

June 2009

To My Dearest New Risleyite,

On behalf of the Residential Programs staff, Facilities staff, the Faculty Fellows, Artists In Residence, and myself, I would like to officially welcome you to the Risley Residential College for the Creative and Performing Arts, which is a Program House focusing on all things creative and eclectic. My name is Elaine Bushey and I will be your Residence Hall Director (RHD) for the upcoming academic year. I am a full-time professional staff member with Campus Life Residential Programs and this will be my fifth year as the RHD of the Risley Residential College. This year, I will be beginning my tenth year working with college students. I hold an undergraduate degree in Business Administration, Art History, and Museum Studies and a Master's degree in Counseling and Higher Education. I am truly excited to be working with all of you this year. The Risley Residential College will offer you a unique on-campus living experience for you and one of which I am proud to be a part.

I know that some of you have lived on campus at Cornell previously but more than likely you are a curious first year or transfer student so I wanted to provide some basic information about how my staff and I support the community throughout the academic year. As a full-time live-in member of the Campus Life Residential Programs staff, I am responsible for the program and administration of the Risley Residential College and its students. This includes working with the five Resident Advisors (RAs), two Artists In Residence (AIRs), and six Faculty Fellows in striving to provide each of you with creative, educational, and social opportunities geared to support your out-of-classroom experience. The staff and faculty seek to maintain a fun and cohesive living environment within the Program House while promoting trust, support, and respect. Specifically, The RAs serve as resources to you by providing information and addressing questions or concerns that arise throughout the year. The RAs arrive on campus before the halls officially open to prepare for your arrival and receive training on everything from community development to conflict mediation. They are all juniors and most are returning staff members. All five RAs, the AIRs, and myself live and work within Risley and are here to support you in whatever capacity you require (within reason, of course). So if you have a wildly creative programming idea you want to share with the building or if you just need a friendly face after a hard exam... do not hesitate to knock on any of our doors... it's what we're here for.

Upon moving into Risley in August you will be greeted by 15 of our more illustrious and involved Risleyites... the Risley Orientation Committee (RisOCs). Their purpose is to welcome you, help you get settled in, and introduce you to Risley and Cornell University. This is a unique program specific to the Risley Residential College. It is supremely helpful when it comes to navigating the many programs in Risley and in getting you involved in the many leadership opportunities.

As you begin to think about the fall semester, I would like to invite each of you to become an active member of the House leadership group, Kommittee. It really is the best group to get involved with as they make the decisions regarding programming and which shop/studio gets money to spend on new toys (amongst some others things). Some other leadership opportunities include the Residential Student Congress (RSC) or Peer Review Board (PRB). The RSC is always looking for new members to help with programmatic initiatives and PRB serves as a first level disciplinary review board for all of the residential communities on campus. Just remember that no matter how hectic or involved you become, you must join our Artists In Residence or Faculty Fellows for a meal in the Great Hall, go to a show in Risley Theatre, try to organize an Eat This!, and participate in Kommittee.

I am looking forward to fun and exciting year at Cornell, and in Risley. I sincerely hope that you are too! My office is located in Risley Hall off the Main entrance, to the left, down the hall, and right next to the Escher-vator, so feel free to stop by and say hello. Have a great summer, and I will see you in August. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at ekb27@cornell.edu or 607.255.9520.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. Bushey
Residence Hall Director
Risley Residential College for the Creative and Performing Arts

Opening Day

First-year and transfer students should plan to move in to their residence on Friday, August 21, 2009. Due to the large number of students checking in to North Campus, West Campus residence halls and Program Houses on that day, students assigned to those communities are given a move-in time based on the first letter of their last name:

A-G 8:00am-11:00am

H-O 11:00am-2:00pm

P-Z 2:00pm-5:00pm

In order to facilitate a smooth move-in experience for everyone, students who arrive early will not be able to check in before their assigned move-in time. If you cannot check in during your move-in time, please contact the Housing Office ahead of time at housing@cornell.edu.

What to Bring...

What will my room include?

Your room will have a twin bed, desk, desk chair, desk lamp, bureau, and wastebasket for each occupant. These must not be removed from the room. The furniture provided meets most students' needs, and it is best not to duplicate those items or bring large furniture. The windows have drapes, shades, or blinds. Your residence hall [service center](#) can give you more information on furnishings and measurements.

What additional items should I bring for my room?

It's a good idea to check with your roommate(s) before the academic year begins so you don't duplicate items, but some general suggestions include: sheets and bedding that fit an extra-long twin bed, a pillow, towels, a container to hold/carry toiletries, storage crates, clothes hangers, a sewing kit, office supplies, envelopes, a UL-approved outlet strip with breaker switch (extension cords are prohibited), an alarm clock, your computer (if you have one), a stereo (or speakers for your iPod), a fan, a floor lamp. Thermostatically controlled appliances are allowed (i.e. popcorn poppers, coffee pots, automatic toasters) but must be operated in your residence hall kitchen.

What size linens and bedding will fit my bed?

Residence hall mattresses are 8" thick by 36" wide by 80" long -- that's extra long -- and regular twin size sheets will not fit. You may purchase extra-long twin sheets at your regular shopping center, or you can take advantage of Cornell's optional linen purchase plan. More information about the linen plan will be available in the "Your Housing Assignment" packet that you will receive, but in the meantime you can visit www.rhl.org/cor for more information.

Can I have a refrigerator in my room?

Many students find it convenient to have a small refrigerator in their rooms. You may either bring your own (assuming it does not draw more than 3 amps [300 watts] to start and 1.5 amps while running) or Campus Life can help you rent one. Information about refrigerator rental is included with the "Your Housing Assignment" mailing. You may also order a refrigerator by visiting www.campuspec.com or by calling 1-800-525-7307.

Is there anything I should NOT bring with me?

Yes, as a matter of safety there are a few items that you are NOT allowed to have in your room: extension cords, "spider" lamps, any lamp (particularly a halogen lamp) that requires a bulb greater than 150 watts, appliances not controlled by thermostats, candles, incense burners, microwave ovens, cinder blocks. Additionally, weapons and firearms must be registered and kept with Cornell University Police and may not be kept in residence halls.