



October, 2007 Edition

Housing Hotline

A bulletin about people, events, and initiatives in University Housing

KUDOS

Housing Staff Member Contributes to a Nobel Peace Prize-Winning Report

Our student residents can now benefit from the advice of a scientist involved in the preparation of a Nobel Peace Prize-winning report on climate change. This year, the prize is shared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change. Martha Kirpes, Coordinator of Residence Hall Academic Advising in Residence Education, was one of the thousands of scientists and officials from over 100 countries that



collaborated on the report by the IPCC. Martha worked as a volunteer with lead author, Terry Root (who was at the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the time) to write a chapter about the impact of climate change on wildlife in Asia. Specifically, Martha contributed information about tigers in Bangladesh and greater flamingo colonies, floricans (birds which are cousins to the bustard), wild asses and green leaf warblers in India. The report (Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. 2001. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press) is available at:

http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/wg2/index.htm

Martha says, "I'm very willing to parlay students' interest in climate change and current news into workshops, discussions, collaborations with and across units about the wonderful outcomes of following one's passions, how networks of people engaged in civil society make a difference; how this work was done across differences of intellectual fields, methodologies, locations, political boundaries, etc."

Certification Earned

After completing a long course of study, Sara Schwartz in Marketing and Conference Services has passed a comprehensive exam to become a Certified Meeting Professional. The certification is conferred by the Convention Industry Council, an organization designed to increase professionalism and raise industry standards in meeting management as well as to increase the value of meeting management practitioners to their employers and clients. Sara, one of only nine University of Michigan employees holding the certification, will now be able to share new applications in the industry and increased knowledge of industry norms and practices with her colleagues in University Housing.

Big House Big Heart

In the September edition of the *Housing Hotline* we told you about an opportunity to participate in The Big House Big Heart 5K run and shorter fun run, which benefited the University of Michigan Program for Neurology Research & Discovery and the C. S. Mott Children's Hospital and



Women's Hospital. Laurel Park from the Housing Research Office was one of over 3000 participants on September 30

who enjoyed the scenic course, starting at the north end of Michigan Stadium, winding through central campus, and finishing at the 50-yard line inside the stadium. In fact, Laurel was the first female runner to cross the finish line, with a time of 17:45. Way to go, Laurel!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Manager Named for Hill Dining Center

Effective October 1, Tom Smith has been named General Manager for the new Hill Dining Center, currently under construction. Tom comes to University Housing from Sodexo, a food and facilities management company serving many colleges and universities in Michigan and elsewhere. Most recently, Tom was a district manager in southeast Michigan. Prior to that, he worked for Sodexo at Lake Superior State College in Sault St. Marie. Until Tom is able to move into his office at the dining new facility, he will be working from the Nutrition Information Office in Alice Lloyd.



The Hill Dining Center, attached to Mosher-Jordan Hall with a view of Palmer Field, will feature marketplace styling with seating for 700, as well as a food emporium on the top floor with café-style seating for an additional 70. The facility is scheduled to open along with the renovated Mosher-Jordan building in 2008.

Thanks go to the search committee for the General Manager position, who brought three strong candidates to campus. The committee members were Buzz Cummings, Hailli Ridsdale, Mimi Suntheimer (Chair) and Carol Welch from Residential Dining Services; Joe Kennedy from Facilities; Kelly Burns from the Housing Information Technology Office (HITO); and Trey Boynton from Residence Education.

DPS Releases 2007–2008 Campus Safety Handbook

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has announced the release of the 2007–2008 edition of the University of Michigan Campus Safety Handbook. The handbook is an excellent resource for issues of campus safety, including emergency services, safety tips, University policies and state laws, and additional support services. It also states statistics of reported crime on the Ann Arbor campus and in adjoining properties.



The handbook, as well as other safety and security information, is available electronically at the DPS Web site, <http://www.umich.edu/~safety>. Hard copies are available from various campus locations, including Housing Security in 1500 Student Activities Building and any DPS neighborhood office. Questions may be directed to 734-763-3434.

NEWS & NOTES

Benefits Brown Bag

Earlier this month, TEAM held a Brown Bag session for University Housing employees to help them understand the many recent changes in health care plans at UM. Christina Miller, Senior Benefits Specialist in the University's Benefits Administration, spoke with 30 or so members of Housing staff about this important topic. The feedback from the attendees was very positive and a second session was scheduled a short time later to accommodate additional staff.

Visit the Benefits Office Web site at: <http://www.umich.edu/~benefits/> for more information about health care plans.

Together Everyone Achieves More



Don't be Tricked — On-Campus Housing is a Treat!

ResRep, the Residence Hall Repertory Theater, acted out a short, original script in the residence hall dining halls this month. It was an often humorous production with a serious message for students: consider carefully before you decide to move off campus. The audience members laughed and cringed as they watched the student actors portray the story of a pair of roommates suffering through their experience in "the off-campus apartment from hell!" It was a "horrifyingly" entertaining and informative show for the Halloween season.



NEWS & NOTES

Gift to the Residential College will Benefit East Quad

Forty years ago, a space in East Quad was retrofitted to accommodate a theater for the newly formed Residential College (RC), today one of nine Michigan Learning Communities (MLCs) housed in our residence halls. The RC is four-year undergraduate liberal arts program in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), whose first- and second-year participants live and learn in East Quad.

The theater, which is presently the only small-scale theater left on central campus, is in frequent use today for classes, student productions, community productions and public readings. It will soon be able to provide an even better venue, thanks to a gift of \$1 million from a UM alumnus, Kenneth Keene (AM '48), and his wife, Janet. They are making the gift to the RC for renovation of the theater

in support of LSA.

University Housing, which has been responsible for maintenance of the theater over the years, will work closely with the RC throughout the planning and execution of the renovation. The renamed Keene Theater will feature state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems, an upgraded entrance and backstage area, and new décor consistent with the age and historic character of East Quad, which was built in the 1940s.



MCSP Fulfills its Mission

The mission of the Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP), one of our Michigan Learning Communities, expresses the program's emphasis on

“deep learning, engaged community, meaningful civic engagement/community service learning and intercultural understanding and dialogue.” It's clear that students in the program take those words seriously: over three weekends this fall, 16 of them are participating in a Habitat for Humanity project in the greater Jackson, MI area. They're working alongside a family who is earning “sweat



equity” in a new home by helping to build it. The students are joining the family members in tasks such as landscaping; painting; and the installation of drywall, windows and doors. Most recently, the student volunteers leveled areas for the driveway and walk, dug postholes for a fence and painted interior walls.

MCSP, housed in Couzens Hall, is a living-learning community that brings together students and faculty who have a commitment to community service, social justice, and academic study. For more about MCSP's philosophy and activities, please visit the program's Web site at

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mcs/index.htm>.



October is National Ergonomics Month

Is there a healthier way to sit at your computer, lift something at the loading dock or reach for something in the dining hall kitchen?



There are dozens of ways you can make the work you do in University Housing easier on your body. Go to the Michigan Healthy Community's Ergonomics Web site for the latest information. If you don't have access to a computer, contact Patrice Berlinksi, Housing's own Occupational Safety and Environmental Health representative, at 763-5641 for more information.

Don't Leave Valuables in Your Car

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) received several reports of thefts from cars parked in UM parking structures and lots earlier this term. To protect your property, do not leave valuables in your vehicle (particularly in view), lock all vehicle doors and take your keys with you when leaving the vehicle — even for just a few minutes. DPS asks that you immediately call 911 from a campus phone or 734-763-1131 from a cell phone if you see suspicious activity around parked vehicles. Also, if you have information about any of the reported thefts, please contact the DPS Criminal Investigations Unit at 734-764-8559 or the Confidential Tip Line at 800-863-1355. Security bulletins and crime alerts are available on the DPS Web site at www.umich.edu/~safety.