



Neighborly News

Family Housing Council— <http://www.odfhc.org>

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Weekly Reminders

FHC Monthly Public Meeting

The next FHC meeting will be Friday, March 27, at 5:45pm in the CC. Join us for pizza and refreshments. All residents are welcome.

Saturday, March 14

Sewing Room 10am at LRC
Saturday Fitness 10am at CC

Monday, March 16

Family Game Night 6pm at CC
Energy Awareness 6pm at FGH

Tuesday, March 17

International Friendship Group 1pm at FRC

Wednesday, March 18

Parent-Child Playgroup 9am at FRC
Book Club 6pm at FGH
Kids Story & Craft 6pm at CC

Friday, March 20

Mid-Term Stress Management Noon at LRC
Cooking Club 2pm at CC

Pest Control:

During the month of March, Orchard Downs buildings 2001 - 2039 will be treated. Twenty-four-hour advance notice will be provided prior to treatment. Please move large items away from the walls and remove items on or around windows. To request treatment, visit the website below.

Submit Maintenance Requests to:

<http://iservice.housing.uiuc.edu>

Study Room

Apartment 2102-104

“Venturing Beyond Our Comfort Zones” Presentation at Community Center

Dr. Rudy Mattai, keynote speaker for the University’s International Education Week, and Dr. Jacqueline M. Williams will present at the **Orchard Downs Community Center** on **Sunday, March 15** from **5:30 to 7 p.m.** on the topic “Venturing Beyond Our Comfort Zones: Exploring Cultural Spaces In Spite of Presuppositions/Dispositions.” This educational program is open to Family & Graduate Housing residents. Light foods and refreshments will be available. Children must be supervised by the accompanying adult.

Lease Renewal: Common Questions

Not planning to renew your lease for the 2009-2010 school year?

We hate to see you go, but want you to know that there is an easy way for you to let us know that you will be leaving! Use the online lease renewal process during the month of March and indicate that you will not be renewing your lease. It is very important for you to give us this information as soon as possible. By communicating that you are not renewing, but will be staying until the end of your current lease (July 31), we will be able to promptly refund your deposit and make sure your utilities are scheduled to be turned off immediately when you leave. You can also email the information to apartments@illinois.edu or you can simply drop off an Early Termination Request form to the Family & Graduate Housing office.

Need to terminate your current lease prior to July 31?

If you will be ending your affiliation with the University and plan to vacate your apartment any time prior to May 16, 2009 (graduation weekend), you must submit both a “Request for Early Termination” & “Department Verification” form to the Family & Graduate Housing office and make sure you comply with all of the terms of your lease. If you would like to terminate your lease any time after May 16, you only need to provide the one Early Termination Request form and give us your 45-day notice. Both online termination request forms can be found on the Housing website, www.housing.illinois.edu.

Online Roommate Wanted Forum

Are you looking for a roommate in time for your apartment lease renewal? Then a good place to find a roommate is the “Roommate Wanted Forum” on the Orchard Downs message board. The web address for the board is <http://bb.odfhc.org/>. The message board is also ideal for anyone wishing to comment about various issues (such as interacting with roommates), to raise concerns with the Family Housing Council, or to buy and sell items.



Community Programs

Please note that we often take photographs during community events, and these photographs may be used in a gallery online. If you do not wish to have your photograph taken, please inform the staff member at the event or contact the Family & Graduate Housing Office at famhous@uiuc.edu or 333-5656.

Sewing Room Hours

The Sewing Room is open every **Saturday** from **10 a.m. to noon** in the **Learning Resource Center**. Sewing machines and other equipment, including scissors, pins, measuring tapes, and thread, are available for the use of all residents. No appointment necessary—just drop on by! Contact Sewing Room Monitor Feifei Zhan (sewinguiuc@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Cooking Club

Come join in the fun! At Cooking Club, you can meet new friends, taste new food, and learn new recipes! Please join us weekly on **Fridays** from **2 to 3 p.m.** in the **Orchard Downs Community Center**. Children are welcome but no child care assistance is available. Parents are responsible for the supervision and safety of their children. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Karr at 333-5656 or LKarr1@illinois.edu.

Parent-Child Playgroup

This weekly playgroup meets every **Wednesday** at **9 a.m.** at the **Family Resource Center (1834-A Orchard St.)**. These playgroups provide an opportunity to learn new activities to do with your children that enhance their growth and development. Playgroups also are a great way to meet other parents, share activities and conversations, and make new friends (for yourself and your children)! Children should be 5 years old or younger. If you have any questions, please contact our Family Relations Graduate Assistant Lauren Karr at 333-5656 or LKarr1@illinois.edu.

International Friendship Group

Are you interested in getting to know others in the community? Do you like to learn more about others cultures? If so, please join us at our International Friendship Groups, held every **Tuesday** at **1 p.m.** at the **Family Resource Center (1834-A Orchard St.)**. Children are welcome, but no childcare assistance is available. Parents are responsible for the supervision and safety of their children. If you have any questions, please contact our Family Relations Graduate Assistant, Lauren Karr, at 333-5656 or LKarr1@illinois.edu.

Chess, Checkers, & Cards

Come to the Community Center for an evening of Chess, Checkers, and Cards! We will be playing these three games on **Monday, March 16** from **6 to 7p.m.** at the **Community Center**. Don't know how to play? That's okay, we'll teach you! Hope to see you there.

Kids Story Time & Craft

On **Wednesday, March 18** from **6 to 7p.m.** we will be having Kids Story Time and Craft Activity. We will first read a children's book, and then all work on a craft activity related to the book!

Kids Movie

Come to the **Community Center** on **Saturday, March 21** at **1 p.m.** for a showing of a kids movie! We will have snacks and watch a favorite kids movie!

Book Club

Book Club is ready to start a new book! We will meet on **Wednesday, March 18** at **6 p.m.** at the **FGH office**. If you are interested, email Bryan at kelly31@illinois.edu to receive a book list to choose from. When people have submitted their votes, together we will decide what book to read. During our meetings we will discuss and reflect on the previously assigned chapter. We will meet every other week.

Current Events Program

There is so much going on in the world today. Are you interested in learning more about what is happening or talking about it with others? Learning Initiatives is offering a Current Events discussion group on **Monday, March 23** at **6 p.m.** in the **FGH office**. We will discuss what is happening in the United States as well as across the globe. Ideas and topics are encouraged for the discussion. Any questions can be sent to Bryan at kelly31@illinois.edu.

Energy Awareness Program

With the current economy and the state of the environment, it is important for everyone to be aware of energy consumption. Come to the Energy Awareness Program on **Monday, March 16** at **6 p.m.** at the **FGH office**. Energy-saving tips will be provided and discussion is encouraged. Come learn how to save some money and the environment. Any questions can be sent to Bryan, at kelly31@illinois.edu.



International Education Week Essay Contest Winners

“WHERE ARE YOU FROM?”

By Burcin Evrenkaya— Fulbright Scholar rep. Turkey, MS Statistics: Analytics Concentration (candidate '10)

The question, ‘Where are you from?’ is usually asked after the question, ‘What is your name?’ when you meet with a foreigner. With a faster globalizing world in the 21st century, however, the answer is not as simple any more. Is it the place that you were physically born, the location that you feel most at home, the place you work, or where you pursue your academic career? I, being an international student myself, had a tough time figuring out the answer.

I first came to the United States in an exchange program between my home university and Boston University my junior year. Exchange Student Program, by a popular definition, is ‘a program in which a student, typically in secondary or higher education, chooses to live in a foreign country to learn, among other things, language and culture. These programs are called ‘exchanges’ because originally the goal was an exchange of students between different countries.’ My first ‘exposure’ to international education started at this time. As the definition suggests, the aim of the program was not just academic improvement of the individual, but to actually discover new cultures and languages giving him a broader sense of ‘citizenship’. I am originally from Turkey, but after the program I gained a larger perspective of the big picture: I am actually a citizen of the world.

After my study abroad program, I started to understand the importance of international education. My perception about the U.S. has changed drastically in the sense that I had the opportunity to meet with real Americans – not just the ones we see in movies or read from very subjective media sources. I was able to discuss politics and try to grasp their points of view about my country and the global challenges that the world was facing at that time, including wars, natural disasters, etc. I learned how to be patient when answering questions that had generally made me mad before and how to respect different ideas in issues [that no consensus had been reached for centuries], such as religion and political views.

There is also an undeniable educational fact in this experience. I applied for the Fulbright Scholarship upon my graduation because I wanted to specialize in my field. During my study abroad program I witnessed the developments in Statistics and decided to come back to excel in the subject.

The importance of international education should not be underestimated. Not only do the participants improve academically and socially, but upon their return their home countries also benefit in the long run. This continuous flow of ‘world citizens’ provides development in science along with providing more open-minded people for everybody’s dream: a world in peace. So now, everybody can answer the question, ‘Where are you from?’ with, ‘We are FROM the same world!’

(www.wikipedia.org)

“INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION”

By Victor Wang—Medical Scholars Program, School of Medicine (candidate '11)

I have lived at the Goodwin & Green Apartments for the past 8 years, since I began as a graduate student at the University of Illinois. Through the years, I have made several long lasting friendships that still persist today, even though we are physically separated by mountains, oceans, and continents. Every year, the residents whom I first met still send Christmas emails to each other to update everyone on our lives. It is heartwarming to see those of us who began as bewildered students at the U of I going on to have beautiful families and lead exciting lives in their homelands.

Even though I am not technically an “International” student, being in Illinois after growing up in California was still a relatively “foreign” experience. Since the majority of the residents I have met at University Housing are from all over the world, I have received an International Education whether I liked it or not. This education continues today as I meet newer residents from even more diverse corners of the globe. I have learned that we can all find a common ground when we need to, that friendships can arise from hearing trumpet practice in the lounge, that the English spoken here is not the same as the English spoken in Australia and England, and that we can all communicate over a game (or several games) of ping pong. Perhaps ping pong isn’t such a bad idea for foreign relations and for settling international disputes.

When I graduate, I will fondly recall my time here. Growing up, I never thought I would be going to a campus restaurant in a group composed of two people from Germany, one from Brazil, one from Australia, one from England, one from Malaysia, two from Taiwan, one from Spain, and one from California; in central Illinois no less! The learning experience that I have gained from these people has been invaluable, as have been the friendships and pleasure of their company. It is almost as if I have had another extraordinary education in addition to my graduate studies. To put it succinctly, over the years I have had many opportunities to move - to larger quarters and better amenities - but I have never left because of the people I have met from all over the world and because of my International Education.



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What is the FHC?

The Orchard Downs FHC is an organization created to safeguard the interest of the residents of Orchard Downs Family & Graduate Housing.

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MultiCultural Health Center

2040-A Orchard Street

The MCHC works to deliver culturally sensitive illness prevention and health promotion services to the families of the Family & Graduate Housing community. The Center provides health information, education, insurance information, and referrals to residents. MultiCultural Health Center office hours will be held on **Wednesdays** from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CCCHC Thursday Clinic/HeRMES Thursday Clinic

The Champaign County Christian Health Center (CCCHC) offers clinic services the **2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m.** for walk-in appointments at the MCHC. The clinic will be staffed with a physician and/or a nurse practitioner. Services will include, but not be limited to: general health concerns, physical exams, nutrition education, referrals to community services, skin problems, exercise and weight management, colds or other respiratory infections, medical screenings, and more.

The HeRMES Thursday Evening Clinic (**1st and 3rd Thursdays 6 to 8 p.m. at the MCHC**) provides primary physician care. Treatment is offered for many health concerns, including, but not limited to, general health issues, nutrition education, preventive health care, seasonal colds and the flu, other respiratory infections, aches and pains, and much more.

Please take advantage of these free services. For more information, please contact CCCHC at 398-2914, visit www.ccchc2003.org, or contact MCHC graduate assistant Paul Morgan at pamorgan1@gmail.com.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Services

This program is offered **every other Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.** at the **MultiCultural Health Center**. These services are provided for women, infants, and children, and are offered by the Champaign Urbana Public Health District. Established clients have access to case managers and coupons. Coupon distribution and arrangement must be made in advance with Cathy Ito, R.N., M.S. You can reach Cathy by email at Services for WIC participants include supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education and counseling at WIC clinics, and screenings and referrals for other health services, welfare, and social services. Additional medical screenings can be made at CUPHD (www.cuphd.org). For more information, contact Cathy Ito (cito@cuphd.org, 531-4311) or MCHC graduate assistant Paul Morgan at pamorgan1@gmail.com.

The MCHC also offers a weigh-in program for infants. Bring your baby to the MultiCultural Health Center **every other Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.** to have your baby's weight checked. We will also be distributing cards that will enable you to keep track of your baby's weight. If you have any questions about this program, please email Paul Morgan at pamorgan1@gmail.com.

NEIGHBORLY NEWS

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Family & Graduate Housing
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