FIT RESIDENTIAL LIFE OFFICE

ON-CAMPUS

RESIDENTIAL LIFE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2011

RESIDENTIAL LIFE OFFICE

Alumni Hall
(212) 217-3900
Kaufman Hall
(212) 217-3930
http://www.fitnyc.edu/residentiallife

RESIDENT COUNSELORS:

Alumni Hall
Joshua Wilkin
joshua _wilkin@fitnyc.edu

Co-ed Hall
Kyle Zack
kyle_zack@fitnyc.edu

Nagler Hall
Vivian Chen
vivian_chen@fitnyc.edu

Kaufman Hall
Floors 1W & 2-8
Karoline Stankiewicz
karoline_stankiewicz@fitnyc.edu

Floors 1E & 9-15
Danielle Clemmer
danielle_clemmer@fitnyc.edu

Joseph Gaschen,
Assistant Director of Operations

Gabrielle Arthurton-Crumb,
Assistant Director of Judicial Affairs

Ann Marie Grappo, Director

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WELCOME!

Residential Life would like to welcome you to a wonderful new academic year at FIT! We encourage you to get involved in your community. This is your home away from home; please take the opportunity to make it safe and friendly. The Residential Life staff, Resident Assistants (RA), Building/Residence Hall Managers (BM/RHM), and Resident Counselors (RC) are here to help you succeed not only academically, but with your personal growth and development, so do not hesitate to let us know how we can help YOU!

Best of luck this year!

WANTED
OVERNIGHT VISITATION

HOW DO I GET IT!?

MAKE SURE YOU COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS BELOW

NEW STUDENTS

1. Essentials Course: www.mystudentbody.com
2. Floor Meeting: 8/21 @ 9pm (on your floor)
3. Residential Life: Living in NYC: 8/23, 1:45-4:30
   (location will be given by your Student Ambassador during Orientation)
4. College 101 Theatre: 8/23, 1:45-4:30
   (location will be given by your Student Ambassador during Orientation)
5. Survey: Will be emailed to your FIT email after orientation.

RETURNING STUDENTS

1. Essentials Course: www.mystudentbody.com
2. Fill out the policy questionnaire sent to your FIT email.

Check the Residential life website for detailed instructions: www.fitnyc.edu/residentiallife

Campus Resources

COUNSELING CENTER
Location: A212B
Phone: (212) 217-4260
Fax: (212) 217-4261

FOOD SERVICES
Aramark
Location: A Building Ground Level
Phone: (212) 217-5770

HEALTH INFORMATION
Health Services
Location: A-402
Phone: (212) 217-4190

MAINTENANCE
Building & Grounds
Phone: (212) 217-4440

SECURITY
Location: D-442
Phone: (212) 217-7777

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
FIT-ABLE OFFICE - Programs and services for students with disabilities
Location: A-570
Phone: (212) 217-4090

TUTORING CENTER
Academic Skills Tutoring Center
Location: A-608B
Phone: (212) 217-4080
Fax: (212) 217-4081

CABLE/INTERNET– Problems?
Phone: (212) 217-4357

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

It's almost time. You've been to freshman orientation. You've contacted your new roommate on Facebook. You've decided who will bring the TV, who will bring the mini-fridge. You've begun to pack. You've started the round of goodbyes with high school friends. In only a few short weeks you will be entering a new chapter in your life. You're excited. You're a little scared. You are about to start your freshman year of college.

Make it Happen or Let it Happen
Making the most of your college experience means taking charge of it. It's your four years. The decisions you make early on can establish the momentum for social and academic success. I've watched how my most capable and happiest students negotiate the important first few weeks and they do seem to have a few things in common. Here are some things to consider:

Major and Course Selections
Choose a preliminary major. Yes, you can change your mind. More than 80 percent of students do, at least once. But you've got to start somewhere. Do you have many interests? Choose the major with the most rigid requirements as your starting point. It's much easier to switch from engineering to English, for example, than the other way around. Majors that involve many science and math courses tend to require courses in sequence. Changing into a major in the sciences later than the second semester of the freshman year often means adding a semester or two.
Make an appointment with your advisor. This person is your new best friend. He or she is there to guide you through the mysteries of required courses, prerequisites, and course selections. Most take that job very seriously and want to help. If your advisor seems uninterested or clueless, talk to the dean of your school about making a switch.
Work with your advisor to make a preliminary game plan for the whole 4 years. What are the graduation requirements for your major? What would each year ideally look like? Balance "hard" classes with the not so hard. Make sure to build in time for extracurricular activities and summer internships.
Do not believe what other students tell you about what is required. Do not go it alone. Talk to and believe your advisor and write it down. Requirements are different for different majors and requirements often change from graduating year to graduating year. You don't want to get to the last semester and find out that, oops, you haven't done the prerequisite for the last course. Keeping a written record protects you if your advisor moves on and a new advisor disagrees with your original plan.

Academics: How To Do Your Best
Consider your course work as your full time job. Like any job, it will take at least 40 hours a week with some overtime. Get a calendar and map out a daily schedule of your "job." A good rule of thumb is two hours of study for every hour of class. (This is college, not high school. Studying means going over material, doing reading, and thinking hard about what you are learning, not just churning out homework assignments.) Do you have blank spaces between classes? Make a choice whether those slots should be study time or whether you would rather do studying at night. Whichever you choose, write it down and stick to it for at least two weeks to see if it works for you.
Show up to class! At many colleges, teachers leave it up to you to be responsible for showing up. It's a freeing feeling. It can also be a trap. Just because you don't have to go doesn't mean you shouldn't. Exams and papers will be based on what is presented in class as well as what you read.
Buy the book and read it! Yes those books are ridiculously expensive! But they are part of your education. Read assigned material. Think about it. Write down your questions. Use class time and teacher office hours to get those questions answered.
Be a consumer. Figure it out for yourself. What are you and your parents actually paying for each hour of class time? It can cost anywhere from $50 to $150 per class (depending on the total yearly cost for your school). It's a lot of money. Probably you or your parents worked hard for it. When you are tempted to skip class, remind yourself that you might as well be burning up the money. Instead, work hard to get every penny's worth. Listen to professors. Take notes. Get those questions answered. You've paid for it.

Don't kid yourself. If you find you are having trouble with a subject, get help right away. It's almost impossible to turn a failing grade around with the final exam or a fantastic final paper. As soon as you get less than a solid B average in a class, make an appointment and ask your professor how you can do better.

Writing, writing, writing
Papers are not just an exercise to make you miserable. They provide valuable practice in gathering information, organizing it, and presenting your original thinking about it. If you developed solid writing skills in high school, good for you. You can skip this part. But most students do need some help to bring their writing up to college standards. Fortunately, most colleges now have writing centers staffed by either peer or professional tutors who are there to help. Use it.
Do what is asked. Read the directions for a paper carefully. It doesn't matter how brilliant your answer is if it doesn't answer the question that was asked. If you have an idea for a different approach, talk to your professor first.
Neatness, spelling and grammar count. Your papers are a presentation of yourself. Taking the care to present yourself well often can make a difference if the content of your paper is hovering between two grades.

Relationships with Professors
Get to know your teachers. Most really are there to help. Introduce yourself. Participate in class. Go to office hours. An interested, engaged student not only gets more out of class but also develops relationships with professors who can help them on their way.
Focus on getting to know tenured faculty. More and more schools are hiring "adjunct professors" to teach some courses. Adjuncts are qualified professionals in their fields who work very part time for the school, usually just teaching a course or two. Some adjuncts, for reasons of their own, find the time to meet with students and develop relationships beyond the classroom even though they are paid only to teach. Most don't. Tenured faculty, on the other hand, have a long-term commitment to the school. They are paid to be available as well as to teach their classes. They are likely still to be around when you get to your senior year and need recommendations.
Manners do count. Show up on time for class and appointments. Call if you can't make an appointment. Say please and thank you. A little respect goes a very long way.
Be honest. Professors have heard it all before. The dog ate it. My grandmother, dog, uncle, died. My best friend, roommate, sister, went into crisis last night. Please. If the paper was too challenging, if you were confused, or if you fell asleep, meet with your teacher, fess up, and work out a plan for getting your work done. It's not fair to pull on another's sympathy for a tragedy that isn't true. On the other hand, if there really are problems at home and you want to finish out the semester respectably, most teachers will work hard to help you. Professors, and your advisor, usually know what options are available to you and will do what they can.

The Other 123 Hours a Week
There are 168 hours in every week. Typically, a college student spends 15 hours in class and another 20 to 30 in study. Subtract an other 56 hours for sleeping (averaging 8 hours a night which most people don't get but should). That leaves 67 hours a week to be on a team, participate in a student organization, hang out with friends, eat, and party. All of those things are just as important as going to classes. Make sure you give your social life the time and attention it deserves or you will end up burnt out, depressed, and generally miserable.

Students who graduate with honors, who get the awards, and who get into the graduate schools of their choice are the students who take themselves seriously, at least some of the time. They get to know some of their teachers and carefully build a college career that will get them where they want to go. They also know how important it is to balance schoolwork with other experiences. They use their social time to make lifelong friendships and to explore relationships. It really is a full-time job. You can do it. Go to school with a sense of purpose and enthusiasm. You can make college what you want it to be.
http://psychcentral.com/lib/2007/making-the-most-of-your-freshman-year-of-college/all/1/

GETTING ALONG WITH YOUR COLLEGE ROOMMATE

She was a nightmare! My first roommate and I could not have been more different had some sort of incompatibility test matched us. To her, the floor was a substitute for a closet, studies were something to be ignored, and the only thing worth majoring in was boys — lots of them. Her music was louder, her taste in decorations gaudier, and her interests far more rebellious than my own. I was aghast. I was overwhelmed. I was — jealous. Introverted and studious, I both envied and feared the lifestyle that this creature from the suburbs of New York City thrust upon me because she was there — in my room — and therefore in my life.

I wish I could report that we worked out a beautiful friendship. We didn't. Equally convinced that the other was wrong-headed about everything, we barely tolerated each other until the end of the semester when I, with a sigh of relief, moved down the hall to live with someone who didn't challenge my values and activate my fears. With the hindsight of middle age, I now know that it was a loss for both of us. I wish we had had the skills to grow with each other.

In spite of the best efforts of colleges these days to match roommates by interests and habits, it is a better than even chance that roomies won't be instant friends. Even if both are non-smoking vegan tree huggers (or beer-loving TV-watching jocks), it's amazing just how different people with the same external attributes can be. It requires tolerance, communication skills, and a willingness, even an eagerness, to learn about another person to make these arbitrary roommate assignments begin to work.

Even in the best of circumstances, it's a challenge. For some students, especially those who never before have had to share a room or negotiate when the lights would go out, it's one of the most difficult adjustments that college life requires. Unless a young person has had some "rehearsals" by sharing a tent at camp for a week or two, this is the first time he or she has to sustain tolerance for someone outside the family for any length of time.

I tell my own kids that figuring out what your roommate is about and finding ways to live together can be one of the most important learning experiences that college provides. Done well, the experience is an exercise in human relations that can lead to lifelong friendship or, at the very least, lifelong skills in getting along.

I tell them to think about sharing a room as a cross-cultural experience. Your roommate will quite probably have different ideas about when to get up, when to go to sleep, and what is appropriate when and where. He or she will have different tastes in music, videos, food, clothing, and friends. Habits about order, studies, money, and use of the phone and computer are likely to differ. In addition to the obvious disparities, there will be a hundred little ways that this person will both fascinate and appall. Don't worry — you are equally fascinating and appalling!

Tips for Getting Along with a Roommate

Find ways to admire and appreciate this person. This is the first move toward getting along. Get beyond appearances. There isn't a person on this earth who doesn't have something interesting about them. Figure out what it is and observe it, ask about it, talk about it. People respond well to people who see something admirable in them.

Assume good will. The thing you are convinced the other person is doing specifically to annoy you may well be just a habit or a holdover from the way things are in his or her home. Before you leap to the conclusion that your roomie is out to get you by blasting heavy metal during study hours, ask if this is the way he or she always studies. It just might be the case!

Communicate. No one can read minds. If you don't like your roommate to borrow your shampoo, CDs, or blank diskettes, say something. Simmering in resentment will only make it more difficult to get along. Conversely, you can't read your roommate's mind. You don't know if it's all right to borrow things unless you ask. You don't want to create resentment on their part, either. Communicate in a friendly way. Snapping at people invites them to snap back even harder. "What the f— are you doing with my calculator?" invites a fight. Instead, try something like, "Maybe you don't realize that I'm kind of particular about people using my stuff. I'd really appreciate it if you wouldn't borrow my calculator without asking."

Communicate about things that interest you. People get interested in people who are interesting. If you limit your conversation to who gets to use the phone first, you won't get very far in getting to know your roomie. Lose your shyness. This is the person who hears you snore and sees you first thing in the morning. Better balance that with some sharing about movies, music, or harmless gossip.

Negotiate. Somewhere along the line, you've already learned how to state a problem, brainstorm alternatives, and choose a solution (even if it was in your international relations class). Got a problem? Call a meeting when neither of you is hungry, tired, or furious and see if you can work it out. Remember, you've got to be reasonable if you want the other person to listen to reason.

Have fun with the situation. Positive energy invites more of the same. Having a roommate isn't a problem. It's an opportunity to learn about yourself and, perhaps, to make a friend.

http://psychcentral.com/lib/2006/getting-along-with-your-college-roommate/

Resident Appreciation Events

Make note of the upcoming resident appreciation events, sponsored by residential life that will be taking place in your hall!

Alumni Hall
9/13 at 6PM in the Alumni Workroom

Coed Hall
9/20 at 7PM in the Coed Basement

Kaufman Hall
9/8 at 8PM in the Kaufman Lobby

Nagler Hall
9/12 at 9:30PM in the Nagler Lobby

Lockout Procedure

Please note the following should you be locked out of your room:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Go to the Residential Life Office (Kaufman or Alumni Hall) 1st Floor

$5.00 charge applied to the FIT resident's account

ALL OTHER TIMES: Including Weekends & Holidays

Ask the Security Guard at the desk to call the Lock-Out RA

Wait in the Lobby for the Lock-Out RA to arrive

The following charges apply when asking to be keyed in to your room:

NO LOCK OUTS BETWEEN 5:00pm AND 6:00pm

6:00pm-12:00am Midnight: $10.00 charge applied to the FIT resident's account

12:00am Midnight-9:00am: $25.00 charge applied to the FIT resident's account

Make payment online with a credit card through the Secure Area in the Online Information System (or in person in the Bursar's Office) – B127

Proof of payment should be in the form of a Bursar's receipt or a print out of the student's account summary page.

Key Replacement

Kaufman Hall: residents will now be given a separate access card to their room. Your ID will no longer be your access card.

NO KEYS will be made between midnight & 9AM. Should a resident need access to their room they can contact the Lockout RA for a lockout.

Pay the Bursar Office (B-127) $1.00 and get receipt of payment.

Take your receipt to Security (D-442) OR Kaufman security office to have your key replaced.

Bring your student I.D.

Kaufman hall residents, during evening, weekends, & holidays (between 9am and midnight only) residents must contact the Building Manager/Residence Hall Manager . Resident will be given an approval slip to be taken to security, and charges will be posted to the student's account.

27th street residents, during evenings, weekends/holidays (between 9am and midnight only) residents must contact the Building Manager/Residence Hall Manager who will lend the resident a copy of the key if available until a new key can be made. The following procedure applies:

- Bring a $5.00 deposit and the appropriate lock out fee to the Residential Life office during business hours. When the office is closed, contact the Security desk in your lobby.
- You will be given a temporary key if one is available (27th Street).
- Have a new key made following the procedure listed above.

Return the temporary key to the Residential Life office during business hours to receive your $5.00 deposit

HIGH LINE

The High Line is located on Manhattan's West Side. The High Line is an elevated park. It features an integrated landscape combining meandering concrete pathways with naturalistic plantings. Fixed and movable seating, lighting, and special features are also included in the park. It currently runs from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to West 34th Street, between 10th & 11th Avenues. Section 1 of the High Line, which opened to the public on June 9, 2009, runs from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street. Section 2, between West 20th and West 30th Streets, opened June 8, 2011.

For park information, please call the High Line Information Line: **(212) 500-6035**

Hours

The High Line is open from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM daily. Last entrance to the park is at 10:45 PM.

Access

Access to the High Line is possible via any of the access points listed below. The High Line is fully wheelchair accessible.

- Gansevoort Street
- 14th Street (elevator access)
- 16th Street (elevator access)
- 18th Street
- 20th Street
- 23rd Street
- 26th Street
- 28th Street
- 30th Street (elevator access)

Weekly @ the High Line

Tuesdays: Stargazing. At dusk, weather permitting.

Thursdays: Arriba! Music and Dance. 7pm, under The Standard.

Saturdays: Walking Tour. 11am,Gansevoort Plaza.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN NYC

Riverside Park Shakespeare
Hudson Warehouse, North Patio of Soldiers' & Sailors Monument, W. 89th Street & Riverside Park—6:30PM
Thursday – Sunday
Aug 4 – 28: Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare)

Today Show Concert Series
Rockefeller Plaza @49th St &5th/6thAve—7-10AM
Aug 26: Trai
Sept 2: Lenny Kravitz

Charlie Parker Jazz Festival – 3PM
- Aug 27: Marcus Garvey Park
- Aug 28: Tompkins Square Park

Good Morning America Concert Series
Central Park, Rumsey Playfield, 5th Ave & 72nd St—7-10AM
Aug 26: TBA
Sept 2: Mary Blige

Piano in the Park ……212-768-4242
Upper Terrace Bryant Park, 42nd St, 5th & 6th Ave
Monday – Friday May 16 – Oct 14, 12:30-2:30
Except 2-4PM: July 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug 4, Aug 11

After Work Music…….6PM…….212-768-4242
Bryant Park, 42nd St & 6th Ave, Fountain Terrace
Wednesday, June 1 – Aug 31

Bryant Park Accordion……..212-768-4242
Monday – Friday, May 16 – Sept 30, 12:30-2:30

Blues & BBQ Festival…… Aug 21……..2-9PM
Hudson River Park - West Side Highway/13th Street - Pier 54
Best Blues bands from across the country, featuring Marquise Knox, Diana Braithwaite & Chris Whiteley, Walter Trout, Shakura S'Aida, Bonerama

Central Park Film Festival
Enter Central Park at 72nd Street on Fifth Avenue or Central Park West
Movies begin at 8 p.m. on the landscape north of Sheep Meadow behind the cafe (mid-park at 69th Street) in Central Park. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 23: *El Cantante* (2006)
Wednesday, August 24: *Bird* (1988)
Thursday, August 25: *Dreamgirls* (2006)
Friday, August 26: *Shine a Light* (2008)
Saturday, August 27: Viewer's Choice Night

Brooklyn Bridge Movies With a View
Harbor View Lawn at Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Music begins at 6 p.m. and the movies will start at sundown (about 8-8:30 p.m.)
Thursday, August 26
Rosemary's Baby
Short: *Wisdom Teeth* by Don Hertzfeldt
DJ: Ming (of Ming & FS)

US Open Tennis Championships 2011- August 29 to September 11, 2011

San Gennaro Festival in Little Italy
The 85th Annual Feast of San Gennaro - September 15-25, 2011

Harmony on the Hudson……Noon-6PM
Wagner Park, BPC…….. Sunday, Sept 25
Folk (Tom Chapin & Friends), Jose Conde (Afro-Cuban), Big Band & Soul (Hazmat Modine), Rope Jumping, Double Dutch Diva

http://www3.fitnyc.edu/eap/SummerFun2011FIT.pdf
http://gonyc.about.com/od/planyourtriptonyc/

Get Involved With RHCC!

RHCC (Residence Hall Community Council) is a student run organization that enriches the lives of its members as well as the greater FIT community. RHCC's goal is to enhance the student experience by acting as a liaison between residents and the Residential Life Department as well as creating fun and creative programs for all students to enjoy. RHCC hosts such events as the Annual Block Party - where the entire student body enjoys rides, street vendors, prizes and more! RHCC is open to all students. Meetings are once a month, **Wednesdays at 10pm.** Come voice your questions, comments and concerns about your campus. The schedule will be available soon. And don't forget to keep an eye out for our fun filled events!

Feel free to Email RHCC's Executive Board at: **RHCC_club@fitnyc.edu** or friend us on Facebook: **Residence-Hall Community-Council** to learn how to get involved and ask any questions.