view

for parents of students in
Campus Living Services
and Residence Life

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Residential and Hospitality Services
Congratulations on becoming the parent of a Spartan! An education from Michigan State University is truly an investment in your student’s future. What is more, by living on campus your student can focus on getting their world-class education. The resources students get when they live on are not only for freshmen, a major reason why so many students choose to continue to live on campus during their sophomore year. Being surrounded by academic resources and live-in staff and services, students who live on campus save time, eat well, get rest, study and have what they need to make the most of their experience at MSU.

U View provides much of the information your family will need as you begin your relationship with MSU’s Campus Living Services and Residence Life. Printed copies of U View are periodically sent to parents and are supplemented by a monthly online edition throughout the school year. To subscribe to the free electronic version of U View, go to www.liveon.msu.edu/uview.

Parent Club
At Parent Orientation, you will have the opportunity to register for our Parent Club. We encourage you to sign up for this free program that gives you access to important information and resources related to campus life at MSU.

DID YOU KNOW?
Students who live on campus earn better grades and graduate in less time than those who live off.

SpartanConnect
We know your student is eager to ask questions and connect with their fellow MSU students — so we have created SpartanConnect just for them!

SpartanConnect is a website that brings together all the online resources students need, official Facebook pages, information from great student organizations your student can join, blogs they may enjoy, even resources for you. Be sure to have them log onto spartanconnect.msu.edu today to check out all that MSU has to offer!
HELPING STUDENTS TRANSITION

Whether or not this is the first time you have sent a student off to college, we guarantee that things have changed. Your student will soon be packing up to begin a new chapter in their academic and personal growth. No matter the distance between your home and campus, you as the parent, guardian or friend of a new Spartan will continue to play an important role in that growth as a source of support and advice.

There are several things you can do to help your student make the transition to college:

• Consider easing up on curfews or eliminating them altogether; after all, in just a few months when they move into the residence halls they will not have to be in by a certain time. While our residence halls do close at midnight, residents can still come in by showing their ID to the night receptionist who monitors the front doors from midnight until 7 a.m.

• If your student is stressed about paying for college or needing a source of income during the school year, please encourage them to apply for one of the many jobs available on campus. They can do so online at www.liveon.msu.edu by clicking on the “Employment” link.

• If they are not already, have your student start doing their own laundry. A Laundry 101 lesson now will save a whole lot of grief later!

• Set up a checking account or credit card for your student, either through one of your hometown financial institutions, the MSU Federal Credit Union or a Lansing-area bank. Students will have an opportunity to open an account with the MSU Federal Credit Union when they are here for academic orientation.

QUICK ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Campus Living Services and Residence Life website www.liveon.msu.edu provides information for both parents and students. You can stay informed about campus happenings by reading the “News and Events” section, get questions answered by accessing our FAQs (linked from the lower left corner of the site), or learn more about the halls by checking out our floor plans, blogs, videos and “Rules for Living in the Residence Halls” document. There are also links to construction project updates with photos of our current renovation projects and a link to the MyHousing site where students can access their personal housing account, sign their housing contract, get information about early arrival/late stay requests and request room changes.

CAMPUS BUILDINGS GET STANDARD ADDRESSES

MSU is in the process of assigning street addresses to all campus buildings. The change affects all buildings on MSU’s East Lansing campus, including residence halls, academic halls, administrative buildings and athletic venues. All non-residence halls are scheduled to be converted by April 20, with residence halls following in May after the semester’s end. In addition to improving emergency and public safety responses on campus, the project will help MSU meet requirements for 911 dispatching services and allow campus addresses to eventually be used with mapping and navigation software applications, such as Google Maps and GPS technology.

New building addresses will be posted on www.liveon.msu.edu in the “Document Library” and at the project website: www.campusaddresses.msu.edu.
HELPING YOUR STUDENT ADJUST

We are glad your student is living with us! While living on campus, your student will have the opportunity to:

Get involved with the residence hall community. You can help by:
- Urging your student to be an active member of their hall community, by attending floor programs, floor meeting and hall events.
- Suggesting that your student meet people by attending hall-based government and caucus meetings.
- Discussing your expectations for your student’s academic and social conduct.
- Encouraging your student to lock their door and not leave personal belongings unattended while on campus. The safety of students is largely a product of their own behaviors.
- Reminding your student to get to know their resident assistant and intercultural aide. These undergraduate staff members receive extensive training in order to help your student successfully transition to college!

Achieve academic success. You can help by:
- Emphasizing the importance of creating study groups with those who live nearby.
- Encouraging your student to explore new ways of thinking and potential career options.
- Asking your student what they are learning. Encourage them to talk about classroom experiences with their friends.
- Helping your student select a housing option that meets their needs (things like quiet floors or Honors College options).
- Reminding your student to seek out MSU’s many academic resources. Resident assistants and intercultural aides can be very helpful in connecting your student with those resources.

Learn about themselves and others. You can help by:
- Encouraging your student to get to know others on the floor and in the hall, extending their social circle to include individuals with different identities and interests.
- Asking your student what makes each of their new friends unique and interesting.
- Helping your student strategize how to candidly discuss their expectations for living together with their roommates and suitemates.
- Expecting your student to take initiative to solve their own problems.
- Sharing your hope that your student will reflect on decisions made and learn from these important college experiences.

In-hall Staff are Here for Your Student

Campus Living Services and Residence Life has a multitude of staff available to assist your student as they settle into their campus home and onto a path of academic excellence. We are here to provide you and your student with information, support, problem-solving, and referrals to campus and community resources. Each residence hall has a variety of full-time and student staff in: Guest Services, Facilities and Residence Education. Someone is available to help your student 24/7. Staff can assist them in checking out a loaner key to their room, handle maintenance issues, provide a listening ear when homesickness sets in, or give them time management tips.

The most visible staff member your student will encounter will likely be their floor resident assistant, an upper-level undergraduate student who receives extensive training on community development, study skills, intercultural communication and conflict resolution. Resident assistants are supervised by graduate-level staff and hall directors, most of whom are master’s level professionals in fields related to student development. Each residence hall has one of these full-time live-in staff members.

DID YOU KNOW?

80% of freshmen students who room with someone they do not know report that they have a good experience living on campus.
WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE COMING WEEKS

In early June, your student will receive a publication called Go Green. This information is similar to U View, but contains more specific information for students. A copy of the publication will be posted online at www.liveon.msu.edu in the “Document Library” section.

Also in early June, your student will receive an email to their msu.edu email account with instructions on how to view their campus neighborhood housing assignment and sign the housing contract.

Please note that students under the age of 18 will need a parent or legal guardian to co-sign the contract.

In early August, students will receive a second email on how to find out their residence hall room number and roommate information.

Academic Orientation

You and your student should have signed up to attend orientation programs via the MSU Admissions website. Academic Orientation Program (AOP) is for students and Parent Orientation Program (POP) is for parents. You and your student will have a chance to tour the neighborhood in which they will live during summer orientation.

Neighborhoods at MSU

Neighborhoods at MSU are more than a cluster of residence halls, they are student communities that provide innovative, integrated support services. Neighborhoods at MSU are designed to foster academic success, civic and social engagement, health and wellness, and intercultural development, and bring the campus resources to students where they live. Neighborhood engagement centers offer tutoring, advising, health services and more. Engagement Centers are currently located in Hubbard, Brody and Holden halls, with new ones opening in McDonel Hall and the MSU Union this fall 2012.

Enter to Win a Student Bookstore Gift Card

When you attend the summer Parent Orientation Program, be sure to stop at the Campus Living Services and Residence Life table in the registration area. Those who sign up to subscribe to the online edition of the U View will be entered in a drawing to win a $150 Spartan Bookstore gift card. We greatly appreciate the Spartan Bookstore’s donation of this during each of the 25 POP sessions this summer.

Spartan Cash

Spartan Cash is a safe and convenient way for students to use their MSU ID cards to access a wide variety of services and products at more than 100 locations across campus and the local community. Instead of having to scrounge for cash, carry credit cards or write checks, students can pay with Spartan Cash. Some dining plans come with Spartan Cash automatically. Students and their families can pre-load Spartan Cash dollars onto their MSU ID cards. Spartan Cash vendors do not sell alcohol or tobacco products. For a complete list of vendors, go to www.spartancash.com.

Safety and Security Come First

The safety and security of students is something MSU takes very seriously. Green emergency phones are installed around the campus grounds and within the sightline of student room doors in the residence halls (excluding Owen). The emergency phone allows anyone with a safety concern to quickly get to a phone with push-button capability, which greatly increases response time in the event of an emergency.

We have completed a project to increase security by installing electronic card access on the exterior doors of all residence halls. This allows only those residents who live in a certain building to gain access by swiping their MSU ID.
GREAT CAMPUS EVENTS BY THE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES BOARD (UAB)

UAB hosts more than 250 events annually on campus, and most are free to MSU students. More than 150,000 students attended UAB events last year. Visit www.uabevents.com for more information. Many of these events are funded through the following fundraising programs:

Residence Hall Linen Program
Our residence halls provide white bed linens and towels, laundered weekly, at no additional charge. Many students wish to further personalize their space, and the Residence Hall Linen Program can help by offering savings on specialty bed linens designed especially for college students. Call 1-800-957-4338, or visit www.rhl.org/mst to place an order now as popular colors go fast. Watch the mail for information sent to your student regarding these programs.

Residence Hall Carpet Program
The Residence Hall Carpet Program allows students to pre-order a sized, brand new, top-quality, plush carpet and have it waiting on campus at move-in at four convenient locations on campus — all at a special student rate! Call 1-800-892-8729, or visit www.rhcarpets.com/mst for more information.

CollegiateFridge.com
Students can pre-order microfridges, futons and personal safes at www.CollegiateFridge.com for easy pick-up on move-in day. Pick-up will be the same as carpet locations in four centrally located areas on campus. More information and prices can be found at www.CollegiateFridge.com.

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATIONS

Bailey and Rather halls will open fall 2012 with updated community bathrooms, and renovated common area space for study and hanging out.

Armstrong and Bryan halls are undergoing major renovations and will reopen in fall 2013.

McDonel Hall is getting a new engagement center to serve River Trail Neighborhood. The new engagement center will be open for fall 2012.

MSU Union is undergoing summer renovations to its first floor and the creation of the temporary North Neighborhood Engagement Center to be located on the third floor.

Shaw Dining Hall is undergoing major renovations and will reopen for spring semester 2013. The new location will feature vegetarian and vegan options, comfort food, grill and pizza items, sandwiches and Asian cuisine.

Sparty’s Express at McDonel Hall is being transformed to a Sparty’s Refresh location with made-to-order coffee and a tea bar. Sparty’s Refresh at McDonel will be open for fall 2012.

Sparty’s Express is being constructed at the MSU Union. The location will be open for fall 2012 and will offer Spartan Spirit Coffee and convenience items.

MSU Union Food Court is being renovated for fall 2012. Check out its new look while dining at Union Pizzeria, Union Deli and Serrano’s.

In keeping with our Spartan green beliefs, MSU is pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the Bailey and Rather halls, and Shaw Dining renovations.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 26:
First-year students move in

August 27:
Returning students move in

August 29:
Fall semester classes begin
EATING AT STATE

With made-to-order, healthy fresh dining in our 12 residential dining halls including the award-winning The Gallery at Snyder/Phillips, Brody Square and South Pointe at Case, your student is sure to eat well on campus, no matter what they crave. MSU’s flexible dining plans feature Combo-X-Change, pre-determined combo options for use at any Culinary Services retail location. The DineOn Platinum, Gold and Silver dining plans include anytime access in any residential dining hall, guest meals, Spartan Cash and one Combo-X-Change to be used at our Culinary Services retail locations, Monday – Friday. Employment opportunities are also available at all our Culinary Services locations. More information and applications will be available at your student’s AOP.

New Dining Options for 2012 – 2013

South Pointe at Case
Campus’ newest dining hall opened in January 2012 and features five new food venues:

- Great Lakes Plate serving entrees with local ingredients from Michigan and the Midwest
- Ciao! for pizza, subs and oven-baked sandwiches
- Brimstone Grille for burgers, chicken sandwiches and grilled-to-order items
- S2 for made-to-order salads and hand-rolled sushi
- Bliss for crêpes and other dessert

PLUS a new Sparty’s Café with Spartan Spirit Coffee, grab-and-go items and pizza.

Shaw Dining Hall
Shaw Dining Hall is closed for renovations and will reopen in January 2013. While there will be a transitional snack room offering carry-out including cold cereals, fresh fruit, pizza, grinders and more in the lower level, Shaw residents are encouraged to dine at Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall, Brody Square or South Pointe at Case Hall.

For fall 2012, all Shaw residents will receive a complimentary CATA bus pass for easier access to other dining hall locations on campus. They will also receive two extra Combo-X-Changes (valid Monday – Sunday) for a total of three Combo-X-Changes.

Sweet Treats from the MSU Bakers

You can send delicious baked goods as gifts to your student during the year from MSU’s own on-campus bakery. Visit www.msubakers.com for more information, to view products and monthly specials and to place an order.

Accommodating Your Student’s Dietary Restrictions

If your student has dietary restrictions due to health concerns, food allergies or religious observances, the dining managers in each hall are available to meet with them. All of our residential dining hall menus are marked with food labels for easy identification card access. Kosher meals are available at Wilson Dining Hall and halal is featured at Holmes Dining Hall and Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall. For more information on menus and nutritional information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

Have Another Student Off Campus?

If you are a veteran Spartan parent and have an older student who is living off campus next year, they can still take advantage of our flexible off-campus dining plans. With multiple accesses to any of our residential dining halls, our off-campus dining plans also feature Combo-X-Change and Flex Option, and rollover meals available until the end of summer. Visit www.eatatstate.com for more information.
VISIT US ONLINE:

www.liveon.msu.edu

Campus Living Services and Residence Life is a department of the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University.

Printed U Views are sent to parents four times per year. Additional monthly updates are available through the U View e-newsletter. Visit www.liveon.msu.edu/uvview to subscribe.

This free newsletter will give you timely information throughout the academic year.

Equal Opportunity Housing