Greetings parents and guardians! I hope that this letter finds you doing well, and I wish you and yours a happy 2015. Around this time of the year our residents begin to think about the next academic year and where they might want to live. Each spring, we provide our current residents with the opportunity to return to on-campus housing the following year. The steps to returning to on-campus housing are done through a process called room selection, which you will read more about inside this newsletter. We have unique apartment-style residence halls that are available to returning residents. Our apartment-style halls offer more flexibility for our returning residents, but also offer the support from live-in staff. Many returning residents have stated that they enjoy the larger spaces, privacy and the convenience of their own living room and kitchen. Residents will still have many opportunities to participate in staff-organized activities and programs offered to all of our students. Apartment-style halls are fully furnished, which is a nice perk. I encourage you as the parent or guardian to learn more about apartment-style residence halls on our website and to read more about room selection inside this newsletter.

We hope that you will consider having a conversation with your student about his or her living situation plans for next year. As always, feel free to reach out to our office if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Yours in service,

Rick Moreci
Director, Housing Services
Returning To On-Campus Housing at DePaul University

Room selection, an event that occurs every spring, is a process for current residents who are interested in returning to on-campus housing for the next academic year.

This year’s room selection is quickly approaching and the time has arrived for your student to think about where he or she will be living next year.

The process is fairly simple. Before your student can attend room selection, he or she must complete an online housing agreement via campus connect. Priority will be given to students with agreements completed by March 31, 2015. It should be noted, unlike incoming first-year students, returning residents do not need to make a prepayment or state preferences on the agreement.

During the first week in April, residents who completed an agreement will receive a room selection packet and appointment time in their campus mailbox.

Because apartment-style options vary greatly, students will have the opportunity during room selection to meet with Housing Services staff. This appointment includes talking through options and choosing a unit for 2015-2016, as well as choosing roommates (if applicable) and a dining plan. It is important to note that once they are assigned to a unit at room selection, they are responsible for cancellation fees, should they choose to cancel.

If a student cannot make his or her appointment time, we do have a proxy option available (more details will be sent to students in their room selection packets). Please encourage your student to learn more about his or her options by visiting our website and browsing through our residence halls.

To learn more about room selection please visit: http://go.depaul.edu/roomsel

ROOM SELECTION DATES:

Complete a 2015-2016 Housing Agreement: March 1 - 31, 2015
Check Campus Mailbox for Information: Week of April 6, 2015
University Center Tour (optional): Friday, April 10, 2015
University Center Room Selection: Tuesday, April 14, 2015
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lincoln Park Open House (optional): Wednesday, April 15, 2015
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Lincoln Park Room Selection: April 21 - 23, 2015
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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For more dates, visit offices.depaul.edu/housing and click on Key Dates.
Housing Services Happenings

While the majority of our residents left on-campus housing during winter break, many of our professional and student staff were still on campus and hard at work. During winter break, Housing Services and Facility Operations staff completed a number of residence hall projects above the normal maintenance.

- Water bottle refill stations were installed in McCabe, Corcoran, Seton, Sanctuary, University, Clifton-Fullerton, Munroe and Belden-Racine Halls.
- Motion sensor detectors that turn off lights when spaces are empty were installed in laundry rooms and community kitchen lounges across campus.
- New carpeting was placed in Munroe Hall’s elevator lobby and behind the front desk area.
- New technology lounges were installed in McCabe Hall and Belden-Racine Hall.

Student Testimonials

Last year at room selection, we surveyed returning residents as they signed up for apartment-style on-campus housing. We asked the question: why did you decide to return to campus housing? Below is a sampling of what they had to say:

- “I love the community of being on-campus”
- “I’m excited about Whole Foods!”
- “My mom is making me”
- “Convenience!”
- “Beautiful units”
- “I enjoy being close to classes and campus activities”
- “I’m excited to have an apartment-style”
- “I’m living with my best friend”
- “I heart DePaul too much!”

Whatever the reason, we hope our residents are happy with their on-campus living decision thus far and we look forward to welcoming returning residents next year.

FAQ CORNER

Q: My student is interested in returning to on-campus housing. Can he request specific roommates for next year?

A: Absolutely! During their room selection appointment, residents come in-person to sign up for an apartment-style unit, meal plan and to choose roommates. DePaul has many unique housing options and it is helpful for students to meet with housing staff to review options and answer questions. Each roommate will need to submit a housing agreement. Please know it is not required to have roommates to participate in room selection and due to space restraints, preferences are not guaranteed.
Living on-campus can lead to endless opportunities within the DePaul community from campus employment to lifelong friendships, but when Housing Services learned that on-campus housing played a role in a recent engagement of two former residents we just had to share. We caught up with the two graduates, Brandon and Daisy, and heard about how DePaul played a role in their relationship. Back in 2010, both were actively involved in numerous ways with DePaul, from service trips to scholar programs. Brandon was majoring in Public Relations and Advertising and Daisy was majoring in Psychology. Daisy lived in Clifton-Fullerton Hall and Sanctuary Townhomes. Brandon commuted until he landed a position as a facilities assistant and lived in Sanctuary Hall as a resident and student employee. Daisy and Brandon were able to fall in love amidst it all right here on campus. "With the amount of activities that we were involved in, proximity was a critical convenience during our final year at Depaul," stated Daisy. "...we were growing in our respective leadership roles, but also in our affection and love for each other." Daisy continued, "We were always able to find a centralized and safe place to share life, beliefs, values and culture often over a [...] bite, both in the Loop and in Lincoln Park campuses. Ah, the simpler days."

As the story continues, this past August Brandon surprised Daisy in one of the iconic DePaul landmarks - St. Vincent’s Circle - and asked Daisy to marry him. She said yes and Daisy’s family rushed out of a nearby campus building to congratulate the newly-engaged couple. They plan to marry in August 2015 and we hope to see them back on-campus when they want to stroll down memory lane!