



# lifeline

spring 2009

housing and residential life newsletter

oklahoma state university

## ZERO Percent Rate Increase!

OSU Housing and Residential Life is proud to announce that for the 2009-2010 school year there will be a **ZERO PERCENT RATE INCREASE!**

It has been nine years since the last zero percent rate increase in the 2000-2001 academic year.

“We are very sensitive to these unstable economic times,” said Dr. Matthew Brown, Director of OSU Housing and Residential Life, “We are committed to the success of students and to the accessibility of affordable on-campus housing.”

“Students will give plenty of reasons why they should live off campus: it’s cheaper, it’s more convenient, it will be quieter so they will study more,” continued Brown. “The truth of the matter is, living on campus can be more affordable than living off campus, it is more convenient to live on campus, and living on campus will help students make better grades than their off-campus counterparts.”

Here are just a few reasons why students should live on campus.

**Live Better.** Students don’t have to worry about maintenance issues - there is 24-hour emergency maintenance staff on-call. In addition, there is only bill to pay each month, not five or six like off-campus. Relax, and let us take care of you!

**Live Convenient.** When students live on campus, they can roll out of bed, hop in the shower, and make it to class with time to spare. No worries about traffic, busses, circling for parking spots - that is at least an extra half hour of sleep each day!

**Live Safe.** OSU boasts one of the safest campuses in the Big XII and the residence halls are no exception. Student safety is our top priority. The card access entry system and fire suppression systems are just two examples of what Housing and Residential Life are doing to make the halls safe. OSU Police is readily available 24/7 and they provide emergency assistance as well as campus escorts.

**Live Connected.** All of the rooms/units are hard wired for Ethernet connections, and all of the public spaces have wireless Internet connections. In addition, all bedrooms and living rooms have cable TV

outlets. Students are wired and ready to go!

**Live Supported.** Housing and Residential Life student and professional staff are on-site 24 hours a day to provide students with personal and academic support. We are here for the students!

**Live Friendly.** Living on campus students interact and make friends with people from across Oklahoma and around the world. Their new best friend is just a door away!

**Live Satisfied.** With over 30 dining options on campus students will never go hungry! From convenience stores to all you care to eat cafeterias, from national franchises to sit down restaurants, and from sushi to steak, there is something for everyone’s taste and appetite. And they don’t have to grocery shop!

*continued on page two*



Residents from the Spears School of Business Communities (Villages E and F 4th Floors) participate in numerous community service projects like walking and playing with the dogs at the Stillwater Humane Society.

# From the Director

by Matthew S. Brown Ph. D.  
Director of Housing and Residential  
Life Oklahoma State University

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing Oklahoma State University. Today students have more choices than ever before when it comes to higher education. As an alumnus, I take great pride in seeing your student become part of the OSU family. As you consider where your student may be living next year, I ask that you take some time to consider the fact that OSU Housing and Residential Life is committed to providing your student with a **safe** and **supportive** living environment that promotes success.

We understand that you have options, and therefore ask that you consider the issues of safety and support when talking to your student about options for next year. It is important for you to know that OSU is committed to student safety. This is why we have automated fire suppression systems, commercial grade locks and doors as well as secure card-swipe access in our residence halls. These are just some of the features you will typically not find in off-campus properties.

In addition, we provide outstanding support through our Resident Assistants and Residence Directors who manage the day to day needs of students. We staff our facilities 24 hours a day to assist students with both routine concerns and emergency situations. In addition we provide quality academic support programs and opportunities for involvement. This is why students who live on campus have higher grade point averages, complete more credit hours and are more likely to continue their education compared to students who live off-campus.

In today's economy, it is understandable that you and your student will be con-

sidering all options for housing next year. During this time it is important to consider both price and value. OSU already provides a tremendous value by offering an all inclusive rate that covers basic utilities, cable TV, high speed internet, furnishings, staff support, safety features and convenient location. In addition, our traditional residence halls represent some of the most affordable housing in Stillwater.

Because we are also concerned about price, we have decided there will be **NO INCREASE IN HOUSING RATES**. The amount you paid to live on campus this year is the same amount you will pay next year! We feel that this will allow us to offer the perfect combination of price and value for your student. We appreciate the opportunity to meet your housing needs and look forward to seeing your student back in the residence halls this fall.



## **ZERO Percent Rate Increase**

*continued from page one*

**Live and Learn.** On-campus housing offers twenty Living Learning Communities which give residents the opportunity to take classes with others who share the same major, interest, or culture. They also live together too so as to strengthen those experiences outside of the classroom. The LLCs provide mentoring, study groups, and special program.

**Live Orange!** Live Orange is the total college experience. At no other time in their life will students be able to experience all of the things available to them in the halls such as new cultures, new friendships, academic support and success, community involvement, diversity, and ways of viewing the world. Live on campus, make better grades, make life-long friends, and Live Orange!

## Grade Check

It is proven that students who live on campus make better grades, are more involved, and graduate earlier than students who live off campus. Each semester our Department receives grade comparisons, and each semester this continues to hold true. Read on and see for yourself.

### Fall 2008

Current GPA	On Campus	Off Campus
Freshmen	2.697	2.420
Sophomores	2.914	2.644
Juniors	2.956	2.806
Seniors	2.956	2.953

Living on campus provides students with many academic benefits including the Living Learning Communities (LLCs). Studies are showing that freshmen students who participate in LLCs make better grades than students who don't. We did our own comparison, and our results were the same. Freshmen LLC students made on average a 2.701 compared to a 2.023 made by students not living in the Living Learning Communities. The Living Learning Communities play a vital role in the education and socialization of freshmen students into University life. They set the stage for a college career full of academic success.

# Happenings in the Halls

This year saw a major shift in the way programming was done in the halls. Previously, it was all done by the Floor Presidents and student leaders on the individual floors. The Resident Advisors did little to no programming. This year, that all changed. The Floor Presidents and student leaders are still responsible for about half of the programs that occurred in the halls, while the RAs are now responsible for the other half of the programs. The Floor Presidents focus on social programming like floor dinners, ice cream socials, and fun activities. The Resident Advisors' focus on much more programmatic themes and lean toward topics such as time management, study skills, financial planning, and social justice and inclusion.

As a result, there have been some amazing programs in the halls this year. This is just a small sampling of the wonderful programming that is happening in the halls. The students are attending the programs, learning, having fun, and making friends along the way.

The third floor of **Village F** has Broadened your Horizons programs. Recently they held an Indian Food Night, and students from India came and cooked authentic Indian food and shared with the residents about their food and culture.

The **Spears School of Business** has two communities which bring in speakers to their floors every other week. They also enjoy having floor dinners, and their favorite so far was when a resident, who also happens to be an Italian exchange student, cooked for them!

**Wentz Hall** is a very active community and they sponsor Wetnzdays every Wednesday, and they just had a very successful "How to Work Out Properly" program. They are also collect-



A group of students from Village Hall F's India Night enjoying their authentic Indian food.

ing Cans for Africa, and the RAs are putting together an Active Shooter presentation with the OSU Police Department.

**Booker and Stinchcomb Halls** sponsor study sessions called Hamburgers and Homework, Scones and Scholars, Breakfast and Books, and Maple Mondays. These are quite popular - they include food; how could you go wrong! They also have nights where they play and teach music, a Quilting Bee where people quilt, knit, crochet, or sew. One of the most popular hall events is Booker Stinchcomb Olympics.

**Kerr-Drummond Hall** is finishing its own version of The Biggest Loser, and in April they are having a Take My Voice program day of silence for all those groups that go without being heard in our society.

The **North Monroe Apartments** area hosted a pizza party in February, an Oscar night at Buffalo Wild Wings, and has plans for their biggest program of the year in April, Hallaplooza!

The **Zink, Allen, and North Monroe Hall Governments** are sponsoring a Locks of Love Donation Day on April 7. Donors receive a free haircut and a chance of winning a notebook computer. If they recruit a friend, they have a chance to win a second notebook computer!

**Residence Halls Association Week** will be celebrated the week of April 13-19, 2009, and RHA Banquet will kick things off on Monday, April 13 with the announcement and disbursement of the 2009 Leader/Scholar Scholarships.

## Study Abroad House becomes the newest Living Learning Community

The Study Abroad House, located on the fourth floor of Village D, will be a place for international students to have a supportive and welcoming community on campus where they can get plugged into OSU and immerse themselves in the wonderful campus culture that OSU has to offer. This community will also offer American students interested in other cultures or the study abroad opportunity to learn first-hand from international students. It is also an excellent place for returning study abroad participants who can share their experiences and educate future participants.

Interested residents might include: international students interested in improving their language skills and learning more about American culture in a safe and inclusive environment; students interested in culture, study abroad, helping international students,

showing what America has to offer, pursuing a career in ESL or international field; and Cowboy Cousins. Participants must sign a participation agreement.

“We are excited to have the Study Abroad House in Village D,” said Sheldon McDonnel, Residence Director for Village D. “This community should offer a great experience to those who have the interest in studying abroad and to get to know the culture from some of the international students who will be living on the floor.”

Please contact the Housing and Residential Life Office at 744-5592 if you have any questions, or if you would like to sign up for the Study Abroad House, please come to the Housing and Residential Life Office in Iba Hall.



Village Hall D is the new home for the Study Abroad House. Residents will be living in one bed/one bath or two bed/one bath suites.

## Living Learning Community Spotlight

Village HES (Human Environmental Sciences) and Village CASNR (College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources) sit side by side, and while the buildings are almost identical, one might think the residents of the two Living Learning Communities are very different.

However, upon closer inspection, the residents are more alike than they sometimes realize. The buildings share a hall government. There are eight RAs between the two buildings and they work together to plan programs that correspond with the six pillars of the OSU Experience.

Some of the programs that occurred this year include:

- Dive into OSU - Wellness Program that supported the health benefits of sun protection while at the pool
- Recycling Program
- Halloween Trick or Treating - Local residents trick or treated in the halls
- Western Round Up - Fall pig roast - celebration for the hard work they put into Homecoming
- Finals Week S'more Studying - invited all of the Village residents to take a study break and enjoy smores
- Broaden Their Horizons - Residents jetted around the world with each floor turned into a different geographic region with food and decorations



TO: Oklahoma State University Parents  
 FROM: Leigh Williams, President, Residence Halls Association  
 SUBJECT: **Send your student a Final Exams CARE Package**

We want to make it easy for every student to receive a much needed pick-me-up just before exams. For this spring, there are several choices of packages that you can send to your student in time for finals.

After all, a generous selection of tasty treats delivered on campus is always appreciated. Plus, you get to add a personal note sending your love and encouragement.

Ordering is a snap. Just write your note and seal it in the yellow envelope. Fill out the envelope and order form below and mail them. Your card and package will arrive just in time for exams.

**We're aiming for 100% parent participation this semester!**

The success of this program helps us to support all our student activities. All you've got to do is select the Care Package you want. Our goal is to get each and every parent to participate.

The **"Cowboy Spirit" Care Package** is the best choice for Oklahoma State University students. Our biggest and best Care Package features both wholesome and high energy snacks. Contains all the contents listed on this page—56 scrumptious treats in all. Enough to last through finals.

The **Support Basket Pack** is stuffed full of **tasty and wholesome foods** designed to bring encouragement right to your student.

- CHEEZ-IT Snack Crackers
- Nissin Ramen Noodle Soup
- Kellogg's Pop Tarts
- Nabisco Honey Maid Cinnamon Sticks
- Nature Valley Granola Bar
- Kar's Sweet & Spicy Mix
- Animal Crackers
- Pretzel Bites
- Popcorn Indiana Kettle Corn
- Nabisco Toasted Peanut Butter Crackers
- Kar's Sunflower Kernels
- Laffy Taffy by Wonka
- Toad-Ally Hanky Panky
- Seneca Fruit Gems
- Quaker Oatmeal To Go
- Dum Dum Lollipops
- Nabisco Wheat Thins
- Harmony Fruit Snacks
- Planters Salted Peanuts
- Kar's PB & J Mix
- Smile Bender Toy
- Pearson Nut Roll
- Instant Oatmeal Breakfast

The **Energy Kit** contains an assortment of **high energy success snacks** (listed below) that every student will enjoy during those endless study sessions. Packed in a colorfully designed, useful plastic pail, this package will provide "a blast of edible encouragement." After all the goodies are gone, the pail, which comes with a lid and handle, has 101 uses ranging from shower tote to coin bank.

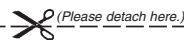
- Kellogg's Cereal Bowl - Frosted Mini Wheats
- M&M's® Peanut Chocolate Candies
- Quaker Chewy Granola Bar
- Andes Mint Chocolate Cookies
- Nabisco Mini Chips Ahoy Cookies
- Toad-Ally Chocolate Covered Pretzels
- Act II Microwave Popcorn
- Gummy Buddy Bears
- Mike & Ike Fruit Candy
- Smile Bender Toy
- M&M's® Milk Chocolate Candies
- Milk Chocolatey Peanut Chews
- Nabisco OREO Cakesters
- Jolly Rancher Stick Candy
- Dum Dum Lollipops
- Smarties Candy
- Dubble Bubble Assorted Gum Balls
- Franklin Toffee Crunch 'n Munch

The **Stress Buster** is a great way to provide quick and fun study breaks to tame exam-time tension. It includes a variety of stress busting toys such as Play Doh, Bubbles, Inflatable Beach Ball and a Rainbow Slinky which comes in a reusable plastic pail with a lid and handle.

We're hoping for your support.

P.S. Remember, you must respond by April 13th in order to guarantee delivery for spring finals.

**Final Exams Care Package Order Form - Order by APRIL 13th**



Parent's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number w/area code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's E-mail Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expected year of graduation - Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Birthday: mm / dd / yy  
 Enclosed check or money order payable to: **FINAL EXAMS SERVICE PROGRAM**  
 Credit Card:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  Amex  
 Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check which Care Package option you are ordering:**

- The "Cowboy Spirit" Care Package** ..... \$55  
*Save with the biggest & best Care Package!*
- Support Basket Pack & Stress Buster ..... \$37  
 Energy Kit & Stress Buster ..... \$32  
 Support Basket Pack ..... \$25  
 Energy Kit ..... \$20

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# Bravo!

Kristen Armstrong Myers was awarded the **Bob Huss Outstanding Graduate Student Award** at the Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers (SWACUHO) Conference held in Hot Springs, Arkansas February 22-24, 2009. Kristen is a third year Residence Director in the North Monroe Apartment area. She will be graduating in May.

Amanda Mollet, Terrance Smith, Erica Mederos, and Matt Sullivan have won two awards from **StudentAffairs.com**. The site, coupled with fan voting, chose their FERPA training video first place winner as the Most Creative Video and second place as the Most Educational Video in their 2009 Case Study Competition.

All of the students are graduate students in the College of Education's College and Student Personnel Program. Amanda, Erica, and Matt, are all graduating this May. Terrance, is completing his first year of graduate school. As first place winners each team member receives \$150, and \$100 each as second place winners.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

# lifeline

## residential life newsletter

Oklahoma State University  
Department of Housing and Residential Life  
Iba Hall Stillwater, OK 74078



HOUSING AND  
Residential Life



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## Did you know?

Did you know that students living on campus can receive **FREE computer support**? This is a wonderful service that is provided by the Residential Life Computer Support Services located in the basement of Wentz Hall. If a student has computer issues, needs assistance installing software or hardware, or just has questions about their computer, the Residence Computer Consultants (RCCs) are there to help. You won't find that kind of service off campus!

Did you know that **overnight guest rooms** were available to rent for as little as \$25 a night? You can stay on campus in Kerr-Drummond Hall for as little as \$25 a night (or upgrade to \$30 a night and get a room with a TV, microwave, and refrigerator!). Special rates are available for football weekends, graduation, Mom's Day,

and other major event weekends. Just call Guest Services at 405-744-2276 to make reservations and check on availability. Football reservations will begin on August 3, 2009.

Did you know that you can go on line to the **University Dining Services website** at <http://union.okstate.edu/uds> to check on break hours, dining unit hours, catering options, and menu options? They also have a list of meatless/vegan options, a section on sustainability, and Choose Orange options. Take a few minutes and browse the University Dining Options site.

For more great information, please check out the **Housing and Residential Life website** at [www.reslife.okstate.edu](http://www.reslife.okstate.edu). We are constantly updating the site, so please check back often. Thanks!