Room Sign Up 2017
the campaign to live on campus

PLUS
HOMECOMING 2017
HOUSING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
THE DAWG VLOG
HURRICANE IRMA'S IMPACT
Higher involvement means higher GPAs

▲ National studies show students who are involved on campus earn higher GPAs and have higher graduation rates. University Housing offers a few ways for residents to be involved in their community and on campus, including Residential Hall Association (RHA), Residential Hall Studios (RHS) and National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). In these organizations, students gain valuable leadership experience as they facilitate events, socials and service opportunities for residents throughout the year.

As the second largest student organization on campus, RHA helps coordinate housing’s student-led hall councils and actively serves the interest of the residents by assisting with the development of residence hall policies, procedures and programs.

RHS is a student-run studio that produces content for channel 12.1 on University Cablevision. The student leaders involved with RHS are responsible for every aspect of the production process, including writing, producing, filming, pitching and editing for the channel. This hands-on experience gives students skills in television production and project management.

NRHH is a leadership-based honorary society whose members consist of the top 10 percent of University Housing residents. “Getting involved in student organizations that are based in the residence halls allows students to develop their leadership skills and make an impact on the community they live in by providing programs and service activities,” Graduate Resident for Student Leadership Brittany Smith says, “Students are able to listen to the concerns of other residents in their halls and work to make changes for current and future students.”

Through organizations like RHA, RHS and NRHH, University Housing is able to provide meaningful experiences for its residents that encourage development in leadership, networking and other practical skills.
Following the heat and humidity of a Georgia summer, fall on campus can’t be beat. Fortunately, outdoor study spots (like this one on North Campus) abound.
In housing, we say “Home is Where the Arch Is” year-round but during homecoming week, that sentiment seems to echo from all over campus. UGA’s Homecoming Week 2017 ran Oct. 9–14 with a variety of activities and events to appeal to all members of the university community.

The official Homecoming kickoff was the annual Bulldog Bash on Oct. 9 on Tate Student Center Plaza with games, free food and giveaways for students. That night, registered student organizations painted Sanford Drive at the Tate bus stop.

Other activities included a lip sync competition, alumni tailgates, a show by DJRX, and Stop & Serve, which gave students the opportunity to engage in quick service–related projects benefiting the Athens community.

Led by the Redcoat Band, the Homecoming parade wound through downtown Athens the evening of Friday, Oct. 13 and included floats, displays, spirit squads and appearances by UGA athletes and university and Athens dignitaries (including Uga X). Following the parade, a Homecoming carnival hosted by University Union, offered students carnival rides and free food.

Homecoming week wrapped up with a football victory over Missouri and the naming of the 2017 Homecoming King and Queen.

For a student perspective on Homecoming week, check out The Dawg Vlog on housing’s YouTube channel, where first-year vloggers Allie, Ian and Sam cover all the events. Find the Dawg Vlog at https://www.youtube.com/housinguga
We know fall semester is a little more than half over but it is time to get excited about on-campus housing for next year. National studies show students who live on campus earn higher GPAs, graduate sooner and report higher satisfaction rates with their college careers. For all these reasons, the University of Georgia requires all first-year students to live on campus.

Returning residents enjoy the same benefits as first-year residents when they continue to live on campus, including a secure environment of peers and live-in staff members dedicated to providing academic support and promoting their personal growth.

In January, University Housing will offer tours of all non-first-year-only halls so that residents can get a peek at the spaces they may be interested in for the 2018-2019 academic year. In addition, we will offer several Secrets to Room Sign Up information sessions (open to students and their families) in which residents can get some tips and tricks on navigating the room sign-up process as well as get answers to all their questions from University Housing staff members.

If you are a parent or family member of a current first-year student, please note the returning resident room sign-up process is different from the initial housing registration process; more information can be found at housing.uga.edu. Missing a deadline may limit the options for the type of housing available to your student for fall 2018.

Students should begin to think now about which hall they want to live in and with whom. Research hall information at housing.uga.edu to see floor plans, photos, videos and rent rates.

The next step is registration. Be sure your student registers to participate during the sign-up period December through January. Specific deadlines will be sent to students’ UGA email address as the process nears. All registrants, regardless of registration date, will be assigned a random appointment time during which they may log on to The Dawg House and choose any available space on campus, including in the East Campus Village apartments, Brown Hall on the Health Sciences Campus and in the University Village apartments.

The majority of room sign-up participants will receive a first-round appointment time during the first couple weeks of February. At that time, they may log on to The Dawg House, choose any available space and input roommates. There is no obligation at this point, however first-round participants must execute their housing contract by a specific date in mid February in order to secure their space. Each roommate must also execute their contract by the deadline or he/she will lose the space.

Students age 18 or older execute housing contracts online. The contract is a legally binding agreement between the student, the university and the Board of Regents. To view an example of a contract, visit housing.uga.edu/site/resources. For student-specific contracts, your student may log in to The Dawg House or contact the Housing Assignments Office at 706-542-1421 or housing@uga.edu.

Round 2-9 participants will be given appointment times throughout spring semester, with contract deadline information sent to their UGA email address. Students with later appointment times will be able to select an on-campus space as other students cancel out (by not selecting a room or not executing an online housing contract). Students with housing contracts may request to change rooms as often as they like. In past years we have been able to offer everyone who indicated interest a chance to select a room.
Residents choose 2017 Room of the Year in contest

University Housing rewarded two residents of Building 1516 with first pick of their on-campus space next year and UGA prize pack as winners of the annual Room of the Year contest. Residents Caroline and Melissa received 1,035 likes on their Instagram contest entry during one week of open voting; nearly 3,000 votes were cast in total.

Six additional winners were named at a live event in Myers Hall October 12 in the following categories: Runner-Up, Most Spirited, Best DIY, Best Use of Space, Best Video and Most Original. All winners will have their spaces professionally photographed for use on the University Housing website and in print publications.

“We made a choice to be more inclusive with the categories in this contest,” said University Housing Senior Public Relations Coordinator Carrie Campbell. “We wanted to make sure people know this contest isn’t about how much money you put into a room but about how much creativity and pride you put into it.”

Check out the finalists by searching #ROTY17 on Instagram or at http://bit.ly/roomoftheyear.

Video + blog = vlog

Since early September of this year, University Housing has employed three first-year students to capture their experiences through a vlog (video blog) on housing’s YouTube channel.

Sam Mathew (Brumby Hall), Ian Allen (Oglethorpe House) and Allie Merwin (pictured, Hill Hall) each work on one or more videos per month about their experiences at UGA.

So far, Allie has given viewers a tour of her supplemental room in Hill Hall and shown us a day in her life as a student. She also offered some great tips for residents thinking about entering the annual Room of the Year contest that wrapped up in mid-October.

Sam roped his hallmates into entering the Room of the Year contest and took a GoPro camera to RamseyPalooza (the annual nighttime sports and games free-for-all at the Ramsey Student Center) where he captured students paddleboarding in the Olympic sized pool, playing team Xbox on huge screens in the raquetball courts, and the hilarity of bubble soccer (which you need to see to believe).

Ian, the gadget geek of the group, has been using his drone and DSLR camera to document himself checking off all the experiences in UGA’s G-Book, which lists the things students should make an effort to accomplish before graduation—such as ringing the Chapel Bell, enjoying an ice cream cone at the UGA Creamery and attending a game “between the hedges.”

Keep up with Allie, Sam and Ian by subscribing to University Housing’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/housinguga
On Monday, September 11, Tropical Storm Irma hit the University of Georgia Athens campus. As a result, the university was closed September 11 and 12, with all classes canceled.

Before the storm hit, University Housing took a number of precautions to prepare residents and Housing staff members. On Sunday, University Housing emailed all residents regarding severe weather shelter information for their building.

“Our professional and student staff on-call maintained consistent communication with residents to learn about their needs, so that issues pertaining to power outages, leaks and damages could be shared with appropriate university resources and addressed as soon as possible,” says Associate Director for Residence Life Rob Perez.

Housing public relations staff monitored social media from Sunday through Tuesday to pinpoint issues in order to report to facilities staff on the ground. University Housing utilized the department’s normal on-call housing facilities and residence hall staff to respond to issues throughout the duration of the storm. Furthermore, in order to be prepared for potential maintenance emergencies, five additional maintenance staff members arrived Monday to stay the night in the University Village administration building.

Wind gusts in Athens reached 53 mph but issues in University Housing facilities were limited to power outages, minor flooding of low-lying buildings and downed trees.

After receiving reports about extended power outages on the nearby Health Sciences Campus and at Morris Hall, Executive Director of University Housing Gerard Kowalski personally coordinated securing rooms in the Georgia Center (the university’s on-campus hotel) for 36 residents who did not have power. A collaboration with UGA’s Transportation and Parking Services provided buses to transport the residents, who stayed in the Georgia Center Monday night.

Staying true to University Housing’s mission, housing staff worked tirelessly to provide a comfortable and secure environment for residents during Tropical Storm Irma.
STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER: SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

In recent years, the university has strengthened its commitment to supporting student veterans, who can face unique challenges. Launched by the university’s Division of Student Affairs in 2013, the Student Veterans Resource Center, or SVRC, aims to ease veterans’ transitions onto campus, enable access to services, and help them make the most of their UGA education. It’s also become a way for student veterans to connect with each other.

That commitment has paid off. The graduation rate among UGA’s student veterans is 85 percent—on par with UGA’s nonveteran students and well above the national average of about 50 percent. In 2016, UGA was named the top institution in the nation for student veterans among tier-one research institutions by Victory Media.

Ted Barco, the director of the Student Veterans resource Center says part of his mission at UGA is to make the university’s robust student services such as financial aid, health services and advising more accessible to student veterans. Through collaborations across multiple divisions and departments, the SVRC has helped bring UGA’s comprehensive services to student veterans.

Barco, a retired USAF lieutenant colonel, has 32 years of national security experience that includes service with six institutions of higher education.

But Barco is not going it alone. In addition to help from UGA faculty, staff, and administrators, the SVRC has relied on student veterans to build programs and to support each other. Learn more at http://svrc.uga.edu/

UPCOMING
AFRICAN STUDENT UNION FASHION SHOW
November 11, 6–9 p.m.
Tate Grand Hall
‘The Elements’ is a fashion show highlighting the sustainability efforts of African women in the agricultural industry. In conjunction with Project Tsehigh (a nonprofit organization providing sustainable and renewable energy solutions for communities all over the world), African Student Union shows fashion in a new and valuable way.

ONGOING
BEWELLUGA OFFERS FREE HEALTH AND WELLNESS GUIDANCE
BeWellUGA is a new platform hosted by the University Health Center (UHC). UHC not only provides primary and specialty care but also assists students that need guidance and support throughout their career at UGA. These free wellness and prevention classes are geared towards helping UGA students thrive physically, mentally and socially. Topics include: yoga, running, bystander intervention, dating, stress and anxiety, wellness and more.

All BeWellUGA programs are free for students with a valid UGA ID.

Visit the UHC webpage for a complete listing of programs: www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/be-well-uga

UPCOMING
INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR
Every Friday during fall and spring semesters, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Memorial Hall Ballroom
International Coffee Hour is a weekly program that brings UGA students, faculty, staff, and community members together over coffee and international cuisine. Hosted each week by our International Student Organizations and campus departments, the UGA Coffee Hour is one of the longest running programs of its kind across the United States.

$1.5 MILLION GIFT ENHANCES UGA’S PROACTIVE ALCOHOL EDUCATION
The University of Georgia will enhance its alcohol education and prevention programs thanks to a $1.5 million gift from Jack and Nancy Fontaine of Houston, Texas. The donation is their latest in nearly $6...
million of support to the Fontaine Center for alcohol awareness and education since the center’s establishment 11 years ago.

This gift will allow the Fontaine Center to increase the capacity of its Collegiate Recovery Community, as well as expand its proactive educational programming both on campus and throughout the state.

Jack Fontaine notes that the center has come a long way in its first decade, in both quantity and quality of service.

“When we first started, we had a few counselors and two to three weeks’ wait time,” he said. “We were reactionary, and now we’ve grown to be proactive.”

Following an expansion of the University Health Center building in 2009 the Fontaine Center gained prominent and additional space and has grown to better meet the needs of UGA’s students.

Liz Prince, who has served as director of the Fontaine Center since 2012, described the center’s growth from assisting with individual cases of alcohol abuse to its current comprehensive programming that covers other drugs like marijuana and prescription drugs, as well as issues of interpersonal violence and sexual assault response.

“We’re able to address things that really impact students where there’s an intersection between alcohol and drugs and violence,” she said.

**SERVE ATHENS CONNECTS STUDENTS TO LOCAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Serve Athens, an initiative of ServeUGA, provides ongoing opportunities during the fall and spring semester for UGA students to meet community needs through service.

ServeUGA is currently partnering with eight local non-profit organizations: Action Ministries, Athens-Clarke County Animal Control, Brooklyn Cemetery, Extra Special People, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Project Safe, and SHAARE.

**UPCOMING THE SOAPBOX**

October 13 and November 2 at noon
The Intersection, Tate Student Center
The Soapbox is a monthly social justice speaker series that provides community for faculty, staff, and graduate students to share their research related to social justice, diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism, identity, and intersectionality with the UGA campus community.

**JIM DAY HOUSING SCHOLARSHIP**

University Housing offers two $500 scholarships to returning residents for the fall semester through the Jim Day Housing Scholarship Fund.

Dr. James “Jim” Day served as executive director of University Housing from 1990 to 2006. Dr. Day conceived and initially funded the University Housing Scholarship Fund to assist students with financial need offset the cost of on-campus housing.

Recipients of the scholarships must be current UGA undergraduate students with an on-campus room assignment and must demonstrate financial need as determined by the UGA Office of Financial Aid. If awarded a scholarship, recipients will get first pick of their on-campus space and must commit to living on campus for the 2017-2018 academic year. All current residents will receive an email in December with a link to the application for the 2018-2019 academic year.
Russell Hall renovation offers a peek at the past

In May 2017, University Housing closed Russell Hall to begin a $44.5 million renovation project. Russell Hall will reopen for fall 2018 with updates to the lobby, student rooms, bathrooms, laundry and kitchen areas, along with renovations to climate control, plumbing and electrical systems.

During the removal of the hall’s built-in furniture, construction staff discovered a myriad of artifacts dating back almost to the hall’s opening in 1967. Found objects include old report cards, hand-written letters, parking citations, hand-drawn fraternity party invitations, student IDs (some genuine, others not), a 1990 spring break vacation flier, photographs, post cards, a schedule of Greek recruitment activities from 1988 and Red & Black newspaper clippings. The oldest item found so far is a 1972 Georgia football ticket coupon book.

Although the interior of Russell Hall will look brand new in the fall, these artifacts are a reminder of the history and memories that many residents made in its halls.

#OneUGA touches on timely topics

University Housing, in collaboration with Multicultural Services and Programs, is hosting a series of monthly and virtual live discussions called #OneUGA throughout the academic year. These discussions serve as platforms for the UGA community to chat about diversity, campus life, adversity and other experiences that students may encounter or may want to discuss with their peers.

The first #OneUGA this semester was held Sept. 14, and was focused on the celebration of Latinx Heritage Month. University Housing collaborated with the Hispanic Student Association, Latinos Invested in the Students of Tomorrow (LISTO), the Caribbean Student Association and other student-run organizations to host the chat at The Intersection in the Tate Student Center. In addition to the in-person event, the #OneUGA Twitter conversation was projected on a large screen for participants to watch during the chat.

“As a student, I think the Latinx Heritage Month #OneUGA was successful in bringing awareness of issues Latinx people deal with while celebrating the culture,” said Daisy Gallegos, president of LISTO, “It’s important that UGA students have the platform, whether electronically or in person, to talk about important topics.”

University Housing’s second #OneUGA event focused on a discussion about interpersonal violence. The event was held Oct. 14 in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention group (RSVP) at UGA partnered with University Housing to help facilitate discussion. The three main themes of the event were to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrate those who have survived and connect those who work to end violence.

On November 9, University Housing will host the last #OneUGA event of the semester and discuss the current #TakeaKnee movement. To participate, students may tweet using the hashtag #OneUGA or attend the conversation in person, where lunch will be provided and free t-shirts courtesy of Residence Hall Association.
NOW OPEN
LOCATED IN THE TATE STUDENT CENTER

SANDWICHES | SALADS | HOT DOGS | SNACKS | BOTTLED BEVERAGES

TRY OUR NEW!
GRAB -N- GO OPTIONS

ALSO AT MARKET AT TATE

$4.99 BURGER
UGA BEEF + LOCAL LUNA BREAD

ALL LOCATIONS ACCEPT Paw Points and Bulldog Bucks.

Cash • Check Cards • Credit Cards • Paw Points • Bulldog Bucks
WE’RE MORE THAN JUST BUILDINGS.

We’re committed to residents’ academic success and personal growth.

Follow our residents’ stories with the parent and family e-newsletter
Sign up at bit.ly/HousingENews
or from the UGA Housing Facebook page