

3's COMPANY

A NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS IN EXTENDED HOUSING
Vol. XIII, No. 1 * FALL 2009

Welcome!

Congratulations on your admission to the University of Delaware and welcome to campus life. A 3's Company newsletter will be available to you online at www.udel.edu/has several times during the Fall semester. We want UD to be an enjoyable, exciting and comfortable place to reside, so we hope that you will read through this newsletter and that you find our suggestions helpful.

We will also include some information about extended housing for your parents on how they can support you. We ask that you let them know about this newsletter, so they can read it online at www.udel.edu/has.

If you ever have any concerns, feel free to contact us at Housing Assignment Services:

By phone: 302-831-3676

By e-mail: UD-Housing@udel.edu

Or by mail: 5 Courtney Street
Newark, De. 19716



Good luck and best wishes for a great semester!

CHANGING ROOMS HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

You are beginning your first year of college at one of the most popular Universities in the nation. Congratulations on your admission and welcome to campus.

Your assignment in a tripled room is not a permanent arrangement. Most students assigned to an extended housing room will be offered a permanent space based on availability within the building and priority before the end of the Fall semester.

All students who wish to be reassigned to a permanent space are guaranteed priority for reassignment by the beginning of the Spring semester.

If you are interested in a room change or are aware of a vacancy in your building, you can request to be reassigned during the Fall semester. Please remember that freshmen must stay in their assigned building for the fall semester so they can be with other members of their First Year Experience seminar. Your Hall Director or RA will meet with students in triples and explain how you will be notified of vacancies. It is important to let your Hall Director know if there are any problems. See a Residence Life staff member for more information.

Are you getting along with your roommates? You may also choose not to accept any space offered during the Fall semester (see the back page for housing rebate information). You will continue to have the option to move

for Spring semester by completing a Mid-Year Room Change form (available after Thanksgiving). Students may move to other areas of campus at this time depending on vacancies.

Each student still residing in extended housing by the end of the Fall semester, who makes a request, is given high priority for a permanent assignment for the Spring semester. Students interested in reassignment for the Spring semester should complete a Mid-Year Room Change form by the end of the Fall semester. Please be sure to give our office sufficient room change options. Future 3's Company newsletters will include detailed instructions on how to complete the Room Change form, which will be available online at www.udel.edu/has.

10 TIPS ON HOW TO CONNECT WITH 2 ROOMMATES

College students who live on campus, particularly freshmen, are all looking for a connection; a place to belong, people to hang out with, something that makes them feel right at home! Here are ten strategies for success in extended housing:

1. Do not let things go unresolved, or you and your roommates will not be comfortable in the room. Facebook profiles are not the same as people. Facebook is an exciting new phenomenon, but there is no way you can find out everything about your roommates on this site. Take time for actual face-to-face communication with each other right from the start and keep at it. If you remember to keep an open mind and stay positive...you might be pleasantly surprised!
2. When communication breaks down, roommate conflict can occur. Get help if you need it. Your RA or Hall Director, or even the Counseling Center, can help you deal with your living situation.
3. Compromise. Do not be stubborn. It is okay to assert yourself as long as you are willing to negotiate on anything which is not a health or legal issue.
4. Do not "triangulate" your problems by playing two roommates against each other.
5. Rumors run rampant in residence halls. Do not talk about your roommates behind their backs, ESPECIALLY to floor mates. It undermines a positive community and if you resolve your differences, the baggage is still "out there." Go directly to the source when there is a problem.
6. Spend some time picking up your stuff. Messy rooms tend to be uncomfortable. You do not have to keep things spotless, but be reasonable.
7. Negotiate study and sleep schedules and your expectations for both; for example, turning the lights on, listening to music, entertaining guests, etc. (SEE "The Importance of a Roommate Agreement").
8. Be patient and forgiving. For some, college can be a very difficult adjustment. Your roommates may be having difficulty coping right now, but given a little time, they will probably be okay. Give everyone time to get used to each other before claiming the problem cannot be solved.
9. Be polite. Do not forget your roommates when making decisions about decorations, guests, entertaining, etc. Your consideration will usually be returned.
10. Be honest! Tell your roommates (respectfully) when you are not happy with something they did. And, when you are offered a space in a double room, be honest about who should move. If you notice the other two roommates hit it off, maybe it is best for you to move. If you are one of the two that became friends, be fair to the other roommate and ask him/her if he/she will move. If no one will move, ask the RA or Hall Director for assistance in resolving this situation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A ROOMMATE AGREEMENT

The college roommate experience can be one of the most trying yet gratifying times in your college career. You will be faced with values and concepts that you never knew existed. For many of you, this will be the first time that you have had to share your space. This sharing will require that you learn how your behaviors and actions; both positively and negatively, affect others. We encourage you to open your mind to yourself and others.

This will be a time to be flexible, set limits, hold others accountable, and to be held accountable. Your college experience will entail growing and changing, not staying the same! Your roommate experience will be an invaluable part of your college education. As with all things worthwhile it will take effort, initiative, and understanding. The roommate/suitemate agreement process is one of the tools used to possibly prevent tension between roommates. It is the role of Residence Life staff members to assist and guide you in the development of your Roommate Agreement. Through this exercise, you will learn essential living skills that will ensure your success at UD. See your RA for more details!

Respecting Safety Concerns

Sharing a room also means sharing the responsibility for making it a safe place. You and your roommates may have different views on what safety means. So, you may want to discuss things like locking the room, carrying keys and access cards, following policies and procedures and allowing people to enter your room when no one is there. We recommend that doors remain locked, policies are always followed and keys, access cards/fobs, are always with their owners to maintain the highest safety level. For additional information on safety in the Residence Halls visit: www.udel.edu/reslife/students/sec_fire.html

SPACE INVADERS

We know that one of the first big issues that you will deal with as roommates is how to make enough space for everyone's stuff. Here are some ideas:

CONSIDER THE SEASON

While we want you to be prepared for the occasional cool Fall weather, we can almost guarantee that you will not need your entire wardrobe of winter sweaters in September. We encourage you to consider the season, and perhaps bring more sweaters when you return from Thanksgiving break. At that time, you might also want to leave some of your summer wardrobe at home.

LOFTY HEIGHTS

Students cannot build lofts for their beds. You may rent a loft for the bed that is not bunked. For additional information, visit Collegiate Marketing at: www.BedLoft.com. Also consider bed risers, available at the University Bookstore. If you choose to lift your bed in any way, please make sure it is SAFE!

COMMUNITY PROPERTY

Not everything for your room comes in threes. There is only one cable outlet and only one micro-fridge is allowed per room. You will also need to share closets/wardrobes and dressers. Take time to review what can easily be shared between you. Then establish rules for using the shared items and include them in your Roommate Agreement.

"THOSE SQUEEZY BAGS"

What we mean to say is "Space Saving Bags." Take the air out of extra sheets or anything that can be flattened and stored.



TRIPLES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The Triples Assistance Program (TAP) is designed to provide assistance to students and their parents throughout their extended housing experience. This program is designed to proactively educate and support residents through formal and informal programming and interaction.

Highlights of this program include:

- Programming within the residence halls tailored to the specific needs of students living in extended housing (i.e., roommate negotiation techniques).
- An opportunity to learn from students who have lived in extended housing in the recent past.
- Social programming designed to promote interaction among all students in extended housing within the complex.
- Residence Life assistance with managing conflict beginning with the facilitation of an effective Roommate Agreement.
- Free subscription to the Informative Triples Newsletter
- Support for Housing Assignment Services and Residence Life staff in the de-tripling process during the fall semester and beyond.

Living in a triple can be challenging. However, students have been successful through flexibility, open communication and participation in the many components of the Triples Assistance Program. For more information about the Triples Assistance Program, please contact Samanta Lopez, slopez@udel.edu.

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Housing Assignment Services
5 Courtney Street
Newark, DE 19716

phone: 302-831-3676
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COMPANY NEWS YOU CAN USE

REBATE CREDITS

Rebate credits for students residing in extended housing are processed weekly and will appear on your student account. Credits for students in traditional residence halls are \$48 per week, and are applied for each full week that a student remains in extended housing, until you are offered a permanent space. *If a permanent space becomes available, but is declined by the students in all extended housing rooms in the building, the rebate is discontinued for the remaining weeks of the semester.* Rebates apply to the Fall semester as we do not anticipate any shortage of permanent spaces for the Spring semester.

Contact Housing Assignment Services, 302-831-3676, or e-mail UD-Housing@udel.edu if you have any questions regarding your rebate.

EXTENDED HOUSING FURNITURE REMOVAL

If you or a roommate is moving from your extended housing room to a permanent residence hall location, please remember to remove all personal items from the extended housing furniture. Moving crews are available on a weekly basis to remove this furniture. All extended housing furniture must be removed. Check online at www.facilities.udel.edu/exhousing.aspx to complete a request form.

Once the room change form has been properly completed and processed by Housing Assignment Services, the moving crew is scheduled. Facilities will contact you to inform you of the scheduled time. If you have any questions, please contact Housing Assignment Services at 831-3676.

2 PIZZAS FOR 3 ROOMMATES



Housing Assignment Services is sponsoring a contest to determine which students in extended housing are making the most creative use of their space.

In no more than five sentences, tell us creative measures you and your roommates have taken to maximize your living space in your residence hall room. Who decided what was divided? What went: the futon or the recliner, etc.? The two winning entries will receive two pizzas (with toppings) and six sodas (your choice), which will be delivered to your residence hall, at a time that is convenient for you.

All essays should be sent to jdh@udel.edu. Please submit entries no later than October 1st. Winners will be notified by mid-October.



Remember to look for your second issue of 3's Company next month on our web site. www.udel.edu/has