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On behalf of the Department of University Housing & Food Service (UHFS), please accept my sincere welcome to the Chico State “extended family”.

This issue of Our House marks the first edition of four this academic year and the ninth consecutive year University Housing has provided this publication to the families of our residence hall students. The essential goal of this publication is to better facilitate communication and share information between our department and our students’ families—to that end, we welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions.

As the parent of a recent college graduate, I understand the decision to send your child to the University is one of the most significant decisions a family will make. Understand the choice of where the student will live—especially in the first year—was an evolving and critical process. While Chico State students have many housing options from which to choose, there is no better choice than living on campus. You and your student will soon discover the on-campus residential experience provides the “other half” of your student’s university education. Living in community is a compelling series of experiences that will challenge, shape and inform your student’s entire collegiate career. Your student will make friendships this year that will last a lifetime.

For most students, the transition from home to college represents new freedom and autonomy. While the vast majority of our students manage the situation very well, some struggle without the structure of parental expectations. This is especially true when navigating social/party situations. To that end, our Residential Life staff are available to consult with students who may be struggling with the many choices available. Encourage your student to seek out their Residential Life staff before concerns or problems become too difficult to manage. Residential Life staff are given the charge of assisting, educating, challenging, and engaging students while caring for and about them in all manner of situations. This includes, more importantly, holding students accountable for the decisions they do make.

Also, please urge your student to seek out the many exceptional opportunities available through our Student Leadership & Engagement program. Residential students are invited to get involved with residence hall programming, student governance, and student leadership development. Community Councils in each residence hall, the Residence Hall Association on a broad scale, and our residence hall program board—Prime Time Productions—offer a myriad of exciting and engaging programs, activities and leadership training exclusively tailored to residence hall students. Simply stated, there are a ton of things to do and a wide range of opportunities in which students can get involved.

Our Facility Services staff (maintenance, custodial, and grounds) are committed to providing your student with clean, well-maintained, and attractive residential facilities. Similarly, our national award winning Residential Dining Services program provides contemporary, well-prepared, and nutritious meals every day. In addition, our UHFS Central Office crew is dedicated to customer service and assisting you and your student with questions pertaining to student life, student leadership development, student accommodations and assignments, student accounts, information technology, student employment, and our residential dining program.

Please accept my personal thanks for supporting your student’s attendance at Chico State, for giving them the opportunity to experience on-campus living, and for giving us the opportunity to serve you.

Let us hear from you as time permits.

David Stephen, EdD
Director
University Housing & Food Service
dbstephen@csuchico.edu
### September
- **7**
  - Monday: Labor Day (campus closed)

### November
- **11**
  - Wednesday: Veteran’s Day (campus closed)
- **20**
  - Friday: Halls close at 6 p.m. for Thanksgiving
- **23–27**
  - Monday–Friday: Thanksgiving break–No classes held
- **29**
  - Sunday: Halls open at 2 p.m.

### December
- **14–18**
  - Monday–Friday: Final Exams–Fall 2015 semester ends
- **18**
  - Friday: Halls close at 6 p.m. for winter break
- **21–1/22**
  - Winter Break (campus closed)

### January
- **23**
  - Saturday: Halls open at 2 p.m. for all residents
- **25**
  - Monday: Spring classes begin

### March
- **11**
  - Friday: Halls close at 6 p.m. for spring break
- **14–18**
  - Monday–Friday: Spring break–No classes held
- **20**
  - Sunday: Halls open at 2 p.m. for all residents
- **31**
  - Thursday: César Chávez Day (campus closed)

### May
- **16–20**
  - Monday–Friday: Halls open at 2 p.m. for all residents
- **20**
  - Friday: All halls close at 6 p.m.
- **30**
  - Monday: Memorial Day (campus closed)
Programming List of Fall Events

Prime Time Productions (PTP) is the major programming organization for University Housing. This student group handles everything from publicity, to sound and lights, to the booking of professional entertainers. Since 2007, PTP has been recognized both regionally and nationally for its innovative programs and outstanding membership. The purpose of PTP is to provide late-night and weekend entertainment to all students living in University Housing. PTP brings pre-released films, comedians, bands, hypnotists, mentalists, magicians, speakers, and a whole lot more to all residence halls.

August

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Pool Party</td>
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<td>Trip and Dip</td>
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<td>Inclusion Speaker (Session 1)</td>
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<td>Inclusion Speaker (Session 2)</td>
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<td>Downtown Market Dinner Vouchers</td>
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<td>Moon on Movie</td>
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<td>Big C Welcome</td>
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<td>Department Meetings</td>
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<td>WREC It!</td>
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<td>Wildcat Transformation</td>
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<td>Rock the Block</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor Meeting (Session 1)</td>
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<td>Faculty Mentor Meeting (Session 2)</td>
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<td>Live at Laxson–The Waifs</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Sunday Sundae Social</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Pinterest Night</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Wildcat Vibe</td>
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<td>Beat the Heat and Meet a Greek, Moon on Movie</td>
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<td>CLUBTACULAR</td>
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<td>Midnight Pancake Breakfast</td>
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<td>BeChico!</td>
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September

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pinterest Night</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Hypnotist: Brian Imbus</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>First Friday Concert</td>
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<td>Midnight Pancakes</td>
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<td>Pitch Perfect 1 Double Feature</td>
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<td>Pitch Perfect 2 Double Feature</td>
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<td>Bidwell Bash BBQ</td>
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<td>Choose to Cruise</td>
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<td>Cirque d’UV</td>
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<td>RHA Interviews</td>
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<td>Pinterest Night</td>
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<td>Better You Intro</td>
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<td>WFNO 1</td>
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<td>Go Karts and In ‘n’ Out</td>
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<td>RHA Training</td>
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<td>Producers Training</td>
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<td>LIVE Performer Tent</td>
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<td>Pinterest Night</td>
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<td>Better You Service</td>
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<td>Live Performer–Derek Hughes</td>
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<td>Grillin on the Grass</td>
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<td>All Staff Training</td>
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<td>Concert–ASP</td>
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<td>WFNO 2</td>
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<td>Mall and In ‘n’ Out</td>
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<td>Better You Leader</td>
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<td>Moon on Movie–Spy</td>
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PROGRAMMING LIST OF **Fall Events**

### OCTOBER

1. Better You Values
2. First Friday Concert
   - ASP/UHFS
   - First Friday 4
2–5. Diversity Summit
5–10. Queer Week and Suicide Prevention Week
5. RHA Exec and RHA General
6. Queer Week Tabling
   - Pinterest Night
7. UMATTER
   - Art With Impact
   - 6–10 Entertainment
   - Pinterest Night
8. Better You Ally
   - Speaker—Sara Benicasa
   - Suicide Speaker
9. Res Week Community Decorating
   - First Friday 5
   - Paintball
10–18. Chico Experience Week
10. Parents Weekend
   - Reunion
   - Moon on Movie—Ant Man
11–17. Greek Week
12. RHA Exec and RHA General
13. RLM
   - Dodgeball
   - Pizza
   - Pinterest Night
14. Keepin it Reel
15–18. NACA
15. Better You Employ
   - LIVE Performer—Emily Galati
16. First Friday 6
   - Bidwell Hike
   - Lip Sync
17. Making Strides
   - Parade of Lights
18. Talent Show
19. RHA Exec and General
20. Professor Palooza
   - Pinterest Night
22. Better You Finance
23. All Staff Training
   - Fast Friday 7
   - Haunted Corn Maze
24. Spooky Double Feature
26. National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW)
   - Stay Sharp Campaign
   - RHA Exec and General
27. Pinterest Night
29. Better You 5 Levels
30. First Friday 8
   - Six Flags
31. Haunted Hub
   - Halloween
You are highly encouraged to check your student’s account balance online on a monthly basis to avoid any late fees! Although housing related payments are set to be due on specific dates (09/09/15, 10/07/15, 11/04/15, 12/10/15, 02/10/16, 03/09/16, and 04/06/16) for room and meal plans throughout the academic year, students may be assessed miscellaneous University Housing charges any time. The final payment for the fall semester is due Wednesday, November 4, 2015. The total amount due on November 4 has already been posted to your student’s portal account. The first payment for the spring semester is due on December 10, 2015. If your student hasn’t contacted you or forwarded the payment e-mail reminder to let you know the amount to pay, you might want to remind them. Late payments are subject to a $20 late fee by the University, and registration, grade, and transcript holds may be placed on student accounts for unpaid balances.

You can also talk to your student about setting up an online Parent Portal account where your student can grant you access to financial and academic information related to them. Please check out the details at http://www.csuchico.edu/parents/parent-portal/index.shtml

For your convenience, payments can be paid by electronic check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover are accepted) through http://www.csuchico.edu/sfin/payment-info/payment-methods.shtml.

Finally, if your student is not planning to return to Chico State for the spring semester, they will need to follow our petition process for early license termination in order to notify our office. Your student has been sent a detailed email explaining the procedure they need to follow. If we do not have at least 30 days notice of their planned withdrawal by the deadline date of November 18, 2015, they will be subject to a 30 day notice charge prorated based upon the actual notice given date and assessed at a maximum of $1,140.30.
A Message to Parents from
University Housing and Student Judicial Affairs

The University Housing and Food Service Residential Life staff and Student Judicial Affairs staff work in close partnership to educate students about their rights and responsibilities as new members of our university community. Membership in our living and learning community carries both privilege and the responsibility of citizenship.

Two of our nation’s founders—Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin—each wrote about the important role of higher education in creating good citizens. Jefferson recognized the dual purpose of higher education in promoting both the individual rights of students balanced against the responsibility of citizens to serve the shared needs, the values of the community, and the common good of all. At Chico State, we feel that with good citizenship comes the need for personal responsibility and accountability in maintaining community standards and University policies.

Author Kenneth Hildebrand wrote that “freedom is the opportunity to make decisions.” These words reflect the challenges and opportunities facing first-year students. Every year, our Residential Life staff have a special opportunity to witness how our new students experience the great rush of excitement upon moving into the residence halls and begin exploring the newfound freedoms that come with living no their own. The prospect of these new freedoms may evoke fears and uncertainties on the part of parents, as your student must navigate the responsibility that comes with making adult decisions, perhaps for the first time. It is our hope that our students become acquainted with their rights and responsibilities; they will also discover what it means to be a member of our university community.

We hope that new students will make decisions that are congruent with the values and standards of our residential community. We strive to proactively communicate our policies and expectations so that students will be informed of any consequences up front should they choose behaviors that violate these expectations. In the event that a policy violation occurs, it is our responsibility to educate students by helping them to understand their choices and assume responsibilities for their actions. We feel that we contribute to the learning outcomes of the University, by encouraging or reflecting on these life experiences and create powerful learning opportunities for students that complements that learning that occurs in the classroom.

We encourage parents to become familiar with our community living standards, which are described in the letter from the Director of UHFS in Living In: the University Housing Student Handbook, and in many other department publications. Though you may be at a distance, your influence remains an important part of your student’s life. We sincerely hope that we can work with you as a team to ensure that this knowledge serves our students well as they embark on their collegiate journey. Best wishes for a successful start to the fall term.
Alternative Transportation for Your Student

If your student is one of many who did not bring a car, we have some relevant and updated information you can relay to your students to make sure they have a way to get home!

Zipcar

Wheels with no strings attached. Need a car? Borrow a Zipcar! Chico State has partnered with Zipcar to bring self-service, on-demand car sharing to the area. To use Zipcar, simply register as a member, reserve a car online or by phone, use your Zipcard to enter the car, and drive away. When you’re done, return the car to the same location where you picked it up.

As a member, you get

- Access to Zipcar 24/7.
- Discounted hourly rates for faculty, staff, and students age 18 and older: rates start at just $7.50/hour or $69/day.
- Gas, insurance, and maintenance are included for free!
- Join for only $25 a year, and receive $35 in driving credit your first month.

Learn more and get started at http://www.zipcar.com/chicostate

- For staff/student inquiries regarding approval to join the Chico State plan, please contact Fletcher Alexander, Institute for Sustainable Development 530-898-3332.
- For inquiries regarding parking, please contact Parking: 530-898-5555.
- For all other Zipcar inquiries, please contact Zipcar: 1-866-4ZIPCAR.

Need more information? Click on the links below.

Find out more about Zipcar
What is car sharing?
Is car sharing for me?
Zipcar on Facebook
Zipcar at Cal State Chico

Zimride

Chico State’s Zimride community, http://zimride.csuchico.edu/, is our private network for ridesharing. Zimride is a fun and easy way to find friends, classmates, and colleagues who are going the same way you are. Zimride makes it easy to share the seats in your car or catch a ride. It’s simple, have a car? Split the costs by driving fellow Wildcats. Don’t have a car? Find a ride for where you need to go. You save money, protect the environment, and have more fun when you share the ride. Membership is free and easy.

All Chico State students, staff, and faculty are eligible to signup for our private Zimride rideshare community here: http://zimride.csuchico.edu/

Permission to share this article was given by Transportation & Parking Services
California State University, Chico
400 West First Street
Chico, CA 95929-0133
530-898-5555
Fax: 530-898-6313
csucparking@csuchico.edu
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 halloween celebration destination. To that end, UHFS has instituted a no guest policy for all on campus residence halls 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 29, at 8 p.m. and ends at 8 a.m. on Monday, November 2. We will have additional staff members working 24 hours per day at the front entrance of each residence hall to monitor everyone entering residence hall facilities for the duration of the no guest period stated above. Specific details and information will be available from Residence Life staff members if you or your students have questions.

Other no guest time periods include Labor Day Weekend, St. Patrick’s Day week, and the Cesar Chavez holiday weekend.
Residence Life Lessons

University Housing endeavors to reach students where and how they live. Our department has effectively used videography to craft and convey educational messages on a variety of topics. New to UHFS library a few years ago was a topical piece “Harm Reduction” and the six-element video series on how best to avoid being a “Bad Roommate” and/or what to do when students have a challenging roommate.

Harm Reduction Video

The “Harm Reduction” video speaks directly to how to best navigate the college party scene that plays out on virtually every campus in America. This video offers practical and realistic dos and don’ts, as well as the expectations of campus community members.

Words Matter

This video shows how to acclimate to University Life while learning about yourself.

The Bad Roommate Series

These six videos, which comprise the “Bad Roommate” series are delivered in a lighter tone but with the underlying message about the importance of honest, direct, and consistent communication. The characters generally overcome the hassles and differences that roommates can sometimes face.

Blow Your Roommate Off at Your Own Risk
http://tinyurl.com/m48usn7

Use Your Big-Kid Communication
http://tinyurl.com/mvhjklqz

Having ‘Friends’ Sleep Over
http://tinyurl.com/mfpmrtho

Quiet Hours
http://tinyurl.com/mnndkun

No One Likes a Moocher
http://tinyurl.com/lvjygp9

Party Animals Get Put Down
http://tinyurl.com/n5wd6bw
The first year of college can present significant changes for both students and parents. The college years represent the loss of adolescence, as well as a search for a new identity and acceptance into the adult community. Your student is involved in a pursuit of independence that includes intellectual competence, emotional maturity, meaningful interpersonal relationships, and clarification of personal goals.

At the same time, you, as the parent, are immersed in the transition that comes with letting go of your child. As your student grows, your relationship changes to accommodate their emerging independence as an adult.

How can you help your student with this transition? It is important that your student has your support as well as your guidance as they begin to make wise, independent decisions. Parental support of students as individuals can provide a firm foundation for exploration of competencies and values. You can be of invaluable service by reminding your student of the tremendous resources available at the University. Academic advising, personal counseling, tutoring, crisis intervention, recreational programs, clubs, and organizations are all within walking distance of our student’s residence hall. Residential Life staff can also be helpful in facilitating referrals and appointments.

Together, families and the University can create a network of support that can help students as they face the challenges of young adulthood and the transition from home to college. Please remember, we are here to help!
RESIDENCE HALLS ARE A Home away from Home

As a parent sending your student off to college, you should be reassured that your student’s living environment will be safe, academic, and appropriate. The following information is provided to ease concerns regarding safety, education, and social opportunities, as well as access to campus support services.

UV and each residence hall are staffed by professionals specifically selected to promote a sense of community and to assist residents in a variety of ways. The Residential Life Program is composed of resident advisors (RAs), residence community coordinators (RCCs), and assistant residence community coordinators (ARCCs) who live in the halls and are available to help with issues such as resolving roommate problems, organizing social events, providing educational programs, serving as a referral source to campus and community services, enforcing University Housing policies, and providing information as well as support for safety/security concerns.

RAs are peers and fellow students, usually juniors or seniors, who have participated in extensive selection and training processes. There is at least one RA per floor and an RA on call each night in every residential community. One of the primary roles of the RAs is to establish and maintain a cohesive and responsible community on their floor. RAs achieve this atmosphere by promoting involvement in programs sponsored by their floors or halls. Throughout the academic year, the RAs present or coordinate programs oriented toward the personal development of their residents. Examples of programs presented by RAs include study skills workshops, cultural events, special dinners, diversity awareness events, recreational activities, and personal safety workshops.

RCC and ARCC staffs are full-time, professional Residential Life staff members with master’s degrees in student personnel administration, counseling, or a related field. RCC and ARCC staff members reside in apartments in the residence halls and UV and are responsible for the overall management of their residential community and its RA staff. These professional, career staff members are committed to the development of a productive community and keep regular office hours for advising and meeting with residents. There are always two professional staff on duty each night to respond to emergencies. We strongly encourage residents and their parents to become acquainted with our Residential Life staff. Our staff are excellent resources and can help make the transition to Chico State and University Housing an enriching experience.
Faculty Programs

Faculty Programs

FACULTY MENTOR PROGRAM

Many consider the Faculty Mentor Program to serve as “the bridge” between student-life in the classroom to their life within the residence halls. This program was introduced to University Housing as a means to offer a direct connection between campus faculty, staff, resident advisors, and students. This program began seven years ago with six daring, dedicated faculty members, including some that had never even entered our residence halls. Today, this program boasts over 30 faculty members, each excited to build relationships and be available for students. The desired outcome is for residence hall students to feel comfortable asking faculty for their assistance, guidance, and mentorship.

FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) is a wonderful program at Chico State in which a faculty member engages students while living inside the residence halls. This program is designed to offer an intentional, dedicated link between the students’ educational experiences inside the classroom to their life outside of class. Our beloved faculty-in-residence, Micki Lennon, has served UHFS for over ten years and continues to generously give her time, energy, and passion to enrich the lives of our residence hall students.
What exactly does a Faculty-In-Residence do?

I work with the resident advisors and their supervisors to offer educational and recreational activities for students who live in the residence halls. This semester, I’ll be doing some academic programs on time management, study skills, the book in common, and how to succeed in college, as well as some recreational programs like game nights. I’ll also be coordinating “Professor Palooza,” an event in October where residents get an opportunity to have dinner with faculty from different departments on campus and ask them questions about majors, minors, GE pathways, and the upcoming class selection process.

I also hold office hours every week in different floor lobbies; run a “study night” program every Sunday night and attend all hall council meetings and programs in order to get to know students better.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I’m originally from the Chicago area and I did my graduate work at Indiana University in Bloomington. I’ve been teaching at Chico State for 15 years and this is my 11th year as Whitney Hall’s faculty-in-residence. I’m a lecturer in the comparative religion and humanities department and most of the classes I teach look at the way religion and society interact. I teach courses on comparative religious perspectives on death and the afterlife, women and religion, and environmental ethics.

Why did you get interested in the Faculty-in-Residence program?

When I was an undergraduate at Drew University, everyone was required to live on campus for all four years, and I really enjoyed the sense of community within the campus community. Also, I was fortunate enough to live in a theme house for two years, and we had a really active faculty mentor—Wendy Kolmar, the head of the women’s studies program—who made a real difference in my life and really served as a role model for me of what a professor should be like.

When I heard about the faculty-in-residence position here, I saw this as an opportunity to get involved in student life outside the classroom and to be the kind of engaged professor that my role models were.

What do you like best about being a Faculty-in-Residence?

As a teacher, I have found it immensely helpful to actually see first-hand what it’s like for first-year students who live in the residence halls. It helps me understand them a lot better, and I think it has made me a more effective teacher. I love the connections that I form with students by working in the residence halls. Since I’ve been doing this for nine years, I’ve seen a lot of Whitney’s residents go on to become RAs or student leaders—one even went on to become the Associated Students president. I really feel proud and honored that I get the chance to know them and mentor them at such an important stage in their development into adulthood.
On-Campus Sustainability Efforts
WATER CONSERVATION

From Kevin Doyle, Interim Director, Facilities Management and Services

I’m very pleased to inform you that in June this year, the campus not only met Chico’s new water conservation requirements but exceeded them by 11%. Total water use was 4,919 CCF (hundred cubic feet) and 43% less than in June 2013. (One CCF is equivalent to 748 gallons.)

The savings the University achieved are the result of an aggressive, cross-campus effort to reduce water use. Earlier this year, in the face of widespread persistent drought, Gov. Jerry Brown for the first time mandated water conservation statewide. Chico water users are now required to use 32% less water than they did in 2013. CSU, Chico’s water budget for June 2015 can be found in the table below.

Conservation measures include reducing landscape irrigation times and frequency, retrofitting sprinkler heads, browning some lawns, replacing toilets and faucets with low-flow versions, installing shower “flippers” to shut off water when not in use and covering the pool and suspending towel service at the Wildcat Recreation Center (WREC), to name a few.

The campus’ conservation efforts are highlighted in a story today by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a national publication for college and university faculty, staff and administrators. More conservation measures being undertaken by the WREC can be seen in this fun video produced in collaboration with Creative Media and Technology.

My sincerest thanks go to the staffs of Facilities Management and Services, Associated Students and University Housing and Food Service and to the entire campus for its efforts in helping us meet these conservation goals. Keep up the good work, Chico State!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Billing Unit</th>
<th>June 2015 Budget (CCF)</th>
<th>June 2015 Usage (CCF)</th>
<th>Over and Under Budget (Percentage)</th>
<th>Over and Under Budget (Gallons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Campus</td>
<td>3,305</td>
<td>3,478</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>129,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>1,073</td>
<td>-39%</td>
<td>-502,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Students</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>-74,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for Chico State</td>
<td>5,517</td>
<td>4,919</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>-447,304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Chico State’s University Housing and Food Service is doing its part:

- Cutting back on landscape watering
- Eliminating watering of selected lawn areas
- Cancelling normal power washing of walkways and patios
- Pools have been covered to lessen evaporation and the need to add make-up water
- Fewer Summer Conference visitors, less toilets/shower use
- Installing low flow fixtures (in Sutter Hall and UHUB)
- Touch-free sensors on faucets (in Sutter Hall and UHUB).

Fun Fact!

For the month of June, UHFS actually hit a 39% decrease in usage!
Residential Life Working Hard to Provide a Safe Living ENVIRONMENT

The University Police Department program features full-time Chico State officers who patrol the campus on a 24-hour basis.

Living on campus can provide many positive experiences for your student. However, Chico State and its residence halls are not immune to the same areas of concern for safety and security as the rest of society. We make every effort to promote safety in University Housing; however, only with our students’ help can we make our halls the safest possible places to live.

All residence hall entrances are locked 24 hours a day and are monitored. After 8 p.m., service desk staff check IDs of all persons entering the residence halls and each guest is registered. Guests or visitors must be escorted by a resident of the hall at all times. When room keys are reported stolen or missing, lock changes are typically completed within 24 hours.

Hall staff members conduct building rounds throughout the halls several times each evening. At UV, staff members conduct building rounds throughout the complex. Residence Community Coordinator, Assistant Residence Community Coordinators, and Resident Advisors are trained to handle a variety of situations that may arise in the halls. University Housing staff also work closely with the University Police Department (UPD) in training for emergency situations.

Safety and security must also be a priority to the student living in the halls. The following is a list of areas in which students can assist in providing safety:

- Lock room doors at all times.
- Report lost or stolen keys immediately.
- Do not prop doors to allow unauthorized entry into the halls and/or individual rooms.
- Do not loan keys to anyone.
- Question strangers roaming the halls or call the hall service desk to report unauthorized persons.
- Utilize the “Campus Connections Safety Escort Service” (530-898-5555) when walking to and from University Housing at night. Never walk alone.

Security and student safety are most successful when students actively participate and support the programs designed to enhance their personal welfare.
The following “rules” may be helpful in understanding and supporting your student throughout their college years.

**Rule 1** Write, text, or email (even if they don’t write back). Freshmen are typically eager to experience all the away-from-home independence they can in those first few weeks, but most are still anxious to maintain family ties and the security those ties bring. Even though 99 percent of freshmen won’t ever admit it, they love news from home. There is nothing more depressing than a week of empty mailboxes (whether real or virtual) but don’t expect a reply to every point of contact you make.

**Rule 2** Ask questions (but not too many). College freshmen are “cool” (or so they think) and have a tendency to resist interference with their newfound lifestyle. But, most still desire the security of knowing that someone is still interested in them. Feel free to give advice on particular academic majors, but do not insist on your student declaring a major during his/her freshman or even sophomore year. The educational system is designed to allow students to explore all sorts of alternatives to a life-long plan and career goal. Try for the supportive, relief-giving style rather than the alienating, nag effect. Besides, everyone has two years of general education courses to complete. It’s a time for some exploration.

**Rule 3** Expect change (but not too much). Your student will change either drastically within the first months, slowly over four years, or somewhere in between the two. It is natural, inevitable, and it can be inspiring and beautiful. Often it is a pain in the neck. A pre-med student may discover that biology is not her thing at all. Also, it is important to note that the average student changes his or her major at least three times during their four years of college. The main thing is to be patient and know that completing a “four year” degree in four years is the exception.

**Rule 4** Don’t worry (too much) about frantic calls or letters. Often, troubles become too much for a freshman to handle. A bad grade, deteriorated relationship, and a shrunken T-shirt all in one day, and the only place to run is home. In such a crisis the student unloads the trouble of tears and returns to the routine, relieved and enlightened, while you inherit the burden of worry.

**Rule 5** Don’t tell them: “These are the best years of your life.” Any parent who believes that all college students get good grades, know what they want to study, always have activity-packed weekends and thousands of close friends, and lead carefree, worry-free lives is wrong. So are the parents who think “college-educated” means “mistake-proof.” Parents who perpetuate and insist upon the “best years” stereotype are working against their child’s already difficult self-development. Those who accept and understand the highs and lows of their student’s reality are proving the support and encouragement where it is needed the most.

**Rule 6** Trust them. Finding yourself is a difficult enough process without feeling that the people whose opinions you respect most are second-guessing you. One of the most important things my mom ever wrote to me in my four years at college was this: “I love you and want for you all the things that make you the happiest; and I guess you, not I, are the one who knows best what those things are.” She wrote that during my senior year. If you’re smart, you’ll believe it, mean it, and say it now.

Ian Michelin, a student at Western Washington University, wrote this article after she graduated. This article was reprinted with permission from Reflections, the quarterly newsletter of the WWU Office of University Residences.
For some students, college will be the first time they have had control over personal finances. Often, during the first semester, learning to budget money can be difficult. Common culprits of disorganized student finances include:

**CELL PHONE BILLS**
Many students have never paid for phone calls, and the expense of keeping up with long-distance friends and family can be a surprise.

**ENTERTAINMENT**
While the University offers many free or inexpensive entertainment opportunities, the campus also offers many fee-based events, such as concerts, which can add up quickly.

**FAST FOOD**
Pizza deliveries, convenience foods, and other snacks can add up to unanticipated expenses.

**ATM**
An easy way to get into financial trouble is the convenience of using ATMs, especially if withdrawals are not recorded by the student each time an ATM is used.

This may be a good time to discuss budgeting with your student. Maintaining a minimum balance in their bank account may prevent overspending. It is a good idea for a student to have a credit card for emergency purposes, but if you aren’t ready to hand over your own, you may wish to check into a secured credit card. A secured credit card requires a frozen deposit as collateral for any charges made on the account.

Another option might be a part-time job for your student. Students with jobs tend to manage their time and money more effectively. Jobs are available in Dining Services, Residential Life, and other university departments. This allows students to work close to where they live. Students interested in seeking employment opportunities with Dining Services should visit the Associated Students Dining Services office located in the UHUB (530-898-5962); for jobs with University Housing or Residential Life, look for job announcements posted in the residence halls; for other university student employment, encourage your student to call the Student Employment Office at 530-898-5256.
“Responsible Freedom” describes the philosophy used in the Chico State residence halls regarding rules, regulations, and student conduct. This philosophy is intended to encourage mature self-direction, which includes demonstrating consideration for others, abiding by University and University Housing policies, and taking responsibility for one’s own actions.

As in the community at-large, we often determine whether a person is acting responsibly by referring to written regulations and codes of conduct. The UHFS License Agreement, Living In, and the University Housing Residence Life Handbook, specify the appropriate standards of behavior for residence hall students. To better educate students about the effect of alcohol and other drugs, the Campus Alcohol and Drug Education Center (CADEC) conducts mandatory workshops for students whose violations include alcohol and other drugs. Students who have difficulty managing their personal choices may be given sanctions designed to structure or place limits on their behavior. The ultimate objective of “responsible freedom” is to encourage self-discipline and mature, productive behavior.

University Housing supports a “zero tolerance” philosophy regarding illicit drug use. Residence hall students violating University drug policies will be evicted from the residence hall system and referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Be advised that alcohol and illicit drugs are never allowed in University Housing and marijuana is never permitted on any California State University campus. As a partner of the U.S. Federal Government, the California State University system does not recognize State of California Proposition 215 medical marijuana and does not provide for any on-campus areas or facilities where medical marijuana can be kept or consumed. Furthermore, regarding alcohol, all University Housing facilities are “dry” regardless of the individual’s age. In addition, please remember that California law provides significant penalties for illicit drug possession/use/distribution and the possession/consumption of alcohol.

This said, it is important to convey the sometimes dire consequences associated with illicit drug use and alcohol consumption while residing in University Housing. Specifically, students who violate Chico State or University Housing drug and alcohol policies will be subject to cancellation of the University Housing License Agreement and/or expulsion from the University. The violation of alcohol and drug policies carry substantial consequences including financial penalties as part of the University Housing License Agreement if/when the license agreement is revoked. University Housing policies are included in our student residence hall handbook Living In.
GET INVOLVED

WHAT IS COCO?
COCO stands for Community Council
Meet new people, make new friends, get involved at Chico State, have fun with your peers, allocate and spend Community Council funds, host events, and advocate for the student voice, all while gaining valuable experience for future leadership and employment positions. COCO applications can be found on Wildcat Sync.

WHAT IS RHA?
Residence Hall Association (RHA)
Every resident is a member of the RHA, and you are welcome to attend RHA general board meetings Monday nights from 8PM—9PM. RHA hosts a variety of leadership and social justice programs each month. Some popular programs include LeaderShop, Spirit Week, Haunted Hub, Camp UHUB, and Day on the Green. Applications are now available for RHA executive board positions. For more information, check out the forms section of your Wildcat Sync portal or contact dcrosswhite@csuchico.edu.

WHAT IS PTP?
Prime Time Productions
PTP is your ticket to live entertainment, off-campus trips, crafting, game nights, movies, and more! Events are hosted in the University Housing Utility Building—what we call the UHUB. This building is located across from Sutter Dining. All events are free to residents and most require no advance registration—check out our calendar of events on Wildcat Sync.

OTHER INVOLVEMENT
Take a walk to the second floor of the Bell Memorial Union (BMU) to visit the Wildcat Leadership Center, home to Associated Students Government Affairs, Student Life and Leadership, the Wildcat Institute, and Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. There are students and staff available to help you find that club, organization, or activity that might interest you.

Some Popular Campus Programs
CAVE—Community Action Volunteers in Education
GSEC—Gender and Sexuality Equity Center
CCLC—Cross Cultural Leadership Center
CADEC—Campus Alcohol and Drug Education Center
AO—Adventure Outings
WREC—Wildcat Recreation Center
AS Sustainability
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (a.k.a. FERPA or the Buckley Amendment) is a federal law enacted in 1974 that controls student records. FERPA is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, and maintains a website for parents at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/parents.html.

FERPA grants parents the right to access their child’s educational records, to request amendments to the records, and to have limited control relative to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the educational records. Under FERPA, all parental rights are transferred from you to your child once he/she either reaches 18 years of age or enters a postsecondary institution. This means that you cannot access your child’s college educational records even if you are paying the bills unless your child gives you written permission to do so or unless you meet one of the FERPA exemptions that allow you to access your child’s records without his/her permission. However, even when FERPA specifies an allowable exception to the privacy rules, your child’s college still has the option to include or exclude that exception in its own campus FERPA policy. If a college chooses not to add a particular exception to its policy, you will not be able to access your child’s records under that exception even though FERPA allows it.

What information is protected under FERPA?

FERPA covers “educational records” which are very broadly defined as “those records that are directly related to a student and are maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.” Examples of FERPA records include grades, transcripts, test scores, I.D. numbers or social security numbers, financial records, disciplinary records, and class schedules. While counseling and medical records are not covered by FERPA, almost every state has laws or policies governing the confidentiality of these types of records.

What information can I obtain without permission from my son or daughter?

Unless your child specifically requests that the college not release it, FERPA allows the college to release certain information, called Directory Information, to anyone. Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the student’s name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. Because each college can specify what it considers as directory information, you should check the FERPA policy at your child’s college to see what information could be released under this provision.

continued on the next page
FERPA at a Glance: Questions from Parents

Will the college let me know if my child gets in any trouble related to drugs or alcohol?

Under FERPA a college MAY, without the student’s permission, release certain information to parents or guardians of students under the age of 21 found responsible for violating any law, rule or university policy pertaining to drugs or alcohol. Each college is allowed to decide whether or not to release this information to parents; even schools that decide to release information under this provision can set parameters as to what info to release and when to notify parents. Check the college’s policy on this issue.

Will I be notified if my child is hurt or in danger?

In the event of a potentially life-threatening emergency FERPA does allow parents or guardians to be notified without prior consent from the student. Most colleges have some type of emergency notification policy for this type of situation. Further, if a hospital or police agency is involved, they will have their own protocols for notifying you.

Why does the college make it almost impossible to get any info about my child?

In addition to the legal constraints FERPA places on us, most colleges operate within a student development framework that recognizes that the college years are when students are transitioning from late adolescence to adulthood. One of the most effective ways to help with that transition is to treat students as adults, granting them both the rights and responsibilities which go along with that status. This includes communicating directly with them rather than with the parents. Most college officials recognize the important role parents also play in this transition to adulthood, including providing emotional and financial support, and reinforcing good behavior and habits. Students are consistently encouraged to share information with their parents and include them in key decisions and situations they face during their college years.

By Karen L. Simpkins, J.D., Interim Associate Vice President for Human Resources, Eastern Michigan University