COMMUTER LOUNGES OPEN ON CAMPUS

Contributed by Patrick Bradley, Campus Life

On Wednesday, January 18th, university officials cut ribbon on a very useful campus addition.

“Transfer students, who mostly live off campus, need a better sense of place here on campus,” explained Vice President of Campus Life Dr. Gail Hanson. “Since that isn’t going to be in the residence halls for them, it needs to be somewhere else. They suggested that a lounge where they could store their belongings during the day, study, socialize, and meet each other would be the ideal thing.”

Dr. Hanson stood alongside University Librarian Bill Mayer, while Scott Jones, director of operations for the University Center and project manager for this addition, cut the ceremonial blue ribbon on the newly finished Commuter Lounge.

The Lounge - located just inside the East Quad Building’s front entrance - offers commuter and transfer students 72 digital day lockers, charging stations for computers and phones, and plenty of comfortable seating.

When looking for a location, university administrators and the Transfer Student Association – who together campaigned for the room – found the search a bit difficult, as the university sought to accommodate a large number of incoming faculty members.

In the end, however, Dr. Hanson feels they found the right spot.

“Space is challenging here at AU,” Dr. Hanson shared, “but this space was a little bit special because it had a tradition as the Davenport lounge and was built in a different way.”

The room was originally constructed as the Davenport Chapel, back when weekly chapel attendance was mandatory for students. The space later served as the Davenport Lounge – now the Dav Coffee Lounge in the School of International Service – but the archway supports, wood paneling in the ceiling, and raised floor level still reveal the room’s first function.

To address that issue, Bill Mayer and the library offered a companion space next to the Mud Box in the building’s sublevel. Dubbed the Commuter Corner, this location provides lockers and comfortable seating – all accessible through the library’s elevators.

Hanson believes “everybody – no matter how they get around the university, has a place to go that’s a comfortable lounge and has lockers for their use.”

The Commuter Lounge and its lockers are open to students Monday through Friday 6am to 11pm, Saturday 8am to 8pm, and Sunday 8am to 8:30pm. The Commuter Corner will follow library hours.

KNOW YOUR WINTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Winter is upon us and that brings new responsibilities as an off-campus student. Your lease should designate responsibility regarding winter clean-up: shoveling the drive-way, parking areas, pathways, stairs and sidewalks.

District law requires that property owners clear snow and ice from sidewalks, handicap ramps and steps within the first eight hours after the snow, sleet or ice stops falling.

If ice cannot be removed, property owners may spread sand or salt to make the sidewalks safe.

The District government does not plow alleys. If necessary, alley trash collection will be moved curb-side.

As with many good things, there was another hurdle in landing the Lounge – a hurdle that spawned an entirely separate space on campus.

“There was one other stumbling block in this process. This fabulous space is not physically accessible,” Dr. Hanson said. “If we’re going to create a facility for general student use, it’s got to be one that’s accessible to everybody, including people who have mobility limitations.”

To address that issue, Bill Mayer and the library offered a companion space next to the Mud Box in the building’s sublevel. Dubbed the Commuter Corner, this location provides lockers and comfortable seating – all accessible through the library’s elevators.

Hanson believes “everybody – no matter how they get around the university, has a place to go that’s a comfortable lounge and has lockers for their use.”

The Commuter Lounge and its lockers are open to students Monday through Friday 6am to 11pm, Saturday 8am to 8pm, and Sunday 8am to 8:30pm. The Commuter Corner will follow library hours.

www.american.edu/offcampushousing
MAXIMIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE LIVING OFF-CAMPUS!

Contributed by Curtis Burrill, Student Activities

Living off-campus has some definite benefits. Planning what and when you eat is a simple pleasure and having your own space and friends who come only when invited is sweet. But as you may have already discovered off-campus living takes a little more work and carries with it some responsibilities.

That's where Student Activities can help. No, we don't clean toilets, but we do have some resources that can help you work with neighbors and roommates to ensure a positive living environment.

As a student, you represent AU as well as your student organization in the neighborhood. The folks who live around you frame their opinions of the university and its value as a part of the community based on how you respect your surroundings. You have to remember you are living in an area where families (with early bedtimes) are heavily invested in keeping the area clean, attractive and peaceful.

Student Activities has a well-thought "good neighbor" plan that can help you start off and stay on good terms with the folks you live with and around. Here's how to access that document http://www.american.edu/ocl/sccrs/index.cfm and any of the Student Activity coordinators are happy to work with you.

The Student Activities Staff wishes you a great spring semester!

Clawed’s Corner
By Clawed Eagle
AU Mascot &
Off-Campus Housing Expert

Clawed, how would you start your off-campus housing search?

I would start by soaring above the city to get a bird’s eye view of the different neighborhoods around American University. You may not be able to fly, but you can still see all of the different neighborhoods around AU by looking at our Off-Campus Housing webinar. You can find the webinar by visiting www.american.edu/offcampushousing.

Can you share any tips on how to be a good neighbor?

Whenever I move into a new tree I always make sure to introduce myself to the other birds around me. I also avoid screeching late and having throwing big nest parties at night so that I do not disturb any other birds. You should always make an effort to meet your neighbors and to consider them before having people over.

Got a question for Clawed??? Email him at offcampushousing@american.edu

Seniors:
Time to Smile!

Professional photographers from Herff-Jones will be on campus Feb. 14 - 17 to capture your smile for our award-winning yearbook, The Talon.

To reserve your quick, on-campus photo shoot, go to www.ouryear.com and look for school code 708.

There is a $5 sitting fee. These high-quality graduation photos can be included in your graduation invitations as well as add a professional sheen to your job interview applications.

Student photographers for the 2012 Talon are busy memorializing your senior year. Order your award-winning Talon at http://www.balfour.com/yearbooks.php.

TRANSFER STUDENT EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP SERIES (TSEWS)

Contributed by Mike Metzger, New Student Programs

The Transfer Student Experience Workshop Series (TSEWS) is designed to introduce new transfer students to the unique campus resources and opportunities available at American University. This program also provides you the chance to meet fellow transfer students, including current students who serve as mentors and offer guidance about how to get involved in the AU community. The 6-week workshop series will address such topics as career, internship, and resume advising; expectations of AU faculty; undergraduate research opportunities; research tools provided by the AU library; and more. Students will meet on Thursday afternoons (4:00 to 5:00 PM) from January 26 to March 1, 2012. Visit http://www.american.edu/ocl/orientation/TSEW-Application.cfm to register today!

Love Using Your AU ID for Student Discounts?

“Like” the AU One Card page on Facebook to stay tuned in to timely discounts on campus and at local vendors!

http://on.fb.me/AUOneCard
TIPS TO HELP DURING THE SNOW SEASON
From the District of Columbia Snow Guide 2010-2011

2. Buy or replace snow shovel, if necessary.
3. Keep vehicles fueled to at least 1/2 tank.
4. Buy new windshield wiper blades, winterize your car and tires.
5. Put 10-pound bag of cat litter, ice scraper and emergency supplies in the trunk.
7. Stock up on batteries for flashlights, radios, battery-powered computer games, toys, lamps and lanterns.
8. Identify alternative parking space(s), either on or off-street, particularly if your street is a Snow Emergency Route.
9. Compile a list of family members’ medications, as well as phone numbers for doctors, pharmacies and emergency rooms.
10. Know your neighbors, especially those who may need your assistance or who can assist you.

Declaration of Snow Emergency

The Mayor of DC determines when it is necessary to declare a snow emergency. ALL vehicles must be moved immediately from SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES. Illegally parking vehicles are subject to a $250 fine with additional towing and impoundment fees.

Summer Housing Available!!!

ALL American University students are eligible for summer housing. If you’re staying in Washington DC this summer for classes, work or an internship—Stay on Campus!

www.american.edu/housing

Select ‘Summer Housing’
SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE IN HOUSING & DINING PROGRAMS

Housing & Dining Programs is currently accepting applications for the Summer 2012 Campus Host positions.

These 45 individuals work the front desk operations of the residence halls, serve in an on-call capacity and work to provide administrative support to staff. Campus Hosts provide comprehensive support to all aspects of summer operations.

All Campus Hosts will receive an hourly wage as well as a free single room for the summer. To find out more, visit our website at www.american.edu/housing and click on the "Employment Opportunities" link on the left hand side. Applications are due March 9th by 5:00pm.

Contact housinganddiningjobs@american.edu with any questions.

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS IN SUMMER 2012

Learn more details about Summer Alternative Break trips and how to apply at:

www.american.edu/altbreak

Applications due on February 13, 2012
Questions: altbreak@american.edu