

Res life changes registration software

Simple Campus Housing out, eRezlife in

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The Ashland University Office of Residence Life has decided to change the housing registration software on Feb. 1, resulting in an absolute modification in the way students select housing.

Simple Campus Housing, the current campus housing software, was bought out by eRezlife two years ago and will be discontinued; therefore, all institutions under this software have been forced to assimilate to the parent company, eRezlife.

The Office of Residence Life decided on the eRezlife system after a period of exploration and consideration from faculty representatives in many different offices on campus including: auxiliary services, the business and admissions offices and the information technology department.

“We tried to think of incoming students, current students, offices outside of our office to make sure that we were as thoughtful as we possibly could be,” Director of Residence Life and Commuter Services Kim Lammers said.

Lammers is confident in the chosen software system and believes it possesses unique facets that differentiates it from the current system.

“We’re very excited about eRezlife because it provides us with features that Simple Campus Housing did not,” Lammers said.

Unlike Simple Campus Housing, eRezlife requires students to create profiles that will allow for students without roommates to pair with other students that have similar interests.

“It’s almost like a dating site; you can set up your own profile, put a

picture up, say what you’re like,” Meyers Hall Resident Assistant Dustin Martiney said, “And then you can go through and see ‘oh this person matches up with me’ so it makes it a lot easier for you to find a roommate and it makes it a lot easier for you to find a room.”

In addition to roommate matching, the new software will notify students if their rooming request with another student has been accepted, similar to a friend request.

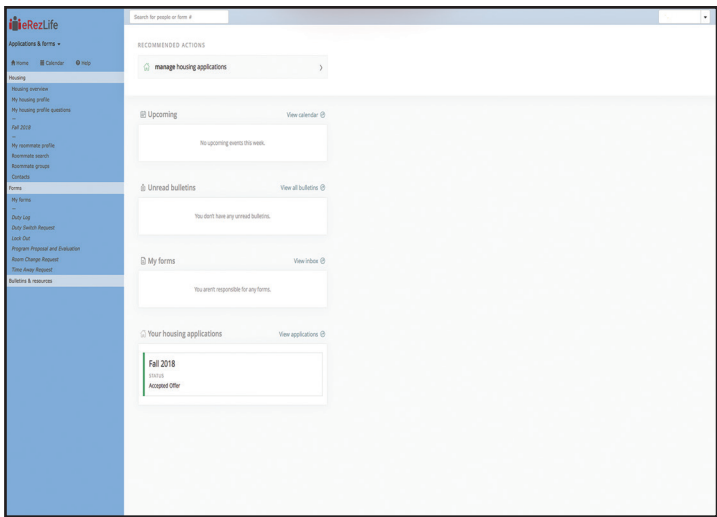
In the past, students have had trouble knowing whether their roommate requests have been verified, so this new feature will assuage that concern.

“It is no longer a question of did they or didn’t they, you can log on and see yourself,” Lammers said.

Most notably, a huge responsibility for the Residence Life staff is to continuously monitor the condition of each and every dorm on campus. They must be aware of any damages to campus owned furniture, and at times maintaining room condition reports can be strenuous.eRezlife offers a solution by providing electronic room condition reports. Lammers said students will have the option to view their room condition reports, or RCR’s, and work with their RA to create a more efficient room evaluation process by specifically documenting any past or future damages to the room as the year progresses.

The software change is set to occur on Feb. 1, because its timing will allow for all students applying for housing to be under the same software whether they are current students or incoming students.

“It’s right before the lottery starts and it’s also right as first year students are about to apply,” Lammers said. “So we did not want to



SUBMITTED BY RESIDENCE LIFE
The new platform will give students a more efficient way to register for their campus housing.

switch mid-stream through the lottery and we did not want to switch once we had some first-year students applying in this system and some first-year students applying in another system.”

Lammers notes that the layout of the software system is different, and it will take some time for students to adjust, but Residence Life is working to accommodate for the difficulties the software change will cause for students.

“The layout of the system looks different, but we’re working on a document that teaches [students] how to go through the process step-by-step,” Lammers said.

During winter break, RAs were put through a “fake lottery” that allowed for them to test out the new software and become familiar with the eRezlife system.

“I think there are a couple bugs in it still, it’s a new program so you still have to work through it,” Marteneay said.

There is no doubt that the new system will involve difficulties as students maneuver through the

registration process, but Lammers alludes to the resourcefulness of the residence assistants to help make the switch a smooth transition.

“If you’re having a hard time with the software system, ask your RA they have been through it and hopefully they can help you and if the RA does not know how to help you exactly, they will at least know who to ask and they will be able to get some quick answers for you,” Lammers said.

Housing application and registration dates for the 2018-2019 spring and fall semester are as follows:

February 1: Housing and Commuter applications become available

February 16: Apartment applications due

February 26-27: Apartment lottery

March 16: Summer housing, extended stay and early arrival applications become available

March 19: Greek housing lottery

March 21: Senior/Junior lottery

March 22: Sophomore/Freshman lottery.

Clark Hall floods over winter break



SUBMITTED BY SYDNEY BEAVERS
Ceilings destroyed in Clark Hall from water line bursting on the third floor.

Rachel Ramsey
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Over winter break, rooms in Clark were damaged due to a water issue that caused flooding in the building.

A window left open on the third floor of Clark resulted with a washing machine water line to freeze and burst due to the frigid weather.

The washing machine water ran for hours before someone noticed it and turned it off.

The damages and flooding were discovered Dec. 28 in the afternoon from a resident in Clark.

Vice president of facilities and management, Rick Ewing, said that there is a lot of damage in Clark and that it is going to be

expensive to fix and replace everything that was ruined.

“Not only was there damage to finishes like plaster, paint, and ceiling tile, the water also damaged some of the elevator equipment, IT closet equipment and the boiler controls,” Ewing said. “Additionally the kitchen was hit which damaged the microwave and the oven.”

Ewing stated that facilities in turning in an insurance claim and the amount of damages could possibly cost up to \$30,000.

Not only was the kitchen area affected, the first and second floors of Clark were impacted from the flooding including dorm rooms.

Some of the rooms had minor damages while others need items replaced or students had to dispose



SUBMITTED BY SYDNEY BEAVERS
The damages are estimated to coast upwards of \$30,000.

of clothing, sheets and other items that were ruined from water stains.

Freshman Clark Hall resident, Sydney Beavers, describes what had happened on the first floor and what is ruined from the flooding.

“For the first week back from break, our halls smelled terrible,” Beavers said. “They told us that because of the flood, the WIFI wouldn’t work, our swipes wouldn’t work to get into the building and that there was only two floors for laundry.”

Beavers said she was expecting the worse for her room but she only found water stains on the walls and that the room is outrageously hot at night because the windows have to stay shut.

“It’s all really just one big inconvenience,” Beavers said. “But it could have been a lot worse.”

Another Clark Hall resident, junior Sarah Koenig, lives on the second floor and says that she had to throw out items that were in her closet.

“Some of the items in my closet were damaged, especially in the upper part of my closet,” Koenig said. “The towels and sheets in the upper part of my closet were soaked from just sitting in the water. Most of the water stains washed out of my clothing, but my cardboard containers that held my clothes were ruined and had to be thrown out.”

Along with Beavers, Koenig’s dorm room had water stains on her floor and around her bed.

With the damage done in Clark, students have received emails from area coordinators asking to keep the windows closed to prevent other water lines from freezing and bursting.

Ewing stated that even after what had happened in Clark, there are still windows that are open in some residence halls. Ewing wants students and staff to know how important it is to keep the windows closed so that this incident can be prevented in the future.

“In this season of fluctuating temperatures, it is critical that all students, faculty and staff help in keeping windows closed and reporting when open windows are noticed around campus,” Ewing said.