A LOOK AT 2011 MOVE-IN

MSU’s 2011 current freshman class includes approximately 7,800 students, which represents the largest ever. This year’s class is approximately 8.3 percent larger than the one from fall 2010. A number of MSU staff and community volunteers welcomed these freshmen, transfer students and returning students August 27 – August 30 for 2011 move-in. Transitional housing assignments are being resolved continuously, and parent and student informational meetings were held to answer questions and alleviate any concerns about students in these rooms.

NEIGHBORHOODS AT MSU

New staff is in place to further develop Neighborhoods at MSU. Kelley Bishop has accepted the position of assistant vice president for Strategic Initiatives within the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services. As part of his new role, Kelley will provide administrative leadership for MSU Neighborhoods.

In addition, three engagement center directors have been named: Kelly High McCord from Campus Living Services and Residence Life will serve as the engagement center director for the Brody Neighborhood, Terry Walsh from the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions will become the engagement center director for the South Neighborhood (Holden, Wilson, Wonders and Case Halls), and Reggie Noto, an academic specialist in the Office of the Provost, will assume the position of engagement center director for East Neighborhood (Holmes, Akers and Hubbard Halls). New engagement centers opened this fall for the Brody Neighborhood, located in the main Brody building, and the South Neighborhood, located in Holden Hall. A grand opening event will take place for these two neighborhood engagement centers on October 28, 2011 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the main floor of the Brody Building – all are welcome to attend!
EATING AT STATE

When students Eat at State, they have access to 36 locations all over campus. Experienced chefs work in each campus neighborhood and oversee the menus and presentation of food in the dining halls. Our focus is on taste, quality, freshness and authenticity. Students can eat in any of the 11 residential dining halls which include Brody Square, the award-winning Gallery at Snyder/Phillips, newly renovated Holden Dining Hall, Sparty’s locations, Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall, Union Pizzeria, Union Deli, Serrano’s and Starbucks. For students with late-night snack attacks, there is always one dining hall open until midnight in each neighborhood.

Your student has the flexibility to eat in the dining halls or dine on-the-go with their dining plans using Combo-X-Change. Students living in areas where dining plans are optional, such as Van Hoosen, University Apartments or Williams Hall, may purchase an On or Off-campus Dining Plan at any time.

• Halal options are available at Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall
• Kosher options are available for dinner at Wilson Sunday through Thursday weekly
• All dining halls feature vegetarian and/or vegan options
• Food labels contain important information for students with special dietary needs
• Students with food allergies should contact their neighborhood dining manager or chef for more information

As part of our commitment to social responsibility, Culinary Services locations feature local foods, fair trade coffee and educate guests about food waste. We participate with academic departments on campus to serve produce from the MSU Student Organic Farm and beef raised on campus. Visit www.eatatstate.com to read more about featured local farmers and other news.

SOUTH POINTE AT CASE HALL

After a seven-month renovation, the all-new South Pointe dining hall at Case will open in January 2012. South Neighborhood residents can continue to dine at Holden, Wilson and Wonders dining halls or any other residential dining halls on campus. South Pointe will feature five venues serving pizza, sandwiches, grill items, salad, sushi, entrees made from local ingredients, made-to-order crepes and more. This dining hall is being constructed using local materials including reclaimed wood from Michigan. An all-new Sparty’s Café featuring pizza menu will also be at Case Hall.

Wonders will have a transitional take-out option for fall 2011 in which guests can use their Combo-X-Change to get a meal from the dining hall. This location will close indefinitely in January 2012.

OTHER DINING OPTIONS:

Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall features venues for pizza, grill menu, coffee, home-style and international cuisine. Grab and go salads and sandwiches are also available. All students with dining plans can use their Combo-X-Change at this location.

Sparty’s offers convenience items for quick grab and go items, specialty coffee and beverages, plus made-to-order food items. Sparty’s is proud to serve Spartan Spirit Coffee, MSU’s own fair trade and locally roasted coffee brand. There are 20 Sparty’s locations around campus.

One Union Square Food Court includes Union Pizzeria with pizzas, breadsticks, salads, Serrano’s for tacos, burritos, quesadillas, and Union Deli with salads, sandwiches and soup.

DON’T FORGET THE MSU BAKERS!

Send love to some student at the residence halls for their birthdays, special occasions or just to show that you are thinking of them. Visit www.msubakers.com to order cookies, cakes, bagels, breads and more. Use coupon code WINTER2011 to get 15 percent off your order.

For more information on Culinary Services at MSU, visit www.eatatstate.com, call 517-353-1616 or email info@eatatstate.com.
GROWING UP TOO QUICKLY
By Amy Franklin-Craft, Associate Director, Campus Living Services and Residence Life

In the blink of an eye, your student went from a nursery crib to a residence hall “crib.” Even though students have just settled into their hall assignments, they may already be expressing thoughts about their next move to an off-campus apartment. It wasn’t too long ago that all first- and most second- and third-year students routinely lived on campus. Over the years though, a culture began to develop that gave students subtle messages to move off campus earlier. In Campus Living Services and Residence Life, we are seeing great success in reversing that trend. Students (and parents) are recognizing the educational value and convenience of remaining on campus – through their sophomore and even their junior and senior years.

The truth is East Lansing has a number of off-campus housing developments that are more than happy to work with your student to make a choice to live off campus. Ultimately, the choice will be between you and your student but it is important to be fully aware of the advantages offered only by on-campus living.

• Students who live on campus generally have higher GPAs than those living off or at home. According to campus data, students who live in residence halls have statistically significantly higher GPAs. In today’s competitive academic environment this counts for a lot!
• Research tells us that campus’ resident students are significantly more likely to be involved with peers and faculty and in extracurricular activities.
• On-campus students, compared with their off-campus counterparts, are significantly more satisfied with college and more positive about their social and interpersonal experiences.
• Even when controlling for past academic performance, aptitude and socio-economic status, students who live on campus consistently graduate at significantly higher rates than students who do not live in the residence halls.
• Though not as unequivocal as the above research findings, students living in residence halls also tend to make significantly greater gains in areas related to academic and personal success, including autonomy and inner-directedness, intellectual orientation, and academic and social self-concepts. In addition, students living in residence halls tend to have a greater ability to think independently.

MSU continues to foster a rich on-campus living environment through the development of the residential engagement centers. Though the services offered in the centers are open to all students, both on- and off-campus, nowhere but campus will the resources be so close and available. In addition, only on-campus students have live-in support staff to help them address their every concern, both academic as well as personal.
Your student will receive lots of pressure from off-campus apartment landlords and especially friends to “sign on the bottom line” (as early as October!). Students may romanticize about the experience. Having one’s own apartment is after all, a very adult and independent step. However, moving off campus also comes with a lot of distractions: monthly bills (cable, internet, food, heating, electricity, etc.), cooking, cleaning and securing transportation just to name a few. Nowhere else can a student gain such quick access to a variety of academic and support services than in the residence halls! An outstanding team of Residence Life full-time and student staff are here for your student 24/7. Finally, there is considerably less flexibility with off-campus leases. Students are locked into a 12-month lease with a specific group of people. If a conflict arises, they must work it out or live with the issue. If the same group were on campus, a room change (if necessary) is entirely possible and the contract is for only the academic year.

Your student is making an investment in his or her future. As with any investment, your student will want to minimize risks. It is important to give consideration to this information. And while the choice is theirs to make, you do have a role in helping your student navigate through this decision. There’s no rush. Think carefully, research the possibilities and weigh the possible outcomes of the decision.

To learn more about the advantages of on-campus living, please see Realizing the Educational Potential of Residence Halls (1999) by Schroeder, Mable, and Associates. To learn more about the general topic of student success, please see What Matters to Student Success: A Review of the Literature (2006) by Ku, Kinzie, Buckley, Bridges and Hayek (National Post Secondary Education Cooperative).

**STAFF CONNECTION:**

**MISTY ARCHER, HOLDEN HALL**

*Director, Campus Living Services and Residence Life*

Every student remembers their first day of college; that exciting transition from high school to higher education; from living at home to living on your own; from a school of hundreds to a school of thousands. MSU students can count on dedicated staff to help them make the transition.

Holden Hall Director Misty Archer is one of those staff. Since obtaining her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Central Michigan University and her master’s from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in counseling and human resources, she has been a part of Campus Living Services and Residence Life for seven years. Misty was a mentor for four years at CMU and became a hall director at SDSU while doing her graduate work. When her current position at MSU became available, she jumped at the opportunity.

Misty’s role as a director is to help students become members of the community; in and out of the residence halls. She currently supervises three assistant hall directors and 34 undergraduate staff. Misty says people, teamwork and counseling skills are three vital attributes required to successfully perform her job and connect students on a deeper level.

In the future, Misty plans to pursue a PhD in international studies. She is looking forward to combining her professional passion for counseling students and her personal passion for travel. Misty says the most rewarding part of her job is seeing students change, grow and develop from students to professionals. Every day is a constant learning experience for her and the students she helps, which she says is the most gratifying part of being a complex director.
BUT SERIOUSLY, WHAT’S THE RUSH?

We know that students want to make a good decision about housing for next year. We also know that they’re already being pressured by landlords to sign a lease for next year.

There are 40 different apartment complexes in East Lansing and 230 in greater-Lansing. Plenty of places will still be available if students wait and think about where they really want to live. When signing off-campus leases, students only have 72 hours to cancel. That means they could be stuck paying rent for next year or living in a situation they’d prefer not to, even if they change their mind about their roommate, want to transfer or want to be closer to campus. They’ll have a much better idea of what they want from housing if they give themselves some time and then decide.

Campus Living Services and Residence Life does recognize that some students would prefer to make a decision early and for these students, we’ll begin our housing reapplication process in October. However, students can sign up throughout the end of the academic year and there is no rush. We really want them to weigh the pros and cons of their situation and make the best choice. More information on housing sign-up will be available in the October U View.
### HOUSING SIGN-UP FOR FALL 2012

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<tr>
<td>Oct. 3 – 9</td>
<td>Students keep their current room or apartment. If they don’t sign up for their current room by October 9, other students will have the opportunity to select it for next year. If they are signing up for a double room or apartment and want to select one or more roommates, they may do so by logging onto MyHousing from Oct. 10 – 16. To select a roommate, they will need that person’s last name, MyHousing ID and dining plan preference.</td>
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| Oct. 23    | Rock the Block events from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Students reserve blocks of rooms for them and their friends in each neighborhood at the following locations:  
• Brody Engagement Center for Bailey, Butterfield, Emmons, Rather and University Village  
• Williams Great Hall for Campbell, Landon, Mayo, Williams, Yakeley/Gilchrist and University Village  
• Snyder Lounge for Mason/Abbot and Snyder/Phillips  
• Holden Engagement Center and classrooms for Case, Holden, Wilson and Wonders  
• Hubbard Engagement Center for Akers, Holmes and Hubbard  
• West Shaw Living Room for McDonel and Shaw  
• Owen for Owen and Van Hoosen |
| Nov. 7 – Apr. 15 | Students sign up for any available room or apartment, anywhere on campus. |
| After Apr. 15 | Online housing sign-up is complete. If students would like to reserve a room, they can contact the Housing Assignments Office by calling 517-884-LIVE (5483) or emailing liveon@msu.edu. |

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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<tr>
<td>November 24 – 25</td>
<td>University Holidays</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Last day of fall classes</td>
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<td>December 12 – 16</td>
<td>Final exams</td>
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<td>January 2012</td>
<td>South Pointe Dining Service at Case Hall opens</td>
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Campus Living Services is a unit 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/uview to subscribe.

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