



# FAMILY News

## Top Priority—ACADEMICS

While the Department of Residential Life strives to provide a home away from home for its residents, it also offers an environment for learning outside of the classroom. Academics are a top priority within each and every residence hall and on-campus apartment. Working with various LSU departments and colleges, the Department of Residential Life has developed academic initiatives that support the learning endeavors of our students. Students who live on campus are provided with opportunities to participate in study groups, interact with faculty, obtain academic information, receive academic awards, and seek help from Residential Life staff.

### STUDY GROUPS

Study Groups are coordinated online and are held in each community. Research shows that students who study together are more successful than those who do



not (Making the Most of College, 2001). This is why the Department encourages residents to engage in study groups by providing space and staff support. This semester nearly 629 students are participating in study groups in our residence halls. Student staff members work with study groups to ensure they have the proper resources and support to effectively work in groups. In the Residential Colleges and Honors House, study groups are also often connected with tutoring or faculty-lead study nights.

### FACULTY FRIENDS

Because research shows that faculty to student interaction positively impacts GPAs, retention, graduation rates, and student satisfaction, faculty engage in the life of our halls in various ways (What Matters in College,

2001). Each community has Faculty Friends who build relationships with residential students throughout the year. Faculty and residents may attend meals in the dining halls together, converse at various programs and activities, or attend campus fine arts performances together.

### ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Academic resources such as "Top 10" posters and e-newsletters on a variety of academic topics are distributed to students on a regular basis throughout the year. Our communities offer a wealth of information to our students to make sure they are able to find what they need at LSU to be successful.

### ACADEMIC HONORS

The Department of Residential Life also sponsors the *Academic Excellence Award*. This award is given to students who show outstanding academic progress. Residents are nominated by faculty and staff in our communities. Recipients receive a letter from the department and an Academic Excellence lapel pin in honor of their success.

### STAFF MEMBERS

In addition to these academic initiatives, each Residential Life staff member is committed to your student's success both personally and academically. If your student is struggling with an issue or concern, please encourage him or her to contact a member of our live-in staff for help.

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### Important Dates to Remember:

12/11 – 15/06 FINALS

12/16/06 Residence Halls close at 6 PM

1/8/07 Residence Halls re-open at 9 AM

1/16/07 Spring classes begin



## Winter Break Housing

To better serve residents who need a place to stay during the winter break, the Department of Residential Life is now offering Winter Break Housing for interested residents. Whether the resident is staying in order to take a class during Winter Session or to work, they will have a place to stay from December 17, 2006 to January 9, 2007. Housing will be provided in Kirby-Smith Hall for a flat fee of \$393. Residents should note that there will be limited campus food services from December 22, 2006 to January 2, 2007 due to university closures over the holidays. Local fast food establishments and restaurants will be open.



Kirby-Smith Hall



## Housing Master Plan Progress

2006 has been a very exciting year with the continued progress on the new 410-bed Graham Residential College and the start of the Blake Hall renovation and addition.

The Graham Residential College is expected to open in January 2008 with the first two buildings featuring double semi-suite bedrooms and will be the home of the College of Engineering and College of Business Residential Colleges. We are expecting the Blake project to be completed in January 2008. The project is a complete renovation of the existing building and a new 3-story wing with 100 double semi-suite bedrooms.

Beyond the major construction underway, we have completed a host of small capitol projects to upgrade and improve the residence halls and apartments on campus including:

- Interior painting and carpet replacement in East Campus Apartments.
- Installation of new domestic hot water systems, new lights, and ceilings in Annie Boyd and Highland Halls
- Exterior painting and waterproofing of Broussard Hall and exterior painting, waterproofing, and window screen replacement for Evangeline, Highland, Annie Boyd, Louise Garig, and Grace King Hall
- Lobby improvements in Herget, McVoy, Highland, and West Laville Halls with new furniture expected before the end of the semester
- Replacement of the fire alarm system in Herget Hall with work scheduled for completion by the end of the fall semester with the commissioning of the new addressable system and removal of the existing system.

Future major construction projects include the renovations of East and West Laville Hall—to be completed by 2011.



Construction of Graham Residential College Complex

## The Value of Living ON CAMPUS

If you have visited Baton Rouge lately, you have noticed many apartment complexes that are currently under construction. With so many choices of where to live, students are sometimes tempted by the idea of moving off campus. But, before they make their move into the “real world,” they should think about what is the smart and more valuable option for them. Many students are not aware of the differences in the cost of living on campus versus living off campus. So we’ve done some research for them. Our research includes combined average accommodations from 19 local apartment complexes around LSU—

### On Campus

Accommodations:  $\$1,965.00 / 4.5 = \$437/\text{month}$

- Single, double, or triple rooms or apartments
- Bed, desk, bookshelves, closet space
- All utilities, telephone, and Internet provided
- Room Deposit is \$150
- Daily common area cleaning
- Study lounges with desks and tables
- Computer labs and copy machines close by
- Social lounges—furniture, TV, VCR, Ping Pong, pool tables
- Convenient laundry facilities in every building area (each apartment)
- Cable TV package—a great value

Food:  $\$1,284.00 / 4.5 = \$284$  per month

- A variety of meal plans to fit your schedule
- You don’t cook, clean-up, or need to shop
- Unlimited salad and food bars, unlimited beverages
- Sick trays and friends near by to bring food to you

**Total Average Cost for 2006-2007: \$6,498.00**

**Total Average Cost per month: \$722.00**

### Off Campus

Accommodations:  $\$2660 / 4.5 = \$591/\text{month}$

- Anything from studio to 1-4 bedroom
- Some places come furnished
- Utilities may include water, sewer, gas [electricity around \$100/month]
- Deposit required - around \$100–\$450
- Application fee—around \$25
- You have to sign a lease (9–12 months)
- You do ALL the cleaning
- You have to pay and manage monthly bills [including cable, phone, Internet service]

Food:  $\$300.00$  to  $\$400.00$  per month

- You shop, you cook, you clean up
- Share your food with roommates
- Food is limited as you have a budget to consider
- When you are sick, who will take care of you?
- Have to travel to buy groceries/get food

**Total Average Cost for 2006-2007: \$10,474.00**

**Total Average Cost per month: \$1,164.00**



## Residential Colleges Shine at Tiger Day 2006



Tiger Day was a huge success this year as LSU welcomed over 900 students and parents visited the university. Business, Engineering, Global Studies, Herget, Honors, and the ITRC Residential Colleges were all on hand as Residential Life staff

and faculty answered questions and discussed the amazing advantages and benefits students experience by being a part of a Residential College—small supportive academic and social communities, integrated learning experiences,

attending classes together, and daily interactions with faculty, all within a friendly and supportive community where students live, study, and grow—intellectually and personally.



## What's New? Global Studies

The Global Studies Freshman Interest Group began this fall semester in McVoy Hall, with Dr. Leonard Ray serving as Faculty Rector. Students in Global Studies share ideas, interests, and experiences in international issues, languages, and cultures. Programming activities include guest speakers, foreign film nights, and international din-

ners. Next year, Global Studies will officially become a residential college, accepting both freshmen and sophomores, and will move to LeJeune Hall as part of an exciting new community of residential colleges. And, as the trend toward globalization continues, we anticipate continued growth and increased student interest in the Global Studies program!



McVoy Hall—Current Home of Global Studies

## Residence Hall Technology Update



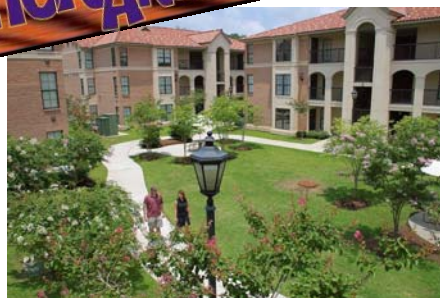
Get Connected is a network tool that helps students to setup their LSU network connection. This program checks for and installs Microsoft Service Pack 2, Symantec Anti-virus, Spybot, and the Microsoft Network Access Protection client. This fall

semester was the first semester that this software was offered to LSU Residence Hall students to keep their PCs and laptops clean of viruses and updated. All wireless technology access points were updated this semester for more efficiency.

## Campus Housing Contract Renewal 2007

It is almost time for residents to decide where they will live for the next academic school year. The Department of Residential Life will hold its annual renewal process in March 2007. Campus Housing Contract Renewal is a two week period in which residents can go online and reserve a space on campus in an on-campus apartment or residence hall. Available rooms for East Cam-

pus Apartments or West Campus Apartments will be up for grabs from March 12—March 14. Available rooms within a residence hall will be up for grabs from March 19—March 22. A detailed process guide will go out to all residents in February. More information about Campus Housing Contract Renewal will also be posted soon on the housing website @ [www.lsu.edu/housing](http://www.lsu.edu/housing).



East Campus Apartments

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Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Phone: 225/578-8663

Fax: 225/578-5576

E-mail: [reslife@lsu.edu](mailto:reslife@lsu.edu)

[www.lsu.edu/housing](http://www.lsu.edu/housing)

### *Our Vision...*

*Develop campus living communities that support and enhance the educational mission of the university and promote the student's intellectual and personal development through facilities, programs, activities, and services that reflect the highest standards of college housing organizations internationally.*

### *Our Mission...*

*Provide learning communities by developing programs that promote academic success and personal development and providing attractive, clean, comfortable, and safe facilities that meet the needs of the campus community.*



## **Congratulations RHA—Our Student Leaders**

LSU RHA (Residence Hall Association) attended the SWACURH (Southwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Hall) Conference in Lubbock, TX on the weekend of November 11, 2006. During this regional conference, RHA won the regional SALT Award for 2006. SALT is the Student Award for Leadership Training. The SALT Award is awarded to student leadership training programs in the residence halls. This award is cosponsored by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), and is selected, regionally, by the voting membership of SWACURH. LSU RHA submitted a bid for this award for their fall RHA/Community Council Training, and was selected as the recipient over 3 other schools (Texas Tech, Texas A&M, and University of Texas –Austin).

LSU RHA will now represent the SWACURH region at NACURH (National Association of College and University Residence Halls, Inc.). The National Board of Directors for NACURH and the voting membership will select the winning bid at their semi-annual meeting in January 2007.

The LSU RHA Delegation also won MOST SPIRITED LARGE SCHOOL. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight win for LSU at SWACURH for most spirited delegation. The students are definitely proud to be LSU Tigers... and proud to be at the conference.

Of the 60 presentations given at the conference, from schools from all around the region, LSU took home TWO top program honors. The LSU RHA Delegation presented 5 sessions at the conference. The winning presentations were:

- “Going Pro for Presidents”

Presenters: David Dessauer, RHA President and K.D. Linkous, RHA Advisor

The session examined the relationship of student representation with professional administrators and focused on understanding both sides of campus leadership in order to better communicate and provide a better leadership experiences for all stakeholders involved.

- “Drugopoly”

Presenters: Carl Clement, Matthew Chivleatto, Logan Messina, Katrina Bell, Timothy Gonzales

The session was an interactive game where participants had to make choices and take chances in order to explore the possible outcomes of illegal on-campus drug activity.



2006 RHA Delegation

**Thank you for reading!**

