

## Living' large in a little room

On-campus residents explore the various opportunities for fun available to them in the dorms

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The Battalion

Life in college is not all about studying and should not be. It is a time to work hard, but it is also a time to party hard to keep from going insane. Dorm life is exciting, for the most part, and the people who make it happen, the resident advisers, see to it that students enjoy their experience.

Matt McDevitt, a resident adviser for FHK, said, "It's my role as an RA to facilitate learning, create a study environment, and to interpret, support and enforce the University policies, along with performing administrative duties. "But when all of an RA's duties are done, we also come up with programs in order to help students have an easier and more enjoyable time," McDevitt said.

Dylan Misslin, a resident adviser for Walton Hall's K Ramp, said watching dorm residents enjoy their time there is a benefit of being an RA.

"It is fun to see a bunch of your guys having fun and knowing that you did not have to do more than just the two required programs per semester, but you still did," Misslin said.

He said Walton has a lot of ongoing programs during the semester that bring students out and help them have fun.

"It's a blast here at Walton. For instance, on every Thursday night we get together and play poker with the guys, and some games last as long as four hours," Misslin said.

Misslin said that having his residents in on Thursday night not only lets them have fun, but protects them from the lure of underage drinking and keeps them out of trouble for at least one night.

"Students usually go for programs that involve free food and are fun. That usually gets them out," McDevitt said.

McDevitt said that, along with recreational and social programs, educational programs are also offered but are not met with the same amount of enthusiasm from residents.

"Programs at dorms build a sense of community and sense of belonging, not only to their dorm, but to Texas A&M," said Lisa Mers, hall director at FHK.

Mers said it is important to give students an incentive of sorts for all the hard work they put in studying.

"We got a lot of people out this past Super Bowl because of the free food and the social environment," McDevitt said. "Activities like this allow people in the dorm to make friends and even make dates in instances where the dorm is coed, as is FHK."

Scott Basett, a freshman chemistry major and resident at Walton hall said, "The most I like about my dorm is all the different people around to help me. Anytime I might be down or might be worried about something, my hall director or my RA are always there to help me out."

Misslin said that many RAs are really involved even though it is not a requirement, and that is one of the reasons they became RAs.

"Students are as happy as long as the RAs are willing to help them out in

whatever they may need," said Misslin. "It's nice to see your guys having fun and bonding with each other, thus building a great community."

Walton Hall's K Ramp organizes Sunday night barbecues that they call "K-grub." They won the Program of the Month award given by the Residence Hall Association when they made rib-eye steaks. Misslin said K-grub attracts students because of the free food and social factor.

Intramural sports are also an important activity in and around dorms, said Justin Kusheva, an RA in charge of intramural sports at FHK. "Intramural

sports are really popular, because they allow students to have fun and, at the same time, get them out to do some exercise," Kusheva said.

Kusheva said dorms usually have teams that vary from year to year, according to what the students might be interested in.

"Some years you might have basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball or football, and other times you might get a tennis team," Kusheva said.

"Playing intramural sports is not about slaughtering the other team, but rather about sportsmanship and getting people out to have fun together," Kusheva said. "Co-rec teams are especially popular because it is a great way to meet people you might otherwise not meet."

Kusheva said that, for those shy people, co-rec teams could be the ultimate way to get a date or just meet some friends.

Mers said helping students have fun is crucial to good grades and a healthy mental attitude.

If playing intramural sports or other programs do not tickle a student's fancy, the recreation area at the Commons will provide students with plenty of entertainment. The Commons Lobby has pool tables for billiards fanatics, and one can enjoy a nice game of Foosball in the company of friends.

John Slade, a sophomore architecture major who lives in Dunn Hall, said, "It is great to be able to wake up from a restless night's sleep and have the option of playing pool 24 hours a day."

Spence-Briggs also has lined up some programs that are sure to get students' attention.

Hollie Kohlhepp, a resident adviser for Spence-Briggs said her dorm is holding a party called "Party House."

Kohlhepp said the social event is open to any student from any residence hall.

Alfredo Quesada, a resident adviser for Dunn Hall, said Dunn has planned events such as paintball tournaments for its residents.

"Paintball is exciting, and I cannot wait to be able to start doing fun stuff like that here at Dunn," Quesada said.

Quesada, a new RA this semester, said he has a lot of activities planned for this semester.

"I have seen that paintball tournaments have gone fairly well at other dorms, and it's just another program I want to do in order to help my residents have more fun," Quesada said. "We are also going to try to get some video-game action going here at Dunn, and it seems like a great idea to me in order to get my residents more motivated."

Quesada said he plans to hook up video games on two big-screen televisions for video-game fanatics who might be interested or for students who might be bored.

"There is no reason for students to be bored in their dorm, so if they want to take a study break, there are numerous options on how to have fun," Quesada said.



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- H-E-B Grocery Company
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- American National
- Bridgestone/Firestone
- AIM Funds
- The St. Paul Companies
- Ernst & Young
- Mutuals.com
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- EDS
- The Expo Group
- J.D. Edwards & Company
- Skilled Services Corp.
- e2i
- Enron Corp.
- Sewell Automotive Companies
- Automatic Data Processing (ADP)
- Wal-mart Stores Inc.
- Donovan and Watkins
- KPMG, LLP
- Mervyn's California
- Valero Energy
- Dell Computer Corp.
- Zale Corporation
- Sysco Corporation
- Luby's, Inc.
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- Maxim Healthcare Services
- Allegiance Healthcare
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
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- Neiman Marcus
- IBM Corporation

- Hope Lumber & Supply Company
- Kurt Salmon Associates
- ABB, Inc.
- Guaranty Bank
- Ford Motor Company
- Smith & Associates
- Deloitte & Touche
- Walgreens
- Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
- Sam's Club
- Halliburton Company
- H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc.
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- El Paso Energy
- National Instruments
- Office Depot
- United States Gypsum Co.
- Reliant Energy
- UCS
- JC Penny
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- TEK Systems
- Foley's
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### WEDNESDAY

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- CMS Energy Panhandle Pipe Line Companies
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- Deloitte & Touche
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- El Paso Energy
- National Instruments
- Office Depot
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- Reliant Energy
- UCS
- JC Penny
- Equiva Services
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- H.D. Vest Financial Services
- Cintas
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- Unocal Corporation
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
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- USAA
- Target Corporation
- Exxon Mobil Corporation
- KPMG Consulting
- American Express Financial Advisors, Inc.
- Frito-Lay, Irving Operations

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- Hastings Entertainment, Inc.
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