



## Are you the Missing Piece? Work with Housing!

*Applications for Live-in Student Staff Due January 20*



### Resident Advisor

The Resident Advisor (RA) is a vital member of the Georgia Southern Department of Housing staff. The RA works with a group of students in the residence halls or apartment complexes on campus. The RA is primarily involved in creating a positive community environment. In order to accomplish this, the RA is expected to play a variety of constantly changing roles. The RA must be flexible and creative in meeting residents' needs by serving as a counselor, advisor, activity programmer, educator, and friend. This position requires a serious time commitment and willingness to be available and accessible to other students.

**Benefits:** RAs receive a stipend each semester. The annual stipend is \$3,500. RAs are guaranteed on-campus housing, for which they are financially responsible. Resident Advisors are allowed a single room at double occupancy rates when space is available. Equally important are the non-tangible benefits: the opportunity to interact with a variety of people and the chance to develop skills such as leadership, communication, organization, time management, and counseling.

### Academic Mentor

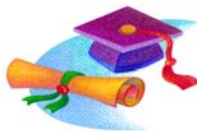
Academic Mentors (AMs) work to ensure the academic success of freshmen residents in the Success-In-U (SIU) and First-year Interest Group (FIG) programs. Working in conjunction with the Resident Advisor staff, the AMs present programs on academic resources and academic development in the halls. They tutor students, both individually and in groups, in one or more subject areas. The minimum cumulative GPA is 3.0, and AMs must have demonstrated mastery in English or math and at least one other subject. AMs must have an aptitude for tutoring and a strong desire to work with college students. Additionally, they serve as peer leaders for a GSU 1210 course in the Fall and as peer leaders for another core course in the Spring.

**Benefits:** The annual stipend is \$2,750. Academic Mentors will live in single rooms in Eagle Village or Winburn. AMs' responsibilities are confined almost entirely to weekday evenings (Sunday through Thursday). As a part of their training, AMs gain certification to tutor across campus. Service as an AM is an excellent résumé builder!

**Lead. Learn. Serve. Be a Resident Advisor or an Academic Mentor!**  
*Applications Available Online at [www.gsuhousing.com](http://www.gsuhousing.com)*

### Career Corner

Career Services has lots of great things planned this semester to help you with your future careers. Mark your calendars now for the following activities:



- **Dining for Success:** February 22, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom
- **Eagle Expo/Education Career Fair:** February 23, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the RAC
- **Graduation Gala:** March 8 & 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Nessmith-Lane

More details will come about each of these events. If you have any questions, please contact Career Services at 681-5197.

### What's Happening on Campus?

#### Monday, January 10

Men's Basketball vs. College of Charleston, 7 p.m.

"Spring Break 101," Southern Pines clubhouse, 7 p.m.

"We're glad your back!" Social, Johnson Lobby, 10 p.m.

#### Tuesday, January 11

"Halo 2 Tournament," Southern Pines clubhouse, 9 p.m.

### Want More Info on RA or AM Apps?

Info Sessions will be held  
**Jan. 9 (Hendricks and Kennedy) and Jan 13. (Pines and Johnson), all at 6:30**



## Spotlight On . . . Mr. Curt Erwin

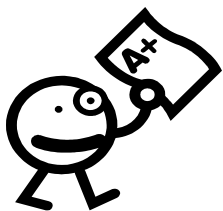


Mr. Curt Erwin is the Assistant Director of University Housing for Residential Education. He works with the activities and services within residence life, including staff selection, emergency procedures, staff training, judicial affairs, and community development. Mr. Erwin has been at Georgia Southern since July of 1997. He says that he enjoys his job because everyday is different and busy and he also likes interacting with students and staff. He received his bachelor's degree in Interpersonal Communication from Truman State University and his master's degree in Higher Education from Indiana University. In college, Mr. Erwin was heavily involved in several leadership positions which inspired him to work in the area of student affairs. In his spare time, Mr. Erwin roots (passionately!) for the following teams: Indiana Hoosiers, Missouri Tigers, St. Louis Cardinals, and the St. Louis Rams. He also enjoys playing with his two kids who are three and five years old. Mr. Erwin's advice to students is to "Set priorities and learn balance." Lastly, he encourages students to get involved in the residence halls through the Resident Advisor and Academic Mentor positions (see front page)!

## Did You Make the Grade Last Semester?

If you met your academic goals last semester, congratulations! If you did not, now is the time to rededicate yourself to improving. Here are a few time-tested secrets to success:

- Go to class every day. It's simple—if you don't go, mastering the material is much more difficult.
- Arrive early and spend five minutes before class reviewing your notes from the previous class.
- Sit toward the front of the room. Make eye contact with your professor and make an effort to stay engaged in what is going on in the class.
- When you don't understand, ask questions during class and seek help after it from the professor, a classmate, or a tutor.
- Have a plan for the semester. Don't let tests and papers sneak up on you.
- Study! The general rule is that you should spend two hours preparing out of class (reading, working problem sets, writing papers, studying for exams) for every hour you spend in class. The way you spend your time is a reflection of your goals. If academic success is one of your goals (and of course it is!), then dedicate sufficient time to achieving it.



If you find yourself struggling, seek help from the Academic Success Center, which offers a range of services, including tutoring in a wide variety of subjects (call 681-0321 for more information). You may also drop by and speak with Dr. Chris Caplinger, Academic Enhancement Coordinator, for general help and referrals. His office is located in Watson Hall (call 486-7521 or email [caplinca@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:caplinca@georgiasouthern.edu)).

If your adjusted GPA is below 2.0, you will have received a letter informing you that you are on academic probation, restricted enrollment, or academic intervention. It is your responsibility to make sure that you understand the academic and financial aid consequences of not raising your GPA this semester. If you have questions, contact your advisor or your financial aid counselor.

## Get Your Schedule in Shape!

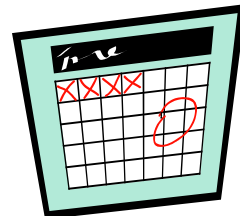
Final registration (drop/add) for Spring 2005 opens up on the WINGS system on Monday, January 10 at 3:00 a.m. and closes



Thursday, January 13 at 11 p.m. (the registration calendar is, however, subject to slight modifications for technical reasons, so check your registration times in WINGS for the latest information). If you are adding a class for which you were not initially advised, you must speak with your advisor first (except for a KINS course; you do not need to consult with an advisor before adding one).

If you are dropping a class, you may do so without the signature of your advisor, although it won't hurt to talk with him or her first. Students who wish to drop a reserved course for SIU or FIGs must have the permission of Dr. Chris Caplinger, Academic Enhancement Coordinator, who may be reached at 486-7521.

After the 13th, you will be able to *drop-withdraw* from a class (through March 7), but not *drop-delete* it. What's the difference? Drop-deleted classes are not part of your official record, but if you drop-withdraw from a class it appears on your transcript. Drop-withdrawals



count toward hours attempted for HOPE. Repeated drop-withdrawals can affect Satisfactory Academic Progress, which in turn affects a student's ability to receive financial aid (including HOPE). Finally, potential employers sometimes view repeated drop-withdrawals negatively. **What's the message here? Find a schedule that will work for you by the time drop/add closes for the Spring.**