to the Toys for Tots program.



# JUNIOR BALL

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## END OF THE SEMESTER BASH WHAT'S.HOT.EVENT

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*Date: Thursday, December 1st from 8-11pm*

*Location: Shoemaker Hall Basement*

*Music & Dance: Music in Motion DJ Service will provide music for dancing*

*Theme: Semi-Formal wear is strongly encouraged but not required*

*Food/Drink: Food & Drinks will be provided*

*Prizes: Prizes will also go to the "Best Dressed" as well as the "Best Dressed Couple"*

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# DANCE



*Sponsored by: Shoemaker Community Council & RHA.*