

Housing Information 2009-2010

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

With the second semester in full swing, the students at Saint Joseph's University are thinking about housing for the 2009-2010 academic year. Since this can be a stressful experience, we want to provide you with information and resources that will enable you to support your student through this process.

As a reminder, current first-year students are **required** to live on campus for their second year. Additional information can be found on the Residence Life web site at <http://www.sju.edu/residence-life/>. Current sophomores and juniors may also apply for on-campus housing, but **spaces are limited**. Between 150 and 200 spaces will be available for these students in University housing next year.

Since January 20 and until February 13, 2009, current sophomores and juniors interested in on-campus housing must apply to the housing lottery through "MySJU" (a secured Internet-based portal). From this applicant pool, a randomly generated group of students will be selected for on-campus housing. Selected participants in the housing lottery process will be notified if they have been selected for on-campus housing on February 17, 2009 via email.

Upper-class students selected to participate in the housing selection process will be given five days to complete the first two steps in the process (February 17-22, 2009). Once a deposit and contract have been completed, a student is guaranteed on-campus housing. Please note that **the housing contract is a binding contract for the entire 2009-10 academic year** and students will not be released from the contract except for extraordinary circumstances.

The room selection process will begin on March 19, 2009, and will be conducted via the Web, much like class registration. Available housing options will vary depending on the assigned housing selection date & time. Current juniors will choose first, sophomores second, and then current first-year students.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Upper-class students looking for off-campus housing have multiple resources available to them to assist with this process. The Off-Campus Housing Coordinator, Ms. Denys Davis, is located in Room 212 of the Campion Center. Students and parents can call (610-660-1003), stop by the office, or make an appointment for individual consultation to have questions answered and to learn more about off-campus housing options and what local communities have to offer our students.

The Office provides a Web site with resources for finding housing, listings of apartments available for students, information on local housing ordinances as well as checklists that can guide students as they evaluate various properties:

http://www.sju.edu/STUDENT_LIFE/och/.

We encourage students to attend the **Off-Campus Housing Workshop and the Off-Campus Housing Fair**. The workshop will be held **February 10, 2009, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM** in Simpson Hall and will focus on landlord/tenant rights. The Spring Off-Campus Housing Fair will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2009 from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM** in Simpson Hall. At the Fair, students and parents will meet property managers and receive all the information they need to find housing that fits their needs and interests. Also at the Fair, students can sign up for shuttle tours of the off-campus complexes to learn about various options and the proximity of each to campus.

A perception among many students is that renting a house is the most attractive option, one that offers space, privacy and appears more comfortable. While it may seem ideal, the reality is that some rental houses may exceed the legal occupancy limits, are not zoned for renting, and may not be up to code. By law, **only three unrelated people can live in a private home** in Philadelphia unless zoned otherwise.

To avoid potential legal issues, the University provides listings of professionally managed apartments and private homes that are zoned for renting. If you opt to rent a private home consider these important issues first:

- Get all verbal agreements for repairs and improvements in writing.
- Check for zoning and code violations on line at licertifications@phila.gov
- Consider trash and recycling regulations as well as answering questions such as are you as the tenant responsible for leaf and snow removal and lawn maintenance
- Consider what utility bills you are expected to pay and if responsible for heating, consider the condition of the windows, doors and insulation.

Be assured that there are ample safe, professionally managed properties in the area for rent. There are over 30 apartment complexes with on-site management that are close to campus and most have access to our shuttle service. Many area apartments provide space for up to six students.

As always, we hope that parents support students in the decision-making process regarding choices for what living arrangement would be best for them. Moving off campus is a transition that requires planning, and we are here to assist. Should you or your son or daughter have any questions, please contact:

Off-Campus Housing:

Denys Davis
ddavis@sju.edu
610-660-1003 office

On-Campus Housing:

Chris Heasley
cheasley@sju.edu
610-660-1060 office

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT WHEN RESIDING OFF-CAMPUS

For students who are currently residing, or are planning to begin residing off campus, we encourage you to always look at safety as a priority. Your personal safety, as well as the safety of your property, is something that you should plan for at all times.

Before signing a lease, you should investigate the area that you are contemplating calling “home” for the next year or two. In looking for a place to live, consider the following questions:

- Is the house or apartment building located in a populated area? Is the street well-traveled by vehicles and pedestrians or is it in a desolate location?
- Are there any vacant properties located adjacent to where I want to live? If so, look elsewhere.
- Are the doors, windows and entryways in good condition with secure locking mechanisms?
- If it’s an apartment building or complex, speak to the manager. Ask questions about lighting, security cameras and other safety concerns. If it’s a private home, meet the landlord and find out if they live near-by and get answers to your security concerns by discussing these with the landlord in advance and throughout your lease time.
- Is the residence located on a street with sufficient lighting?
- Check with the University Public Safety Office at 610-660-1111, as well as the local Police Department, and ask about any reported incidents of crime in the area.
- Always secure your doors and windows when not at home, particularly in a private home. It’s best to leave some interior lights on when away in the evening, or for a day or two.
- The most reputable apartment buildings have a well-lit entry area with a main door that is locked and must be unlocked to access the lobby or hallway.
- If you own a vehicle, ALWAYS keep it locked and make sure that the alarm works. NEVER leave any packages or valuables visible inside of the vehicle.

The university has four (4) uniformed Philadelphia Police Officers, riding in teams of two in marked police vehicles, patrolling off campus in the Overbrook / Wynnefield neighborhoods. These Officers are tied into our Public Safety dispatching system. They are patrolling seven days a week during the evening and early morning hours in the fall and spring semesters. They are there to provide a visible presence for crime prevention and to address and provide a timely response to any other University- and student-related issues and concerns.

We want to ensure that you are safe and secure in your off-campus environment. A large part of ensuring that you are safe is your responsibility. Make good, informed decisions at all times. Always report incidents of crime to the University Public Safety Office. The staff in the Public Safety Office will assist you in reporting incidents of crime to the local Police Department.

We in the Public Safety Department are always here with the offer to help and assist, 24/7, every day of the year. Our main contact number is 610-660-1111. Remember, if it’s an emergency call “911.”

Services for Students with Disabilities

Office of Student Educational Support Services • Jim Scott, Director • 113 Science Center • 610-660-1774

I hope that you enjoyed a very Merry Holiday Season and that your New Year will be the best ever. As we approach the Spring Semester, 2009, there are several areas that I would like to call to your attention and request your support.

1. The Workforce Recruitment Program – Summer Internships – A federally funded program for students with documented “differences”. These are paid internships and are located in federal installations throughout the country. Information packets and applications are available in my office. Recruiters will conduct interviews here at Saint Joseph’s on February 11th, 12th & 13th, 2009. I will email all students again about this opportunity on 1/20/09 and encourage them to investigate this opportunity.
2. During the first two weeks of the Spring Semester, 2009, I will contact all “qualified” students and encourage them to call my office for an appointment. I will review with them their documentation and determine appropriate accommodations. In order to notify professors with recommendations (academic adjustments) I need student permission. Please encourage students to call for an appointment.
3. I am extremely pleased to share with you that starting with the Spring Semester, 2009, my office and the Career Development Center will collaborate and provide Question & Answer Sessions for “qualified” students dealing with selecting a major, careers, internships and other areas of interest. The sessions are planned as follows:

February 3, 2009	Seniors	February 10, 2009	Sophomores
February 5, 2009	Junior	February 19, 2009	Freshman

The presenter will be Kristen Wilson, Career Development Specialist. Students will be notified as appropriate. Thank you for your support during the Fall Semester, 2008. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 610-660-1774 or jscott@sju.edu.