Happy summer everyone! My name is Tim McBride and I’m the newly elected Student Government President. I’m a 20 year-old political science major from Wilmington, Delaware (the greatest state in the union) and I’m going into my second year as an American University student living off-campus. With all the benefits of living off-campus, those of us who have left our triple in Anderson for an apartment in the Berks or Avalon know that with this new found freedom, comes a lot of responsibility: adult neighbors, landlords, rent, cleaning, leases, groceries, and the like.

With summer approaching and the warm weather finally arriving, now is the time for summer and, yes, fall semester planning. For the almost two thousand of us who live off-campus, this may mean finding new housing. AU’s Office of Housing & Dining Programs recently began several new resources to help students living and looking to live off-campus deal with our new responsibilities. The Housing & Dining Programs website, American.edu/housing, now includes a posting site for available housing, an off-campus guide, and individual consultation sessions for students looking for advice on off-campus housing. This is a valuable new resource for students making the exciting transition to live on their own. I have already referred several friends to these new programs and have heard great things.

Additionally, when you change your address, please notify the university through the Registrar’s Office with your new information. It is important that the university has updated information and can send any notifications necessary to the correct address. We are a mobile group and the university needs to keep up to date.

A few months ago, the D.C. City Council passed the controversial new noise ordinance. The ordinance, as it is currently written, is vague and does not specifically outline what constitutes a loud noise. As the Student Government continues to work with organizations around the city to oppose the new measure, it is important for students to keep the law in mind, especially as events and gatherings move outside to take advantage of the weather.

Summer also brings growth, typically in the form of grass and weeds. I’d urge you to take care of our physical space, including lawn care. To effectively comply with laws that target our quality of life, we need to be good neighbors.

As my term begins, please feel free to contact me with any questions, thoughts, or concerns. The Student Government is here to help you solve your problems, navigate the university, and ensure that our quality of life is maximized. Our doors are always open and to help off-campus students, we need to hear from you.

I hope that you all enjoy your final days of the spring semester and have a safe and enjoyable summer break. Good luck to those of you with summer jobs and internships!

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS!!!

The Office of Campus Life at American University extends best wishes as you complete your exams and final projects. The spring semester is almost at a close.

Have a enjoyable summer holiday whether you’re traveling, interning, working or staying in DC.

A special congratulations to the Class of 2011 graduates and soon-to-be American University alumni!!
DISORDERLY CONDUCT AMENDMENT ACT OF 2010

Contributed by Dr. Gail Short Hanson, Vice President of Campus Life

The “Disorderly Conduct Amendment Act of 2010” became effective on February 1, 2011. The amendments to DC law increase the specificity of prohibited conduct related to “preservation of the public peace and the protection of property” and impose serious penalties on convicted violators.

Over the next several weeks, we will take additional steps through meetings and targeted mailings and notices to ensure that AU students understand the heightened expectations for considerate conduct in the DC community and the substantial penalties that are now associated with disorderly conduct convictions. As we learn more about the Disorderly Conduct Amendment Act of 2010, we will communicate the new information to the AU community.

It is unlawful for a person to make an unreasonably loud noise between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. that is likely to annoy or disturb one or more other persons in their residences. [Sec. 211. Disorderly conduct. (d)]

A copy of the act is available through this link: www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/images/00001/20110105110704.pdf

American University is committed to fostering positive relations with neighbors in the residential communities that surround our campus. We have set Good Neighbor Guidelines, developed workshops to help prepare students for life off campus, and focused our interventions to address misconduct that is reported to us. We appreciate your attention to these new regulations and all that you do to be good neighbors.

WARM WEATHER & CHANGING RESPONSIBILITIES

Summer is quickly approaching and the warmer weather has everyone opening their windows during the days and nights.

While you and your neighbors are enjoying some fresh air, noise is also able to travel more easily between properties. Please keep in mind that an appropriate noise level in January might not be as appropriate in June.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind during the summer months.

Outdoor BBQs and Parties: Many of us like to spend more time outside as the weather warms. Outdoor parties, graduation BBQs, socializing on a porch or deck is ideal this season. If you’re hosting an event at your house or apartment, it is always recommended to let your neighbors know in advance.

If noise becomes a concern, encourage them to contact you and speak with you directly.

Porches and Hallways: When friends are coming and going from your house or apartment at night, please remind them to keep their voices down.

Car Noise: Cars are a frequent noise concern in the summer months. Loud stereos, car horns and slamming of car doors are all areas to be mindful of late at night. While these considerations should be in place all year, they are more noticeable during the warmer months.

Lawn care: Know your lawn care responsibilities. Refer to your lease to clarify who of your property.

Balconies and Decks: Do not use your balconies and decks as storage spaces. This is likely against your lease agreement but it can definitely create an eyesore for your neighbors.

Enjoy your apartment / house year-round but always be aware and respectful of your effects on those around you.

Contributed by Dr. Gail Short Hanson, Vice President of Campus Life

A copy of the act is available through this link: www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/images/00001/20110105110704.pdf
DONATE TO PROJECT MOVE-OUT

As you prepare to leave your apartment for the summer, move to another apartment or graduate and leave the Washington DC area—consider making donations to Project Move-Out.

Off-campus students can bring donations to the Pod on the Quad Wednesday, April 27th through Friday, April 29th from 9AM-6PM.

Unopened food items are being donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. Donations of gently used clothing, books, CDs, kitchenware, small electronics or furniture (and more!) are being placed for sale in the first ever American University Project Move-Out Community Sale on Saturday, April 30th in the MGC Tavern. All monies collected will be donated to M.O.M.I.E.S., TLC. Items not sold at the Community Sale will be donated to Damien Ministries and A Wider Circle.

For more information about Project Move-Out or the Project Move-Out Community Sale, visit the website at www.american.edu/projectmoveout.

Project Move-Out supports American University’s Zero Waste Policy and commitment to sustainability.

Join us at American University’s First Annual Project Move-Out Community Sale

April 30th in the Tavern

$5.00 Early Bird Special 8am-9am

Free Admission 9am-3pm

Cash or EagleBucks only. All proceeds will go to local DC charities.

Free parking on campus!

For more information, please visit: www.american.edu/projectmoveout
Summer Housing Search is a new, intensive one-and-a-half day program to assist American University students with locating apartments and roommates in the Washington, DC area.

The program is designed to provide you with resources about the DC apartment market, tenants’ rights and tips for living off-campus successfully as an AU student. We’ll work with you to set-up appointments with area apartment management companies and we’ll coordinate an opportunity to view a range of apartments. In addition to viewing apartments, you will have the opportunity to meet other American University students who are seeking prospective roommates.

During the Summer Housing Search, students and parents will be housed in Anderson Residence Hall. It is recommended that you stay in the residence hall during this program so that you have an opportunity to get to know the other students participating in the search for off-campus housing.

Summer Housing Search will take place on Tuesday, June 28th and Wednesday, July 29th 2011. This program leads directly into the Transfer Transitions orientation program which begins on Thursday morning.

While this program was created with transfer and graduate students in mind – any American University student is welcome to participate!

For more information, visit the website noted below.

**Looking for Off-Campus Housing for Fall 2011???**

*Registration Available Online on April 1st.*

www.american.edu/summerhousingsearch

**Summer Housing Search**

*June 28 - June 29 2011*