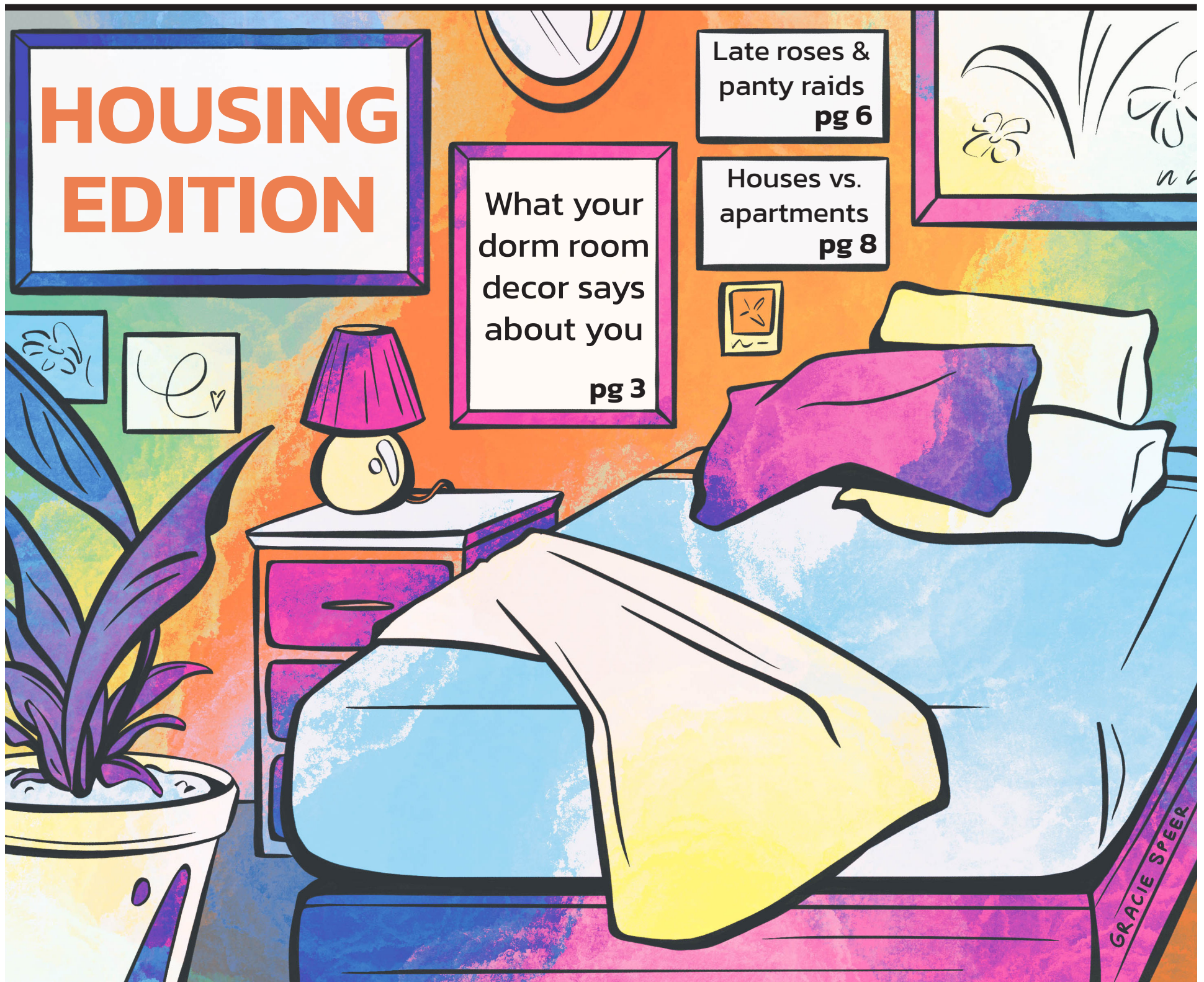


B_U BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students



Collins inspires renovation of Allen, Dawson halls

PIPER RUTHERFORD

Staff Writer

Adding to the list of residence hall renovations, construction on Allen and Dawson halls will break ground in May 2024 and is expected to be completed by August 2025.

Nichole Bekken, project manager of construction services, said she began planning for the \$7.5 million renovation of both Allen and Dawson Halls following the Board of Regents budget approval for the year in May. She said she is focused on creating community spaces that will enhance the connections between the LEAD Living-Learning Community—which is the community currently in Dawson—and the IMPACT LLC, following a fall 2022 merger of the two.

“Most two-bedroom dorms in Allen and Dawson have en-suite bathrooms, so we are basically working on updating all of that, as well as adding new finishes and layout changes,” Bekken said. “A layout change that I am most looking forward to is a new centralized community space for both the residence halls of Allen and Dawson to enjoy, which will be located between the two buildings in a connecting corridor.”

Dr. Suzanne Nesmith, associate

dean of undergraduate education, said it is important for the communities to have collaborative spaces where like-minded students can support and learn from one another.

“We had some incredible spaces that we were able to lean into by taking the components that worked so well in South Russell, where the IMPACT LLC first started out in 2015,” Nesmith said. “Now, we are leaning further into this renovation to make sure that we are making this space the best possible scenario for all of the students in the LEAD LLC, who can now experience this community where they live and learn together.”

Bekken said it will be challenging to work on the construction site, given its high-traffic location on campus.

“Since we are so close to Eighth Street, in addition to the impacts of being so close to Memorial Dining Hall, will inevitably present difficulties when managing multiple construction teams, working with general contractors and moving materials in and out in an efficient and easy manner,” Bekken said.

Bekken said she feels more confident going into this project after her experience with Collins Hall. She said she has been noting what does and doesn’t work well to best



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

Allen and Dawson residence halls are set to finish construction and add more communal spaces in August 2025.

navigate renovating older buildings.

“Some of the walls in the older buildings are plaster walls, and the construction of that is not common,” Bekken said. “Instead, it is a specialty. So we aim to be better at picking and choosing which plaster walls remain

during construction, since repairing them is costly. That is a big lesson learned during Collins, in addition to head heights ... and combating the issue that a lot of older buildings have.”

As for the renovation process, Bekken said it will take time and

patience since the Allen and Dawson halls project is still in the early stages of schematic design. Baylor’s facilities management is currently making furnishing selections before entering what she said is the nitty-gritty of construction.

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What your dorm room decor says about you

EMMA WEIDMANN
Arts & Life Editor

Living in a residence hall or apartment can make it hard to decorate. There's minimal space, and you probably bought everything from Target — which makes it easy to coordinate colors but difficult to create a space that doesn't look like “dorm central” threw up all over it.

Here are some of the best and worst design choices we make in college. If you find yourself guilty of some of these, it's OK. We all make mistakes sometimes.

First, we have maybe the worst offender of all: navy blue sheets. Navy blue sheets aren't so bad on their own, but it's really the Megan Fox poster covering up the hole a gym bro punched in the wall that makes it a crime against interior design. Here's an easy fix: Find a different color of sheets. Better yet, go ahead and buy a second set of sheets altogether. Navy blue and white stripes are a good middle ground — still simple, but just a step above.

Speaking of simple yet a step above, a nice area rug will elevate your space quicker than your grades dropped as a freshman. Make sure you choose the right size rug for your room so that it doesn't disappear under the lofted bed you've fallen out of a few times, but also doesn't take up the entire floor.



Gracie Speer | Cartoonist

Next, we have two that go together like ramen and your \$2 plastic bowl: LED strip lights and fake vines. If you have these, I want to quickly remind you to check your email to see if



Navy blue sheets aren't so bad on their own, but it's really the Megan Fox poster covering up the hole a gym bro punched in the wall that makes it a crime against interior design.

your SHEIN order has shipped yet. If not, that's OK. It just gives you more time to film another thirst trap for your TikTok while you wait.

Chances are, if you have fake vines hanging behind your bed collecting dust and critters, you might have a tapestry on your wall as well. I'm not judging — I think tapestries make a great backdrop for reading your horoscope and going online shopping for another evil eye necklace. But here is what is written in the stars for you, Leo: It's time for better wall art.

Not to worry. You can up your wall art game at very little cost. Start by framing the posters that are already on your wall to add a put-together touch to the room. Stock up on Command strips and make sure you secure those posters to the wall really well, unless you want to find yourself being smacked in the face by a flying picture of Harry Styles at 2 a.m.

At the end of the day, decorating your space is all about making your dorm room or apartment your home away from home. Buy what you want, hang what you want, but whatever you do, remember to sweep your floors every once in a while.

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Take college by storm: Get out of your dorm

JACKSON POSEY
Sports Writer

It's easy to stick with what's familiar.

There's a reason it's called a comfort zone: It's comfortable there. Why do something else when you're perfectly fine where you are? But an overreliance on the familiar breeds stagnation and isolation. And as tempting as it can be to take the road most traveled, there's nothing new there. It'll lead us right back where we came from, without the excitement of novelty to sustain us.

Staying alone in your dorm room can often feel like the path of least resistance. It's hard to forge strong friendships, particularly early on, which can make gaming alone seem like a more appealing proposition than finding a pickup basketball game at the McLane Student Life Center or meeting people in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

It isn't that spending time alone is wrong. Everyone needs to recharge. But when "recharging" becomes

a go-to activity, we need a paradigm shift. Fulfillment comes through relationships and community; isolation compounds bad habits and leaves us more lonely than ever.



I'm as introverted as they come, and I spent much of my first year alone in my dorm room, studying, gaming or scrolling on Twitter (mostly the latter), but it left me empty. I had to create a rule for myself: Every time I was invited to do something, assuming it passed my moral compass' sniff test, I said yes. No matter how badly I wanted to nap, I showed up, pushing myself out of my comfort zone for my own sake.

Shocker: It worked. There

are enough kind people on campus — many of whom are just as isolated as we introverts can feel — that a simple conversation can go a long way. Even beyond our own situations, if a simple acknowledgment of another person's humanity can help them in any way, we're obliged to make it — if not for our sake, for theirs.

In the Bible, King Solomon urges readers not to neglect the value of relationships. None of us is self-sufficient, he says in Ecclesiastes 4. "Two are better than one" because "if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up."

Making friends isn't easy. But the next time you're sitting alone in your dorm room, lamenting your lack of community, leave. Get out of your space and get out of your comfort zone. Sure, it's more comfortable to read a novel in bed than on Fountain Mall or in the SUB. But there's beauty between the known and the unknown, and living in that tension is always worth it.

Need some more
inspiration to
explore what lies
outside? Look
no further than
this guide to
campus events:





Abby Roper | Photographer

Mendoza, Argentina, student Cami Benedetti and Madrid student Sergio Rodriguez are two international students who have formed a friendship at Baylor.

International students forge new connections at Baylor

OLIVIA EIKEN
Staff Writer

Home looks different for everyone, whether it be a physical place or a loving group of friends. This fall, 860 students representing 87 countries are calling the Baylor community theirs.

Making Waco feel like home can be a difficult transition, especially when it's 5,000 miles away from family and any kind of familiarity. Despite the inherent challenge, Mendoza, Argentina, student Cami Benedetti and Madrid student Sergio Rodriguez found their new sense of home through the warmth and devotion of Baylor students and faculty.

Rodriguez is studying computer science at Baylor for the full academic year, while Benedetti is studying nutrition and is only here for the fall semester. They are both technically considered seniors by Baylor's standards, although their classification

is defined differently in their home countries.

"I am in two different curriculums in my home country," Benedetti said. "I am considered a third-year in one and a fifth-year in the other. We do not have freshmen or seniors."

Every international student has a different motivation to study abroad. For Benedetti, attending university in America helped fulfill a major personal goal.

"I really wanted to improve my English," Benedetti said. "I also chose to come to Baylor because it's a big school, and I knew I would meet a lot of people that spoke Spanish like me in Texas."

The decision to stay in America for an entire year was relatively easy for Rodriguez.

"At my university, almost everybody studies in another country in their fourth year," Rodriguez said. "Almost all of my friends from university are in different parts of the world"

Rodriguez said the

hardest part of transitioning to university in America is having to do homework.

"Back home, you study all semester and take the final," Rodriguez said. "That's it."

Benedetti said she has had a similar experience regarding homework.

"I don't understand having homework," Benedetti said. "It's a very American thing."

However, they both said they are enjoying their time at Baylor and that their friends have defined what "home" truly means, drastically helping them beat homesickness.

"This is my community," Benedetti said. "This is my home."

Benedetti said she encourages any student considering whether or not to study abroad to take the leap.

"Just do it," Benedetti said. "It's a new experience. You're going to meet new people, and you're going to have the chance to meet the new 'you.' It seems very scary, but you can absolutely do it."

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‘It’s still Collins’: Former residents reflect on longstanding legacy that goes beyond building

TYLER WHITE
Staff Writer

What defines the legacy of Collins Hall? Is it the rich history of the building, or is it something deeper? With the recent renovation and reopening of Collins, some may wonder how much of the legacy will be impacted by these changes.

Two years ago, Baylor posted on Facebook about the opportunity to purchase personalized bricks to be used in the Collins renovation. On the post, hundreds of former Collins residents commented about their room numbers, old roommates and unforgettable memories from their time in the hall.

“In 1958-59, room 347 was home away from home for me,” Facebook user Fran Rankin Lucas commented. “Freshman granddaughter took a photo of the door of 347 in Collins. She’s in S. Russell. Grandson is a senior living off campus. Great memories!”

These comments show the widespread impact of living in Collins, which has been described as a “home away from home” for many Baylor students throughout the years. The first-year residential community’s history connects women across generations.

Stacey Beckham Lake Gould, a 1981 Baylor graduate, lived in Collins her freshman year in 1977. She said she desperately wanted to live in Collins because her sister had lived there, and she wanted to be a part of its legacy.

“When I filled out my preference, my housing preference card, you put down three choices,” Gould said. “I put Collins for No. 1, put Collins for No. 2 and put Collins for No. 3.”

Gould said the transition into Collins was seamless, making her feel right at home immediately. In the hall, she learned how important



Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

BRICK AND MORTAR Baylor reached out on Facebook two years ago advertising that they were selling personalized bricks to be used in the Collins renovations. Hundreds of former Collins residents came together in the comments.

friendship was and began to form deep bonds with her fellow residents.

“We had wonderful memories of meeting our friends and then, in the spring, pledging together,” Gould said. “We all had made such close friends among ourselves.”

Gould said she made many fond memories during her time at Collins. One tradition she remembered was the “late rose.” She said when a date brought a Collins freshman back past curfew, he would have to buy a rose for every minute past curfew.

“If he got you in three minutes late, he better have three long-stem roses waiting at the front desk for you the next morning,” Gould said.

Another tradition Gould shared was the “panty raid” that took place at the beginning of the year.

“[Collins freshmen] would write their phone number on their panties

and then throw the panties out the window, and the boys would run around and try to get as many pairs of panties as they could,” Gould said. “Then they would go home and call the phone numbers.”

Kristin Cole, a 1997 Baylor graduate, lived in Collins her freshman year in 1993. She said she didn’t have the same eagerness to live in Collins initially, and she wasn’t aware of the history of its legacy.

“I kind of came into it blindly, and my experience was, ‘Wow, you’re living in a building with 600 other girls,’” Cole said. “That’s a lot of people living under one roof, but I actually really came to enjoy living in the dorm life.”

When she became a resident assistant the following year, Cole said she began to find her niche in the Collins community.

“We were a staff of 12 [resident assistants], two directors and three office assistants, and that was just really great because we got to understand how to create a great atmosphere for our residents,” Cole said.

Cole said she still cherishes many good memories that took place in Collins. One tradition involved every wing in the hall nominating one man from the other halls to compete in a talent show, with the prize being the title of “Mr. Collins Hall.”

“The whole point of it was to bring people together, to bring your wing of residents together to work on something, but also to get out there and get to know some of the guys from the other dorms,” Cole said. “It was pretty hilarious.”

Although Gould and Cole had different introductions to Collins,

they both experienced the same connection that Collins provides. During their time there, they formed lifelong friendships and memories that have remained with them to this day. Gould said she still meets with a small group of former Collins residents annually. They go to a country club in Dallas that reminds them of the community life in their first-year residence hall.

“We all say that God brought us together at 18 years old in Collins,” Gould said. “We loved each other then, but we had no idea that God brought us together at that point so that when we were in our 60s, we would be just as close. And we’ve all experienced life.”

Similarly, Cole said she cherished her time as both a resident and a resident assistant. Years later, she said she still keeps in contact with the friends and former staff she met at Collins.

“I have lifelong friendships with some of those girls that I met through Collins — living there and being on staff as an RA — and I still talk to them on a yearly basis,” Cole said. “I have a lot of fond memories there, a lot of fun memories.”

Despite the renovation, Gould said the changes don’t alter what Collins really is, as the legacy goes beyond the building itself.

“Over the years, we’ve seen changes, but it’s still Collins,” Gould said. “I think it’ll always be Collins. It’ll always be the hotspot. It’ll be the new and improved Collins, but the legacy is still there.”

Cole said the legacy is deeper than just the brick and mortar of the Collins building. She said the people who live there and experience its community are what define its legacy.

“It’s the heritage and the story and a life in the spirit behind Collins that carries on the legacy,” Cole said. “It’s not the bones of it.”

Draw design inspo from iconic TV apartments

BELLA WHITMORE
Intern

As students begin to swap shoebox dorm rooms for spacious apartments, let's look back at some of the most iconic and memorable apartments on television, finding some fun inspiration for our new spaces along the way.

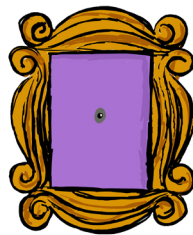
THE LOFT: "NEW GIRL"



For the ones with seemingly countless — maybe even coed — roommates, this one has to be my personal favorite. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, this apartment takes a cold, industrial space and turns it into something lively and cozy. Full of warm tones, open windows and innumerable games like "True American," the loft provides comfort for those on the screen and off. Plus, don't we all need a Nick Miller in our lives?

MONICA'S APARTMENT: "FRIENDS"

Arguably the most iconic and recognizable on the list, this apartment is the ultimate hangout spot. With its '90s feel and pastel purple walls, this one is for those who like to keep things tidy yet fun. The bursts of color, kitschy fridge magnets and constant flow of people within the space give the apartment an undeniable charm. Just try not to spy on your neighbors through an unnecessarily large window.



EMILY'S APARTMENT: "EMILY IN PARIS"

If you're attempting to make a home out of a seemingly foreign and cold place, this one goes out to you. Emily makes the space her own with her spirited and funky style in a city that does not exactly welcome her with open arms. There aren't many scenes of the apartment, but when there are, Emily's bedroom steals the show with its spunky headboard and brightly-colored clothing rack. Pro tip: Always introduce yourself to your downstairs neighbors.

SPENCER AND CARLY'S APARTMENT: "ICARLY"

For the lovers of all things colorful and fun, this apartment provides no shortage of wacky and unique pieces. This apartment is decked out with sculptures, monkeys on windows and multi-colored kitchen appliances. Carly's room was my ultimate childhood dream growing up, and I begged my parents for the infamous ice cream sandwich ottoman and gummy bear lamp. Sure, this one's a bit impractical, but it is undeniably fun.

DJ AND STEPHANIE'S ROOM: "FULL HOUSE"



Although this mention is part of a house and not an apartment, this room provides inspiration for those still living in close quarters with a roommate. It is particularly interesting because it changes and reflects each girl's personal style through the different phases of their lives. Through all the family drama that takes place in this room, the quaint twin beds and bay window keep it nostalgic and cute.

Illustrations by Kassidy Tsakitas | Photographer



BEHIND THE WHEEL University Shuttle Service bus drivers play an essential role in helping students who live farther from campus get to class safely and quickly. Kenneth Prabhakar | Photo Editor

Shuttles help students get to class from off-campus living arrangements

ZACH BABAJANOF-RUSTRIAN
Intern

For students who live off campus without a car or parking pass, getting to class could be a challenge. Baylor has the Baylor University Shuttle Service to help students get to where they need to be.

Within the Baylor University Shuttle Service there are four different routes for students to take: the green, gold, blue and red routes. Each route has its own unique path to take students from either from the north side of campus to the south side of campus.

"Typically, I take the Baylor gold route on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's very accessible, and I like how even though I didn't get a parking spot on campus, I can park at the Ferrell Center and still be able to be dropped off close to my classes," Dallas sophomore Andrew Bachman said.

The routes are aimed to stay under 15 minutes, so students will not wait more than 20 minutes for a bus, said Matt Penney, director of parking and transportation services. In the 2021-2022 academic school year, the shuttle service had about 259,000 riders that year and has kept growing since, Penney said.

The shuttle service also allows users to download an app to see the location of the bus. Three of the four major routes usually operate Monday through Friday from 7:25 a.m. to 5:25 p.m., while the gold route runs until 6:30 p.m. There is also the after-hours route later in the day for students who need it, usually running between 6:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. The route stops at main places such as East Village, the Hurd Welcome Center and different residential halls.

"It's quick and it's fast. I think a lot of students have this idea of some type of city-metro where you get on the bus and you're on it for 20 or 30 minutes," Penney said. "Particularly the Ferrell Center parking in the green and gold [routes] which are so fast. We call it express service for a reason because you part you get on the bus and you're on campus. Literally the ride time is less than five minutes to campus."

Student sound-off: Houses vs. apartments

OLIVIA EIKEN
Staff Writer

Choosing where you want to live after moving off campus is a big and sometimes difficult decision. One of the first steps is determining whether to live in a house or an apartment, which will depend on your individual wants and needs.

Crockett senior Katie Bradshaw lives in a house, while Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, junior Jose Chirivella lives in an apartment.

WHAT ARE THE PROS?

Bradshaw: “The main pro is having my own space. When I was in the dorms, I did not have my own room, and now I do. I love coming home to my own space after a busy day of classes and work. Plus, I get to have more control over the heating and air conditioning. I have a full kitchen, and if the internet goes out, I can find someone to fix it instead of just accepting the fact that the internet is just out.”

Chirivella: “An apartment is smaller, so it’s usually easier to handle. There’s also a gym and movie room for residents to use whenever they want to. I also appreciate that it already

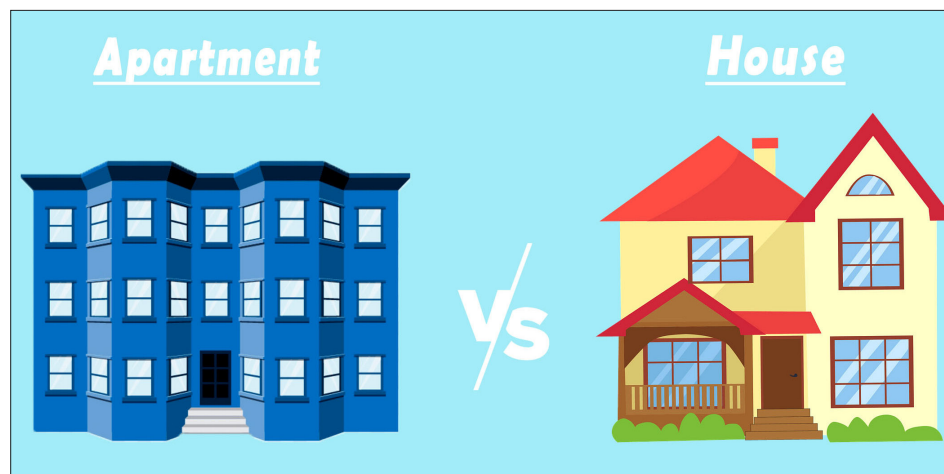


Illustration by Assoah Ndomo | Photographer

HOME SWEET HOME Houses and apartments offer two different living styles for every type of student and can accommodate solo living or rooming with others.

comes furnished. This is especially nice if you’re not trying to break the bank buying all new furniture for your home.”

WHAT ARE THE CONS?

Bradshaw: “Since living in my house, my air conditioner has gone out. I have had electrical

issues and plumbing problems ... It is a bit harder to try and get someone out to fix the issues. When living on campus, all I had to do was fill out a form saying what the issue was, and it was fixed in no time ... That’s not necessarily the case when living in a house. It took a whole week to get a repair person out because of my class and work schedule.”

Chirivella: “Since I live on the first floor, I hear all the stomping from the units above me, which can be irritating. I’ve also found that the companies that manage these apartment complexes don’t seem to be the best. They aren’t urgent to care about maintenance concerns, in my opinion.”

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE WHERE YOU DO?

Bradshaw: “Last year, I started thinking about who I was going to live with for my senior year and reached out to some friends. Around that time, some seniors in my sorority were looking for people to fill their lease, and it just kind of all made sense. I took one tour and fell in love with the cute home and signed the lease the next month.”

Chirivella: “Mainly, I’d say I chose it because one, the rent wasn’t bad at the time, and most of the utilities are included with the monthly price. And two, there is a reliable shuttle to take me to and from school. This is a big deal to me, being that I don’t come from the mainland [United States] and don’t have a car.”

Nickels, neighbors and noise: Find the right lease for your needs

ARIEL WRIGHT
Reporter

A 2021 study by the Wall Street Journal found that Waco is among the top 10 emerging housing markets in the nation. This statistic isn’t surprising considering the area’s massive increase in popularity, likely due to a combination of Baylor and Magnolia. Growth can be a good thing, but it has presented a new issue for students: more expensive rent.

There are two primary housing options presented to the average sophomore ready to experience off-campus living: rent a house or rent an apartment at one of the student housing complexes near campus. Here are some pros and cons for each option.

Pros of house-living:

Privacy: There’s something to be said for having the privacy of a home. If you live in a house, you simply don’t

have as many neighbors, and that is a definite plus for those who value quiet time.

Rent: Living in a house can be a cost-saver when it comes to rent since you aren’t paying for all of the amenities that come with living in an apartment.

Cons of house-living:

Utilities: Living in a house means more space, which is great. However, that means you have more space to cool and heat, which comes at a price.

Little to no amenities: This is a big one. Living in a house — although more spacious and private at times — generally means your home will not have the amenities that an apartment has like a pool, trash chutes or screening rooms for movie nights.

Pros of apartment-living:

Amenities: One of the biggest reasons people choose to live in an apartment is the access to amenities like accessible maintenance, pools, designated study spaces and shuttles to campus.

Neighbors: I know having neighbors can be annoying, but living near people you know can be fun! Choosing to stay in student apartment complexes means you’ll likely be neighbors

with some of your friends and classmates, which is such a quintessential part of the college experience.

Cons of apartment-living:

Cost: Choosing to live in an apartment can be a bit pricy, especially depending on the complex you decide to live at. However, don’t be afraid to research smaller apartment complexes near campus to find a deal.

More noise: Apartment living isn’t always the most conducive to quiet time. If you live in a traditional apartment setup and not a townhouse, you have to deal with much more noise from neighbors. This can be a struggle, especially near exam time.

As more people move to Waco, more people are renting, and the cost of student housing will likely continue to rise. In response, it is important for students to think smart and make the right housing decision for themselves.

For me, the right choice was to live in an apartment. I am extremely grateful for the simplicity of maintenance and the peace of mind that comes with having a team of staff ready to help when I need it. While having access to amenities is undoubtedly a plus, everyone’s student living experience is different, so do the research and choose what’s best for you.



Besties in the making: Ways you can bond with your roommate

ERIKA KUEHL
Staff Writer

Moving into a tiny room with a stranger is intimidating. Rest assured, you don't need to learn your roommate's deepest secrets or memorize their family tree in one day. Here are five ways to create a stronger bond with them.

DECORATE FOR FALL

Nothing brings people together like buying fake pumpkins and plastic autumn leaves. This can be the perfect activity to turn two sides of a room into a shared space.

BAKE COOKIES

Most residence halls have a communal kitchen, so take advantage of it. Run to the store and buy some premade cookie dough. If you're feeling generous, share with people on your floor.

GO ROCK CLIMBING

Baylor boasts the second-largest indoor collegiate rock wall in Texas, at 53 feet. It is conveniently located at the McLane Student Life Center, so you can walk there, spend a night away from studying and have a bonding experience all at the same time.

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Faculty-in-residence, resident chaplains ‘co-labor’ to cultivate student spirituality

SARAH GALLAHER

Staff Writer

Baylor designed the faculty-in-residence and resident chaplain programs to help students grow in their faith. However, some faculty and chaplains said the programs have helped them as much as they have helped students.

Brent Phillips, applied trombone faculty, has served as the faculty-in-residence for University House since 2020. He said his desire to become a faculty-in-residence began during his undergraduate years.

“I went to Rice University, and we had a faculty-in-residence that was there,” Phillips said. “That was the first time that I’d ever been around a teacher or faculty member that was genuinely interested in what I was doing. That’s why I am a faculty-in-residence today. I wanted to have that same impact.”

Although the faculty-in-residence program started in 1856 and has roots that go back to



Personally, my faith has grown so much since I’ve become a resident chaplain. Just the ability to listen and to listen well — that’s a skill that you develop. It does change you too, in many good ways.

**ISAIAH BABA |
RESIDENT CHAPLAIN**

Baylor’s original campus in Independence, the resident chaplain program began more recently, in 2001. Truett Seminary welcomed its first class of students in 1994. Resident chaplains, who foster spirituality in residence halls, are current students of Truett Seminary.

Isaiah Baba, a fourth-year seminary student, began his second year as a resident chaplain in August. According to Baba, he serves the men of Martin Hall by establishing himself as a “known presence” among students by spending time with them on a regular basis.

“The whole idea about [the] resident chaplain program here at Baylor really is having people in the hall that will be like a pastoral presence,” Baba said. “College can be hard, you know, and there are many things that would happen in this college experience that sometimes we just need someone to talk to.”

However, students are not the only ones who benefit from these programs. Many faculty-in-residence and resident chaplains believe that working in these positions benefits their faith as well.

“Personally, my faith has grown so much since I’ve become a resident chaplain,” Baba said. “Just the ability to listen and to listen well — that’s a skill that you develop. It does change you too, in many good ways.”

Phillips shared a similar sentiment about the impact of his experience.

“As the students grow closer together, as they grow closer to God in their relationship, it renews my faith,” Phillips said.

Although the faculty-in-residence and resident chaplains exist to build community and faith among residents, they still support students who do not identify as Christians.

“We try to be very intentional,” Baba said. “We don’t try to push our faith on residents. We are hoping to have conversations that are about faith.”

According to Phillips, faculty-in-residence “co-labor” with resident chaplains to plan events. These sometimes revolve around faith but often exist solely to build community among students.

However, he said these roles can still help introduce students to Christianity and religious principles.



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

GROWING SPIRITUALLY Isaiah Baba, Martin Hall resident chaplain, said in his two years in the role, he serves the men of Martin, sees transformational experiences and personally grows.

“I have a lot of students on campus that maybe aren’t Christian per se, so we’ll talk about faith, and I’ll introduce them to Christian biblical principles of faith,” Phillips said. “We welcome all faiths, but Baylor is a Christian institution, so we’re introducing them to what a Christian faith looks like and what that means.”

Through service events, like making cards for veterans and spiritual events, like weekly Bible studies, many students grow closer to God with the help of faculty-in-residence and resident chaplains.

Since these programs exist inside residence halls, it is easier for first-year students to get connected to local churches and begin their walk of faith in adulthood.

Baba said that during his two years as a resident chaplain, he has seen transformational moments among students.

“You can see students being more open to conversations about faith, being more intentional about it, spending time in the Word, going to church, all that,” Baba said. “We do see a lot of students grow in their faith.”

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North Russell Hall connects students from around the globe

BELLA WHITMORE
Intern

Through the Baylor and Beyond Living-Learning Community, North Russell Hall is home to a majority of Baylor's first-year international students. People from all around the world call "No-Ro" home their freshman year.

Dr. Joe Coker, senior religion lecturer and longtime faculty-in-residence at North Russell, says there are benefits of living with students from different cultures.

"Living in North Russell really does allow students to experience the world without even leaving the building," Coker said. "Making friends with and living alongside people from around the globe enriches both the academic and personal growth of No-Ro residents."

North Russell's game room features a map on which every student can place a pin on their native country, creating an array of colorful dots.

Nicholas Erizo, 2023 Baylor graduate and former community leader mentor at North Russell, said the residence hall is marked by its diversity.

"No-Ro offers residents to meet people from all over the world, learn about different cultures, food, language, norms and ultimately gain a new perspective of the world and become more humble," Erizo said. "Baylor and Beyond LLC has a great program director and team that work



Mesha Mittanasala | Photographer

ENCOUNTER THE WORLD North Russell is home to the Baylor and Beyond Living-Learning Center.

hard to bring the world into the doorsteps of No-Ro."

When it comes to amenities and renovations, North Russell is relatively new. From electronic locks to a modern and open-concept kitchen, the residence hall stands out — and there is no shortage of community events or internationally inspired gatherings.

"The best community aspects of No-Ro are having 'Fun Fridays' every week and community dinners every month," Erizo said.

Coker said engaging with different cultures is a one-of-a-kind experience North Russell provides to residents.

"This opportunity to get to know international students is coupled with the very intentional programming done by the Baylor

and Beyond Living-Learning Center, which puts on events throughout the year designed to enrich students' experience of and appreciation for global cultures," Coker said. "These include occasions to dialogue with students from around the world, hear and appreciate others' stories, try foods and experience customs from different cultures."

Community events include cooking a variety of meals in the kitchen and having coffee time in between classes every Wednesday. Such events unite students across cultural borders and create a strong sense of family.

"I really believe that the overall experience helps the residents of No-Ro broaden their horizons and cultivate an ethos of openness and love for our neighbors," Coker said.

Crusty Collins? More like Krusty Kokernot

KAITLIN SIDES

LTVN Reporter/Anchor

With Memorial and Alexander undergoing construction this year and Allen and Dawson being slated for next, a renovation of Kokernot is still in the distance. After living in Kokernot my freshman year, I can safely say the residence hall needs major updates.

Kokernot is often forgotten by students. Many a time, I've had people tell me they've never met someone who lived there. Kokernot houses only 200 female residents, which is small compared to the recently renovated Collins.

But "Crusty Collins" was nothing compared to Kokernot, which has smaller rooms, bugs trapped in windows and a lingering smell of what used to be a men's residence hall. Many people think the fact that it once housed men isn't bad, but just think about if Martin were turned into a women's residence hall.

As we know, Collins got a \$41.7 million makeover. And now, Kokernot is truly the new "Crusty Collins."

Collins, for the most part, has always had sinks in bedrooms. But in Kokernot, you were elbow-to-elbow brushing your teeth in the morning, and that's if you were lucky enough to grab one of the 10 sinks in each hall.

The line of sinks was inhabited by many bugs, including lice, on one occasion because a

resident decided it was best to remove her lice in the communal bathroom. When you looked out the window, you may have found a gecko or a bug trapped in between the glass too — and that doesn't include the various bugs you found in the showers.

My freshman year, we had a water issue where the shower pressure stopped working halfway through the year, blaring an incredibly loud noise and only offering cold water. This was fixed for a short period of time until it resumed again, so my friends and I would have to walk across the residence hall in our robes and towels to shower on the other side.

Also, the elevator just got fixed before last school year, and near the end of my time at Kokernot, they had a man pull the elevator up and down with a rope, making it only available to put larger objects in during move-out.

The narrow hallways of Kokernot housed many rooms that were small, but that was no shocker due to typical dorm room sizes. Many people complained about how small their rooms were in Collins, but they still had room to bring in extra storage and a full-size projector screen.

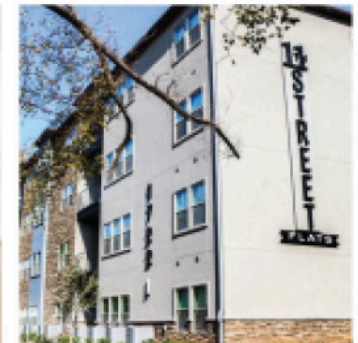
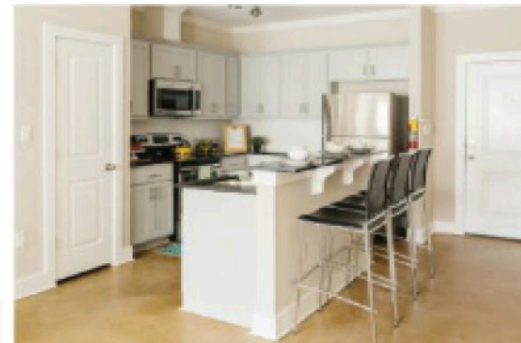
Don't get me wrong; the community I had

in Kokernot was amazing, and I met many of my best friends there. But the living conditions were comical, and Kokernot is definitely in need of its upcoming renovation.



“ ‘Crusty Collins’ was nothing compared to Kokernot, which has smaller rooms, bugs trapped in windows and a lingering smell of what used to be a men’s residence hall.”

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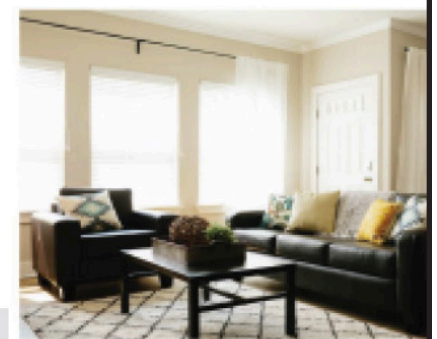


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The Flats is unlike anything else in the Baylor housing market,



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Photo courtesy of Honors Residential College

BACK 2 TOASTIES HRC students enjoy sweet and savory grilled cheese sandwiches at a special back-to-school-themed Toasties on Sept. 1.



Photo courtesy of Honors Residential College

CANDLES AND CAROLS HRC residents form a choir and orchestral ensemble to celebrate the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Dec. 4, 2022.

From grilled cheese bars to Christmas carols: Multi-year Honors Residential College community is rooted in tradition

RORY DULOCK
Staff Writer

Home to 330 students enrolled in one of the Honors College's programs or majors, the Honors Residential College is a multiyear community known on campus for its assortment of traditions.

Jana Roste, graduate assistant program director of the HRC, said what makes the residence halls unique is the way upperclassmen invest in younger students.

"Traditions are powerful because they kind of make you feel like you are a part of something more," Roste said. "When you are involved in some of these traditions, you do feel like you are part of the larger Honors College, part of Baylor. But more than that, I would say they are just ways for students to connect with other students."

Roste said the primary tradition the HRC is known for is Humans versus Zombies.

"[It] is one where a lot of students around campus will recognize the HRC," Roste said. "They will recognize them as the crazy people in bandanas and pool noodles in fields running around campus. That is a really fun way for students to get invested in the community and also get to learn other people's names."

Another HRC tradition, Toasties, is a grilled cheese bar held at least once a semester, Roste said.

"Students will come, and there will be a special grilled cheese — both a savory grilled cheese and a sweet grilled cheese," Roste said. "That could be like marshmallows and pretzels and Nutella and strawberries, something like that. So they kind of get pretty crazy, and we usually do a theme with it. This year's theme was 'Back to Toasties' or back-to-school night."

Southlake freshman Jasmine Kuruvilla said she wanted to live in the HRC after hearing from a friend that it had a good community.

"There are a lot of events, but the first week,

we had the Big Event," Kuruvilla said. "We played a lot of games. Each floor competed with the other floors, so that was fun. We have hall dinners ... where everybody from the HRC, both buildings, they'll go and have dinner together, so that's really nice."

Austin freshman Clay Goldsmith said the community is very welcoming, and he appreciates the opportunities he has already had to get involved.

"Move2BU was pretty cool," Goldsmith said. "We got to move in early and help North Russell and Penland move in. I actually really enjoyed it. ... It was a lot of fun helping people move in stuff and feeling like I was already part of the community at Baylor doing stuff. It was a fun way to get to know people at the HRC too."

In addition to fun, the residential college also places an emphasis on community faith. Roste said another one of the HRC's main traditions is Lessons and Carols. Held during Advent, the service consists of Scripture readings and

traditional Christmas carols.

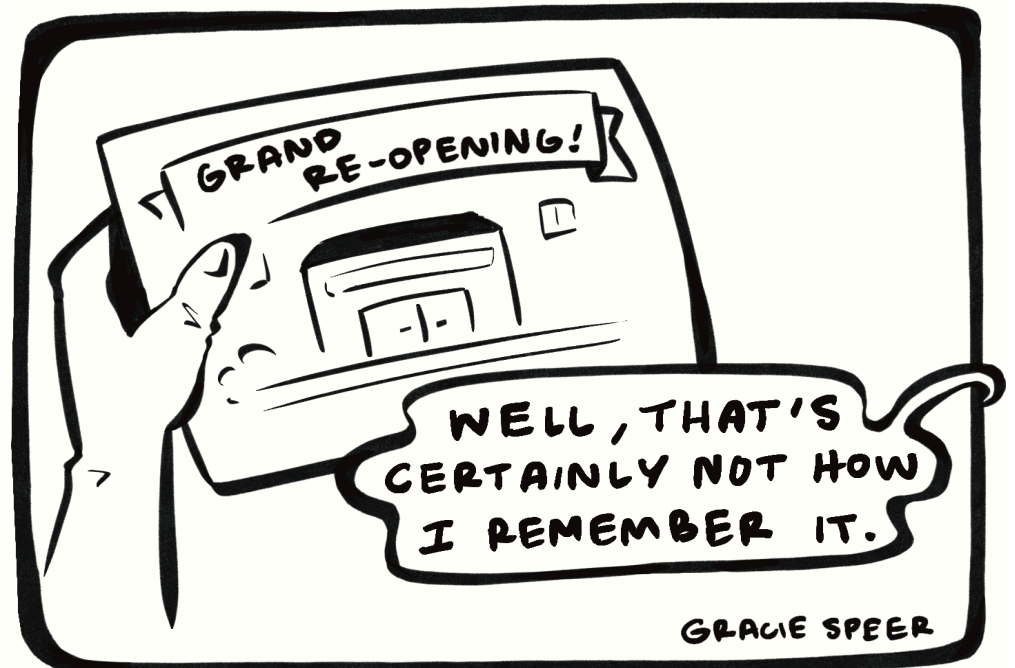
"They work through different liturgies of different Bible verses," Roste said. "We have a choir and musicians, and we just sing together a whole bunch of Christmas carols and have different students and faculty come and represent and be Bible readers. So it is a really pretty time of just sitting in reflection, singing carols and reciting lessons at the same time."

Dallas freshman Caleb Griffin said he chose to stay at the HRC because it would be nice to be around people who are going through the same studies.

"We are all working toward the same things generally," Griffin said. "We all share a lot of classes and have the same experiences that we're going through, so it's a really great bond through that."

The HRC is housed in North Village due to ongoing construction on Alexander and Memorial halls, where the residential college will return in fall 2024.

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