Happy Fall!

The Department of Graduate and Family Housing hope that you’re semester has gotten off to a very successful start. As we now enter into Fall we look forward to many fall activities in the area. Corn mazes, carving pumpkins, and Halloween. For those of you who have never celebrated a Fall in Gainesville or just want some advice on what to do, this is your guide.

Daylight Savings Time Ends!
Don’t forget to set your clock back 1 hour at 2 am on November 1st

Special Things to Look For in This Edition:

- Gainesville Fall Highlights
- Welcome To The Continuum
- Resident Highlights
- Question of the Month
- Buying a Car In Florida
The Continuum
A Graduate Community
With Kaitlyn Hosticka, Continuum Community Coordinator

What is the Continuum?
The Continuum is an off-campus UF affiliated housing community exclusive to UF graduate students, faculty, and staff.

Who lives at the Continuum:
Anyone who has already earned their bachelors degree and is affiliated with UF is eligible to live at The Continuum, so this can include employees of the university; faculty, staff, law school students, master candidates, doctoral candidates, etc. A majority of our residents are students in the college of law, business, medicine, and the liberal arts and sciences.

What is the relationship with UF and the Continuum? How does the relationship the Continuum has with UF impact the residents and the community as a whole?
The Continuum is owned and operated by Capstone on Campus, a private entity, but, it is a community of UF’s Graduate and Family Housing. My role as Community Coordinator is to provide our residents with similar services, opportunities, and experiences as the other GFH villages. Our residents are welcome to attend events and programming at the other GFH communities, just as residents of those communities are welcome to attend ours. The relationship helps connect the students with the University in a way that other apartment communities can’t.

What are some amenities at the Continuum?
Weekly programming and events, a 24 hour study lounge and business center, a 24 hour fitness center and recreation room (with a billiards table, big screen TV, Wii, games, etc), it is a pet friendly community, a swimming pool and grill/picnic area, and card controlled access, just to name a few.
Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is a time of fun and excitement. Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests, and especially their children. Following a few safety guidelines and using some common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season. Here are some simple tips to make your Halloween frighteningly fun.

1. Plan to Trick-or-Treat when it is still light outside.
2. Trick-or-Treat with a group of people.
3. Plan your route with your group ahead of time, picking familiar areas and streets that are well lighted.
4. Carry a flashlight and use reflective tape on your costume so you can be easily seen.
5. If buying a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
6. Wear a costume in which it is easy to walk.
7. Avoid wearing masks as they may make it hard to see. Why not use makeup instead? But if you must wear a mask, take it off before crossing the street.
8. Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
9. Carry only flexible props.
10. Cross streets at corners and resist the urge to cross between parked cars.
11. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
12. Approach only houses that are lit.
13. Stay away from and don’t pet animals you don’t know.
14. Carry a cell phone to call home or 911.
15. Wait until you get home to sort, check, and eat your treats.
   Do not eat anything that is not packaged in the original factory seal.

For further information on Halloween safety or other safety tips, please contact the University of Florida Police Department Community Services Division at (352) 392-1409.
Recently I had the opportunity to attend a S.A.F.E, Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange class hosted by the University of Florida Police Department. The class was taught by Officer Susan Pratt who is a very knowledgeable, informative, and fun instructor.

What is the S.A.F.E Program like?
The program was two hours of a short video and lecture, followed by physical preparedness training. Officer Pratt explained how to get out of dangerous situations. The scenarios were diverse leaving one feeling much more comfortable with the ability to defend themselves. She also taught how to use one's strength even if one is not very strong to free themselves. The class had around 15 or so students so there was a lot of one on one attention to ensure that students get the moves and use them properly.

Is the program free?
The Program is absolutely free and was hosted at the University Police Department.

Who can attend a training?
Officer Pratt said that any woman is welcome to attend if they RSVP. The Alachua County Sherrif’s office also hosts S.A.F.E and RAD training as well. Check the UFPD website for upcoming classes.

What is the greatest benefit of taking part in S.A.F.E?
Awareness, one leaves the class with a new awareness of possible situations and knowing that they have the strength and ability to fight off an attack.

What are the next steps after S.A.F.E?
After one has completed the S.A.F.E. program or if one is looking for an even more in depth self-defense program UFPD as well as the Alachua County Sherrif’s office offer a 12 hour training program known as RAD. Find more information on the UFPD or Alachua County Sherrif’s office website.
The University of Florida has a new community support ally on campus that is helping valid UFID holders that are facing food insecurity the ability to get non-perishable foods, toiletries, and sometimes fresh produce. This new support is the Field and Fork Pantry which is supervised by the Dean of Students Office. “The Field and Fork Campus Food Program is a collaboration to create awareness about food insecurity and sustainable food practices. The program seeks to not only provide healthy food, but educate Gators on how to make balanced food choices.” - fieldandfork.ufl.edu.

Who Can Utilize The Resource of the Pantry?

The Pantry is available to anyone with a valid UFID. The Pantry is intended to assist members of our campus community who experience food insecurity. We will not ask guests of The Pantry to verify income or need. We will trust that guests will use The Pantry only when they have a need to use the service. We recognize that some people who use The Pantry will have a chronic need for food while others may only have a temporary need that may not be reflected in a financial statement of need. This Program is Free of Charge!

How Can One Help the Pantry?

- Donating food to the pantry
- Hosting a food drive
- Volunteer at the pantry by going to: fieldandfork.ufl.edu
- Groups can volunteer by contacting: fieldandfork@ufl.edu
- Donating financial resources at: https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=019571

Where is the Pantry and When is it Open?

The Pantry is open Tues 1:00 p.m-7:00 p.m. Wed 9:00 a.m-6:00 p.m. Fri 9:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.
Field and Fork is located at 564 Newell Drive – adjacent to McCarty & Food Science and Human Nutrition.
Buying And Selling A Car in Florida

Student Legal Services receives a lot of complaints from students when they have bought or sold a car. New cars are frequently sold with some type of warranty, which you should read closely to understand its terms. Most used vehicles are sold “as is”, without any warranty whatsoever, which usually means the seller has no responsibility once the car is sold. If your car breaks down (and there is no warranty), that means that the buyer assumes all responsibility for any necessary repairs. Therefore, it is a good idea to have an independent mechanic (a mechanic of your own choosing) check out the vehicle before buying it. We recommend being very careful about buying extended warranties sold by dealerships; many of these warranties do not cover all conditions and they can also be quite expensive.

Start by looking at on-line websites (like kbb.com or nada.com) to research a fair price based on the model year and condition of the car. After you have agreed on the price with the seller, always make sure the seller’s name appears on the title and that the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the car matches the title. In our experience, it is best if the buyer and seller can meet at the county tax collector’s office to transfer the title and that both parties execute a bill of sale besides applying for a new title. Be aware that the buyer must also pay to register (estimated at $420.00) plus any sales taxes due (6% sales tax on the full purchase price).

Also, be aware that if you own a vehicle in the State of Florida you are required to have the appropriate automobile insurance. Failure to obtain insurance on a vehicle is a criminal traffic offense and may result in a citation and possibly the loss of your driving privileges in some cases. Always carry a copy of your insurance card in your automobile. The minimum insurance requirements in Florida are $10,000 for Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and $10,000 property damage liability (PDL). We recommend that you obtain higher limits.

If you are selling a vehicle, make sure that the person buying the vehicle has fully paid (the check has cleared the bank) or they are paying cash before transferring the title to them. Remember to complete the “Transfer of Title” section on the front of the Florida title certificate and to remove your license plate from the car to either cancel the tag or transfer it to a new vehicle. For more information on protecting yourself against any problems, please visit the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles at http://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/80007.pdf. If you have any questions on this or other legal matters, please visit UF Student Legal Services at www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu or contact us at (352) 392-5297.
Date Night

Fall is the time we see temperatures drop, earlier sunsets, cooler weather, and more festivities. This time also means fun opportunities to take someone special on a really fun date night. Our idea for the month focuses on Fall fun. Why not take your date out later in the evening to the Newberry Corn maze, try to find your way around. The corn maze organizer also has zombie paint ball, mechanical bulls, and hay rides. Afterwards head over to Cymplify Fresh, grab some coffee from the cafe or get a tasty fresh meal. Still want more fun? Grab a pumpkin and have a carving contest, keep the competition fun and light. When you’re done with the pumpkins put a tea light inside, step back and admire your work.

Family Day

Looking for some weekday fun, now that Fall has begun the Morningside Nature Center every Wednesday starting at 3pm offers children (with an adult) to come and feed farm animals such as cows and sheep. The farm is located at the living history museum, make a day of the trip and also head to the living history museum. The museum is open Monday-Thursday from 9:30 am- 4:30 pm.

Weekends filled with pumpkin carving and bobbing for apples can be lots of fun for kids of all ages. Safe Trick-or-Treating can be found at Ghouls, Goblins, and Greeks which is an event hosted by 16 UF sororities, showcasing different Halloween themes at each house the houses will also have games, treats, and prizes. This event is free of charge.

Question Of The Month

1 Winner will Receive A $20 Gift Card To The UF Bookstore

How Many Countries Are Represented in Graduate and Family Housing?

Email Kerstinb@housing.ufl.edu with your answer. Whoever answers the question correctly first will receive the gift card. You will receive notification through the email you submit.