

Friday Is Move-in Day for UNH Freshmen

Programs Planned All Weekend on Academic and Social Expectations

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DURHAM, N.H. - More than 2,600 new students will arrive on the University of New Hampshire campus this week, the majority being first-year students on Friday, Aug. 31. Returning students move in Sunday, Sept. 2.

A range of activities has been planned for new students by the Office of Residential Life, the First-Year Programs Office and the Office of Student Life. Residence halls open at 9 a.m. Friday, a day that promises to be an emotional one for families, says Scott Chesney, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residential life.

"This is one of those milestone days in the life of a college freshman and his or her parents," he says. "For many students, this is their first significant time away from home and our hall staff has a lot of experience in helping them cope with the transition."

Parents will have an opportunity to hear from the associate deans from every school and college on Friday beginning at 2:30 p.m., followed at 3 p.m. by a Farewell to Families in the MUB's Granite State Room with UNH President Joan Leitzel and Vice President for Student Affairs Leila Moore.

Both Chesney and Judy Spiller, assistant vice president for academic support, say there won't be much time for sitting around and being homesick, as the weekend has been designed especially for first-year students. "It's an opportunity for new students to become familiar with the campus before upperclass students return," Chesney explains. "The programming we have planned

addresses issues they will face in their first year issues of the heart and the mind."

Following dinner in the dining halls, students will take part in residence hall meetings and activities starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by performances by WildActs, UNH's popular social change theater.

WildActs performs skits of typical situations encountered by college students, offering tips on how to deal with them. "It's by far one of the most popular aspects of Freshman Days," notes Spiller, "and WildActs features student actors so it's a very realistic view of situations encountered by students."

On Saturday, there are college meetings with campus deans and faculty, followed by a First-Year Convocation and pep rally at the Whittemore Center. The convocation features remarks by UNH President Joan Leitzel.

At noon, lunch will be served outside Cowell Stadium and freshmen will be treated to their first UNH football game against Hampton University.

At 4:45 p.m., the annual class picture will be taken on the Thompson Hall lawn, followed by a barbeque outside Philbrook and Stillings dining halls. From 8 p.m. until 1 a.m., students can enjoy live performances and acoustic music in a coffeehouse setting, including free refreshments, at UNH Juke Box in the MUB.

Sunday features opportunities for students to do some things they may have forgotten about: getting I.D. pictures and e-mail addresses, buying textbooks for classes that begin on Tuesday, or catching more performances by WildActs. At 8 p.m. in the MUB, there will be a Comedy Night.

Monday, students are expected to attend workshops on college success that feature faculty who will talk about how to achieve academically, work closely with faculty, and integrate their in and out of classroom experiences at UNH.

"For many years now, there has been close collaboration between student affairs and academic affairs to offer a rich menu of activities for first-year

students," Spiller explains. "There are extensive discussions on academic and social expectations in a variety of settings so that students understand what we expect of them both in the classroom and in the community."

For more information on weekend activities, go to www.unh.edu/student/firstyear/fresh_days.htm.

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