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Abeer Mustafa, the new director of University Housing, began in June.

ABEER MUSTAFA IS NOT AFRAID OF MAKING A BIG DECISION.

Soon after the new executive director of University Housing started in June, she decided to change the students’ residence hall move-in from multiple days to a single day. Could all that controlled chaos be confined to one 24-hour period? Spreading out the process over several days had been a long-standing practice, but Mustafa knew there were cost savings by shortening the process, plus new students would have fewer days in the residence halls with essentially nothing to do.

It took careful scheduling, weeks of planning, a huge turnout of staff and student volunteers, and perhaps some mild-for-August temperatures, but the August 18 move-in was a success.

“We had some early-morning congestion, but after that things went really smoothly,” Mustafa said. “The housing staff and all the volunteers did an incredible job helping students and parents find where they needed to go.”

It probably didn’t hurt in the logistics department that Mustafa was a veteran. She served in the Medic 536 Medical Battalion of the Army National Guard from 1990 to 1993, which included participation in Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. Military service was not high on her parents’ minds when she was a teenager in Houston, Texas.

“Since the first days of high school, my parents would say, ‘Where are you going to college?’” Mustafa said.

But when she learned about the benefits of being in the Army, and the opportunity to be a
front-line medic, she took the big step of signing up despite her parents’ expectations.

“After I told them, it was a difficult time at home, and my Dad spent a day on the phone, trying to undo my (Army) commitment,” Mustafa said. “But it was something I really wanted to do.”

New situations are old hat to Mustafa, having been born in Saudi Arabia before moving to Houston at age 6. Her mother is from Saudi Arabia and father from India. She speaks Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, and English, “and English was not my first, second, or third language,” she said.

That has not prevented her, however, from earning a BS from the University of Houston and an MBA from Sam Houston State University, as well as entering a PhD program at Indiana Wesleyan University.

After her military service, she worked as a leasing agent in Houston for AG Spanos Companies, learning the multifamily housing and commercial construction businesses. University housing seemed a natural lateral move, and she has thrived in a higher education environment, with increasingly responsible management positions at Rice University, University of Houston, Winston-Salem State University, and North Carolina State University. At North Carolina, she managed a $56 million budget that supported Greek life, conference services, and campus housing for more than 10,000 students.

When Mustafa was looking for a fresh challenge at another institution, several schools were options for her, but Chico State rose to the top of the list.

“This is a place that aligns with my core values, with what I personally believe in,” she said. “I fell in love with the staff here, the environment—the campus is breathtaking. I felt a fit.”

Along with the quick switch to a one-day move-in, Mustafa took other steps soon after she arrived, including removing loft beds from residence halls, painting University Village, and reviewing University Housing’s approach to disciplinary situations such as alcohol use. In every instance, the advice and support of her staff have played a major role, she said.

Not surprisingly, Mustafa has bold plans for the year ahead, including greatly expanding the faculty-in-residence program. Currently, faculty hold office hours in Whitney Hall, but none actually live in the residence halls. Mustafa is not only identifying rooms in Whitney and Sutter Halls and University Village where faculty will live, she is also reserving space where faculty can teach and do research. Mustafa is particularly enthusiastic about creating an entrepreneurial lab space, or makerspace, in the residence halls where faculty and students can collaborate.

“We had what we called an ‘operational garage’ at NC State,” she said. “Bringing that kind of creativity and research atmosphere to a residence hall environment is very exciting.”

Mustafa wants to set up a three-level program involving faculty: Faculty Scholars, who don’t wish to live in residence halls but will hold classes or lectures; Faculty Fellows, who are active in the program and next in line to live in the residence halls; and the Faculty in Residence.

“Interacting with faculty boosts the confidence of these new students,” Mustafa said. “They become more likely to ask questions in class, go to office hours, and be comfortable engaging with faculty.”

Befitting her experience in the military and corporate worlds, Mustafa says she is “mission-driven” to help students be successful and get the most out of residential life on campus.

—By Joe Wills, Public Affairs Director

“In everything we do, our focus is on building future alums.”

—Abeer Mustafa.
University Housing

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**NOVEMBER**
- 11/11/16  Veteran’s Day—Campus Closed
- 11/18/16  Communities close at 6 p.m. for Thanksgiving Break
- 11/21–11/25/16 Thanksgiving Break—Campus Closed
- 11/27/16  Halls open at 2:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER**
- 12/12–12/16/16  Final Exams—Fall 2016 semester ends
- 12/16/16  Communities close at 6 p.m. for winter break
- 12/26/16–1/20/17 Winter Break—Campus Closed

**JANUARY**
- 1/21/17  Communities open at 2 p.m. for all residents
- 1/23/17  Spring classes begin

**MARCH**
- 3/10/17  Communities close at 6 p.m. for spring break
- 3/13–3/17/17  Spring Break—Campus Closed
- 3/19/17  Communities open at 2 p.m.
- 3/31/17  César Chávez Day—Campus Closed

**MAY & JUNE**
- 5/15–5/19/17  Final Exams—Spring 2017 semester ends
- 5/19/17  All Communities close at 6 p.m.
NOVEMBER

4th
Chico State Volleyball hosts UC San Diego: 7–10 p.m.

5th
Chico State Volleyball hosts Cal State San Marcos: 7–9 p.m.

Of Passion and Prayers: 7:30–10 p.m.

6th
“The Off-Broadways” Tour Troupe: 2–4 p.m.

9th–17th
Under Construction by Charles Mee: 7:30–9 p.m.

12th
An Evening with David Sedaris

15th
Time for Two: 7:30–10 p.m.

20th
Chico Performances presents Asleep at the Wheel and Hot Club of Cowtown: 7:30–10 p.m.

27th
Chico Performances presents Lucia di Lammermoor by Gaetano Donizetti: 2–4 p.m.

DECEMBER

1st–4th
A Very Chico Nutcracker—check for times

2nd–4th
Glorious Sounds of the Season—check for times.

3rd
Chico Performances presents Whose Live Anyway?: 7:30–10 p.m.

9th
From Bach to Rock: 4–5 p.m.

10th
Dance Showcase: 7:30–10 p.m.

11th
Chico Performances presents Lee Ann Womack: 7:30–10 p.m.
In recent years, the City of Chico and the campus community have worked together to create solutions to keep our community members as safe as possible. Significant efforts have been made to combat the possibility that Chico will become a destination Halloween celebration environment. To that end, University Housing has instituted a no-guest policy for all on-campus residence community and University Village (UV) during the Halloween period. This policy is in continued support of the larger Chico community’s effort to limit the number of out-of-town guests, thus returning any celebration back to the local residents of our city. This year, the no-guest policy begins on Thursday, October 27, at 8 p.m. and ends at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, November 1. We will have additional staff members working 24 hours per day at the front entrance of each residence community to monitor everyone entering residence community facilities for the duration of the no-guest period stated above. Specific details and information will be available from Residential Life staff members if you or your student have questions.
Prime Time Productions (PTP) is the Residential Programming Board, creating and producing a variety of amazing events for our residents. PTP is composed of emerging leaders and upper-class students who are chosen through an application and interview process each spring. New students have an opportunity to participate in PTP through attendance at events or volunteering for the Street Team Program.

In order to help student’s find their “place,” PTP collaborates with a variety of campus programs such as Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, the Office of Civic Engagement, Academic Advising, the Career Center, Health and Wellness, the Gender and Sexuality Equity Center, and the Office of Diversity, as well as many smaller student organizations.

There are many ways to keep up to date on upcoming events:
FACEBOOK / PTP CALENDAR / FLIKR - Photos Of Events

The Hub is located across the courtyard from Sutter Dining and is open most days from 2–10 p.m. with the exception of Fridays and Saturdays when it offers a place to hang out and special events until 2 a.m. All residents are welcome to stop by The Hub on the first Monday of each month for cake to celebrate birthdays for that month. Also, each Monday, The Hub offers Life Hacks—helpful information for our new students such as where to get free stuff on your birthday, how to save power on your laptop, great places to eat and more! Also in The Hub, residents have access to movie nights, streaming parties, board games and more.

— Denise Crosswhite, Coordinator of Residence Life Leadership & Engagement
Classes are now in full swing and students are adjusting to their new schedules and academic challenges. Many students have also begun joining campus groups, attending campus events, and building the support network of friends that will help them sail through their next four years here at Chico State. Here in University Housing, we have several groups that engage and challenge students to become active leaders in our residential communities. You may have already heard your students using the acronyms RHA & CoCo. Don’t know what those stand for? Have no fear, I am here to demystify these groups.

RHA stands for Residence Hall Association and is composed of students who have taken on a leadership role in University Housing with the goal of promoting a positive residential experience. RHA supports students through collecting student concerns regarding facilities, dining, and many other topics, and providing proposals and suggestions to UH staff to address those concerns. RHA also partners with several campus offices to provide important programs and resources like academic support and personal skill development. Finally, RHA utilizes funds received from student fees to plan and implement various building improvement projects within the residential communities.

CoCo stands for Community Council and is comprised of students who have taken on a leadership role in the specific community they live. The purpose of CoCo is to plan events and provide opportunities that promote community building and academic success. Some events hosted by CoCo leaders include ice cream socials, student nights, and tutoring nights, etc. CoCo leaders are also the primary group to collect information regarding concerns that need to be addressed in each residential community.

So I hear the question in your mind! What is the benefit of being involved in RHA or CoCo? Students involved in RHA or CoCo gain leadership experience for their resume and scholarship applications, and an increased chance of holding other leadership positions on campus. RHA and CoCo leaders also gain a greater understanding of the inner workings of the University and how to be an active member in the Chico State community. Finally, RHA and CoCo leaders build friendships that will last throughout their four years at Chico State.

That is the run down on RHA & CoCo. Best Wishes as the semester continues.

— From John Buchanan, Coordinator for Residential Life Staff Development
The Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) works with staff, faculty, students, administrators, and community members to ensure that all aspects of campus life—learning, working, and living—are universally accessible. We promote and facilitate awareness and access through accommodations, training, and partnerships.

As part of the ARC mission, we work closely with University Housing to ensure people with disabilities have equal access to our residence communities. If your student requires an accommodation specific to housing, as a result of a disability, ARC can be contacted at:

PHONE: 530-898-5959
WEBSITE: www.csuchico.edu/arc/index.shtml

The Career Center at Chico State is here to help each student engage in one of the most engrossing processes she or he will tackle while at the University: the process of instilling one’s strengths, passions, and life experience into a meaningful and fulfilling life path. At all stages of this process of self-discovery, our career advisors help students find and refine their goals for what awaits them after graduation.

Our resources encompass all of the key elements of finding one’s passion and career. For example, we offer several types of Career Assessments that students can take to identify key personality and interest preferences related to majors and careers. We also regularly meet with students to explore careers related to their chosen major. For students who may be considering graduate study, our advisors help identify programs and schools and put together application materials.

While at Chico State, students utilize our JobCat database to find part-time jobs (both on and off campus), internships and career positions. We also host several Career Fairs each semester to connect students with employers eager to hire talented Chico State students and alumni. And finally, once a student has identified possible career paths, we work with students to make human connections, refine their personal documents (resume, cover letter, and other documents), hone their interviewing skills, get a great internship and land the perfect post-college job.

We encourage all students at Chico State to visit the Career Center as early as freshman year, to begin blazing the trail toward rewarding and meaningful work. Whether it is a simple resume review, an on-campus part-time job, or an in-depth post-college career search, we will help students turn career goals into accomplishments.

PHONE: 530-898-5253
WEBSITE: www.csuchico.edu/careers
GREETINGS
From Chico!

I had the pleasure of meeting many of you during our Summer O presentations this past summer.

This note will serve as a reminder that I am available to assist you and your students with any off-campus community or housing-related issues that may arise during their years in Chico.

There is nothing that compares to the Chico Experience. If your student is like me, they may fall in love with this community and never want to leave.

In the meantime, we are all here to ensure their scholastic success. As it relates to their off-campus experiences, specifically in housing, I want to be a resource for them. Please let me know if I can help.

Sincerely,

Dan Herbert
Director of Off-Campus Student Services
Kendall Hall Room 110
530-898-6238
My role as the Coordinator for Student Conduct and Community Responsibility, in partnership with the Residence Life team, is to facilitate the creation of a conduct curriculum that encourages students to grow and develop into successful graduates of California State University, Chico. I returned to CSU, Chico, my alma mater, after working at the University of Mississippi and University of Louisville. I earned my Master of Art degree in Higher Education and Student Personnel at the University of Mississippi in 2010. Prior to joining the Chico State University Housing team this past summer, I held several campus positions including Residence Community Coordinator at University Village and Student Conduct Administrator in Student Judicial Affairs. For 10 years during both my student and early professional career I lived in residential housing communities. These experiences have given me insight into the situations your student may encounter.

This fall, University Housing adopted a new philosophical approach to conduct within our residential housing communities. We have designed an educational and restorative approach to our conduct practices, which allow us to have meaningful and motivational conversations with your student about the choices they make. We want this to be a place where your student feels safe to have experiences outside their comfort zone while still being mindful of the limits and boundaries set by University Housing.

If you hear anything from your student regarding their housing accommodation, please encourage them to reach out to a staff member within their community before it becomes too distressing. Our staff is trained to help your student with any situation that may arise. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached directly at slasnik@csuchico.edu or by contacting the housing office at 530-898-6325. For more information regarding our conduct philosophy, please visit the Community Responsibility section page on the University Housing website.

Warmly,

Sarah Beth Lasnik
Coordinator for Student Conduct and Community Responsibility
Looking for some cool out-of-class experiences that you can encourage your student to get involved in? Look no further than the new programs being offered by Student Life and Leadership!

Worried you didn’t get a chance to impart that one last important nugget of wisdom before your student headed off into the world? Don’t worry, we’ve got your back with the Adulting 101 life skills workshop series. This series covers everything from time management to healthy cooking to relationship advice, all in a fun and interactive atmosphere and taught by some of the most energetic and dynamic faculty, staff, and alumni experts in each field.

“But Mom! I won’t know anybody there!” Not to worry! Each workshop starts off with a FREE buffet dinner and a short networking mixer while you eat, followed by the one-hour hands-on workshop presentation. You may not know anyone on the way in, but you are guaranteed to know somebody on the way out!

Our second new program is set to launch for Spring 2017. Signups will be taken starting in November for this limited opportunity, specifically for first-year students to get involved in a pilot program called Camp Wildcat. Camp Wildcat is designed to connect students who share the same natural affinity or interest with a faculty member and two student peer leaders who also share that interest.

For example, Camp GreenCat will be for students interested in sustainability and the environment. Camp FitCat will focus on students who have an interest in health, wellness or nutrition, and want to connect to other students with a similar interest. Each of the Camp Wildcat groups participate in a day-long retreat built around their interest but highlighting team-building, academic, career, cocurricular, volunteer, and social opportunities to engage in that interest. The retreat is followed by eight meet-ups during the semester to continue that exploration—think of them as field trips geared toward that special affinity interest.

For more information on the Adulting 101 series or our spring Camp Wildcat program, contact Mary Wallmark at 530-898-3633 or mwallmark@csuchico.edu.

The “Adulting 101” life skills workshops are open to any Chico State student, are free, and are held on Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. The full topics are as listed.

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**NOVEMBER**

3rd

Conflict Management 101  BMU 220G

10th

Car Smarts 101  BMU 220G

**DECEMBER**

1st

Stress Management 101  BMU 210

Don’t worry, we’ve got your back with the Adulting 101 life skills workshop series.
The Campus Alcohol & Drug Education Center (CADEC) is committed to providing evidence-based educational programs and services that raise campus awareness about alcohol and drug misuse. CADEC strives to engage, enable, and empower students to make responsible and healthy choices, especially in areas where substance misuse is a concern. Our goal is to create a campus-wide, proactive approach to alcohol prevention, which will result in a healthier and safer campus for our students.

The Wildcat Reach Out And Respond (ROAR!) program is a free training to inform students on the importance of being a positive empowered bystander. The Wildcat ROAR! program (Formerly Red Watch Band) originated by Stony Brook and Northwestern Universities and is now utilized by hundreds of universities across the nation. Wildcat ROAR! provides students the skills and confidence to intervene in the case of an emergency and summon professional help. The mission of the Wildcat ROAR! program is to provide campus community members with the knowledge, awareness, and skills to prevent toxic drinking deaths and to promote a student culture of kindness, responsibility, compassion, and respect.

In the last year, CADEC and the Wildcat ROAR! program have made landmark progress in increasing awareness and competency to important segments of the campus community. For the first time ever, University Housing staff (Residential Community Coordinators, Resident Advisors, Facility, and Custodial staff) were trained on how to respond and offer services regarding drugs and alcohol misuse in the residential communities. CADEC has trained over 3,000 CSU, Chico students and staff members in Wildcat ROAR! since the program’s arrival on campus.

CADEC is invested in helping shape the culture of Chico State and clear some of the myths around drug and alcohol use. This includes partnering with University Housing on educational outreach and providing late-night activities. Together we can counteract the belief that consuming alcohol is an essential part of the college student tradition and create an environment where alcohol is not the center of student life.

Please check out our Family Resources on the CADEC website to find information regarding how to talk to your student about alcohol and drug use and campus and community resources.

Phone: 530-898-6450
Website: www.csuchico.edu/cadec/