Dear Residents,

I’m writing on behalf of the TC Connections Committee, which convened for the first time this year in order to strategize about how the Office of Housing and Residence Life (OHRL) may better use technology in order to reach out to all of you! We will launch the products of our efforts on April 15th of this year, and as such I won’t reveal everything we’ve done because there’s nothing like a good surprise!

The TC Connections Committee is comprised of one Complex Director (that’s me! Audra D.) and five wonderful CAs: Frank Grossman (CA Grant Hall), Paul Kim (CA NRH), Nani Pease (CA Sarasota Hall), and Stephania Vu (CA Whittier). We meet routinely to brainstorm ideas and to discuss our regular research and development activities. I’ll introduce a couple of our plans and projects now.

For starters, take a look at the OHRL homepage (www.tcu.columbia.edu/housing) and you’ll find directly on the homepage an OHRL-only events calendar that is consistently updated. It is now the easiest way to find out the latest with regard to programming and activities in all of housing. Additionally we’ve created a new users group within Classweb that will allow every student resident to login and access housing related bulletin and discussion boards. The Resident’s Life Committee, using data you all provided them, has given us information about your special interests (I.e., sporting, hobby, parent’s, and dissertation groups) which we will place online in the form of discussion groups that you may access at your convenience. We’re planning to offer NYC resources and events pages, and of course, spaces within all of this for you to offer you opinions and advice.

We hope that you find our efforts helpful and useful. We’re excited to show you all everything we’ve been working on since the start of the fall semester, so stay tuned!

Best regards,

Audra DiPadova  
CD Family Housing  
Chair, TC Connections Committee

Welcome to TC Connections!

Important TC Dates for March

**Tuesday, March 1, 2005**
Last day to file Master’s essay for May degrees.

**Thursday, March 10, 2005**
Midterm Date, Spring Term 2005.

**Sunday March 13, 2005**
Spring Holidays begin.

**Sunday March 20, 2005**
Spring Holidays end.
Thank you to everyone who’s submitted comment cards! We’ve received many helpful suggestions and comments. The Office of Housing and Residence Life will be evaluating these cards every month and taking each comment/suggestion into serious consideration. While some comments/suggestions may be taken care of quickly, others may take time to occur. Don’t think just because you haven’t seen your submission immediately reacted to that your comment isn’t being considered. Numerous factors play a part when we evaluate the comment cards. These can include but are not limited to: feasibility, the amount of people it will benefit, how it will affect quality of life, funding, and long-term potential. Please note, in addition to submitting a comment card, if you have a question or concern that you’d like to have answered, please e-mail us at housing@tc.edu.

Some comments/suggestions we received for January were:

“When deliveries come, they are able to go to the residents’ door.” – While we know this may seem like an inconvenience at times, it is our priority to provide our residents with the safest and securest environment possible in our residence halls. For this reason, delivery personnel are only allowed as far as the front desk. “It would be nice if a notice could be placed at the trash chute door – ‘Please do not slam the door.’ Each time people do that, it reverberates in my apartment. Unfortunately my door is just next to it and my bathroom shares a sealed window with the chute.”

– Thank you for making us aware of this. We’ll inform the staff of this for temporary signage as well as look into possible long term signage. Also, residents…if you’re reading this, please be mindful of using care when closing the trash chute. Thanks!

“Everything was great! Only problem was the cold showers. Temperature of water was cold – never got to warm or hot.” – We apologize for this inconvenience. The problem has been addressed and corrected. The problem originated with the mixing of the water valves. If anyone continues to experience difficulties in the temperature of their water, please let the Office of Housing & Residence Life know.

“I give a thumbs-up to the upgrades in security.” – Thank you for the compliment. We’ll pass the message along.

In response to a past comment submission:

As a result of your suggestions, we’ve changed the manner in which we communicate the Residential Mailroom Hours. The Residential Mailroom Hours will now be an insert that is included in the monthly Housing and Residence Life Newsletters. Thanks for your feedback!

Congratulations to our January Comment Card winner. Cynthia Nambo has been randomly selected and will receive one night of complimentary guest housing in our guest rooms at 517 W. 121st St. If you are interested in booking a guest room, please call x3235 for more information. We encourage calling at least 2 weeks in advance due to the high demand for our guest rooms.

We encourage everyone who has comments or suggestions to continue to submit comment cards so that we can better serve you and who knows…you may be the winner of our next monthly drawing!

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Will be set up on classweb and residents can sign up for the special interest groups of their choice from the classweb menu.

The groups are as follows:

- Moms Group (programming will also be occurring)
- Sports Group
- Volunteer Group
- Dissertation Group
- Outdoor activities Group
- Book Club (programming will also be occurring)

Resources will be posted in the group files so members can have access to information pertinent to their interests. Moreover, group members will be able to have discussions on the discussion board to share information and set up meetings or activities.
Interested in Volunteering?

Organization: St. Lukes Hospital — AIDS Volunteering.
Contact: Roxana: (212) 523– 5078, (212) 523-2188, sfenton@chpnet.org.
Description: Provide emotional support and companionship to hospitalized patients with HIV/AIDS. Assist with the activities of daily living.

Organization: Children’s Aid Society
Contact: Jenny Selig: (212) 949–4978 jenny@childrensaidsociety.org
Description: Assist with tutoring every other Sunday from 11 am to 12:30 pm or from 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm at East Harlem community center (close to the 6 train). A few more volunteers are needed to round out a one–on–one mentoring program taking place weekly in two Harlem-area community centers.

Organization: Hearts & Minds — Environmental and art work with children.
Contact: Kristina Gregg: (212) 280-0333, mail@change.net, 3074 Broadway at 121st/122nd St NY, NY 10027.
Description: Work with groups, ages 6-16. Help them learn and create artworks that raise public consciousness of the environment and other important issues.

Organization: Brainstorm After–School–Tutoring at Riverside.
Contact: Maggie Jacobs, (212) 756-2318, brainstormny@aol.com. P.O Box 165 Planetarium Station NY, NY 10024.
Description: Brainstorm, an after-school academic enrichment program with a social action theme, is looking for adults to help supervise homework help study halls held 4-6 pm every Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Also looking for adults who can help teacher run a literacy workshop on Tuesdays, 6-8 pm., or a college preparation workshop on Thursdays, 6-8 pm. Program serves middle and high school students from Harlem. Program is non-sectarian and runs out of Riverside Church on 122ns St. and Claremont Ave., just north of Columbia University.

Contact: Jeanette, (212) 472-2318, tutorme@inneighbors.org.
Description: The Reading Lab at Interfaith Neighbors is designed to help young people who struggle with reading to become strong, confident readers. Tutors and young people work twice a week 1:1 to build basic reading & writing skills, a meaningful relationship and to Have Fun!!!

Do You Enjoy The Outdoors?

Gateway National Recreation area couldn’t be more aptly named: Two wings of this park stretch into New York Harbor like a stuck-open gate. These immovable masses just out of both New York and New Jersey, reaching toward each other. But the park serves up much more than peninsulas: Several sections in both states, broken up like pieces of a puzzle in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Sandy Hook, New Jersey, offer fine beaches and bird watching. Who knew?

All this preserved land set aside in one of the world’s most populous areas seems like an anomaly. But it’s a welcome respite the concrete jungle that surrounds it. Where else can you watch a peregrine falcon dive against a backdrop of a skyscraper skyline? And the marshlands of Jamaica Bay are just one part of this park. Fantastic beaches, old military forts, and wildlife are the big draws to this unexpectedly diverse park.

Broad Channel Island—Exploring the Jamaica Bay Region: The houses are built along canals and on stilts in the water. Boats are parked on narrow streets like cars. No gas station, no pharmacy, no movie theater in this town. Can’t get your shoes repaired or your pants pressed here, and if you’re trying to find the post office, look in the back of Coogan’s Luncheonette.

Broad Channel is a particular outpost within the confines of New York City, and the only inhabited island in Jamaica Bay. At first glance, this tiny island neighborhood—a mile long and four blocks wide-seems nothing more than a whistle-stop between mainland Queens and the Rockaway Peninsula. But Chanellenities, who relish the isolation and anonymity of their historically close-knit community, consider Broad Channel the Venice of New York City. Nobody in town owns a gondola, but many of Broad Channel’s twenty-five hundred residents have modest boats and spend hours fishing, crabbing, or lazing on Jamaica Bay. When the bay freezes in the winter, children skate or ice-sail across its glassy surface in homemade buggies fashioned from ordinary sleds and canvas material.

Writing a Dissertation?

Teachers College Resources: Teachers College Gottesman Libraries. Research Support

- Research Consultant: schedule an individual session with a librarian to get started on a paper, literature review, or other project.
- Library Courses: schedule instructional sessions on common research issues.
- Project Assistance: work with a librarian on an ongoing basis to advance a research project.
- Archives and Manuscripts: schedule time to work with one of the library’s limited access collections.

Library Workshops
Check http://www.tc-library.org for more information on Dissertation Research Workshops. Reservations are made on-line by clicking on the appropriate workshop and entering your Cunx ID number.

Also check out digital dissertation under catalogues and databases link: Dissertations.com.

Enjoy the following at NO CHARGE:
- Consultation with our dissertation professionals
- Copies of all source materials
- CD master of your document
- Dissertations & strategies newsletters
- Bibliography
- Review & assessment of your chapters
- Fed Ex shipping of your materials
- Dissertation Advice
- Coaching and strategy sessions
- Advice for all dissertation proposal chapters

Run by the Academic Research Group, Inc. Go to http://www.dissertations.com or call them at 1-888-477-3732.

Dissertation Advice

- Be passionate
- Work on an area you’re comfortable in (not hottest one in your field)
- Stay interested
- Work on the achievement not the impossible.
- Slant your coursework assignment toward dissertation (i.e., literature review)
- Find a chair early. Make sure he/she shares your interest.
- Try to “Explain in no more than 3 sentences what you’d like to do”
- Seek funding where specifications are broad.
- Consider hiring an editor.

Nearing a break from the city? Love to hike? Here are some options to get out into the great outdoors!

- Enjoy a hike in the woods?
- Love to explore a new trail?
- Want to learn more about nature?
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March Programs

Tuesday, March 1, 2005
Program Title: Salvation Army Clothing Drive
Program Description: Boxes will be placed in the GS lounge (Room 330) on March 1st and collected on the 26th and sent to the Salvation Army.

Time: TBA
Location: GS Lounge (Room 330)

Thursday, March 3, 2005
Program Title: Alternative Film House
Program Description: Movie Night “Whale Rider”

Time: 9:15pm — 11:00pm
Location: NRH TV Lounge. For more information please contact CA Tonio at tev2102@columbia.edu.

Friday, March 4, 2005
Program Title: First Friday’s Play Group
Program Description: This is a choice for families to connect with each other and to discuss common issues the first Friday of every month.

Time: 5:00 pm—6:00 pm
Location: Bancroft Community Room. For more information please contact CA Lori at lmm60@columbia.edu.

Program Title: Rock Climbing
Program Description: Meet in NRH lounge, travel to Chelsea piers by MTA, rock climb, return to NRH.

Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Chelsea Piers. For more information please contact CA Franca at fmf2101@columbia.edu.

Program Title: Music at St. Paul’s
Program Description: Join Greg for an organ concert with Timothy Smith and a piano concert with Michelle Kim, all at St. Paul and all in one night!

Time: For more information please contact Greg at gip2005@columbia.edu
Location: For more information please contact Greg at gip2005@columbia.edu

Tuesday, March 8, 2005
Program Title: Midterm Happy Hour
Program Description: Come to the BA lobby and enjoy a study break with drinks and food! Family housing residents only please.

Time: 9:00 pm—10:00 pm
Location: BA Lobby. For more information please contact CA’s Jena at jnc46@columbia.edu, Nani at nanipease@yahoo.com, or Greg at gip2005@columbia.edu.

Thursday, March 17, 2005
Program Title: St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Program Description: NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade is the oldest in the world. Residents will enjoy this historical event.

Time: 11 am
Location: TBA. For more information please contact CA Lance at lwo2001@columbia.edu.

Saturday, March 19, 2005
Program Title: Reel Moms (& Dads Too!)
Program Description: Take a trip with CA Frank to see a “Reel Moms” movie at the Loews Theater on 34th St. For children 2 years and younger. Please bring money for subway, movie and snacks.

Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Whittier Café. For more information please contact CA’s Damien at del2109@columbia.edu or Stephania at stv2105@columbia.edu.

Program Title: Bagel Brunch for Whittier Residents of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th floor residents.
Program Description: Bagels and variety of spreads will be served along with fruits and juices. This is a pseudo-study break targeted at providing some sustenance while residents study for mid-terms.

Time: 10 am—11:30 am
Location: Whittier Café. For more information please contact Aisha Burrell at aeb@columbia.edu.

Tuesday, March 22, 2005
Program Title: Older Kids Movie Night
Program Description: All older children are invited! Plus we’ll supervise, so you can leave your parent/caregiver at home!

Time: 7:00pm — 8:30 pm
Location: BA Community Room. For more information please contact CA Jena at jnc46@columbia.edu.

Friday, March 25, 2005
Program Title: Sarasota Potluck
Program Description: Hey Sarasota residents! Head over to Nani’s place for some food, drink and opportunity to socialize with your neighbors!

Time: 7pm
Location: SA 102. For more information please contact CA Nani at nanipease@yahoo.com.

Thursday, March 31, 2005
Program Title: New Hall Pot Luck
Program Description: New Hall wide potluck.

Time: 9:00 pm
Location: TBA. Please contact CA Reese for more information at rechnitz@tc.columbia.edu.
# Residential Mailroom

## March 2005

Serving 517 West 121st and Whittier Hall Residents

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PLEASE NOTE: Hours are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Residential Mailroom, please contact: the Residential Mailroom at x8124 or the Office of Housing and Residence Life at x3235 or housing@tc.columbia.edu.