Programming Database—REVAMPED!

After much testing and tweaking, Res Life is proud to present the much improved Programming Database! There are several new features as well as areas that are now much easier to use. Here are some of the highlights of the new database:

The beige box: After you log into the database, you’ll notice a beige box to the left of the home screen. This is an area set aside specially for “hot topic” information such as important upcoming dates and events.

My Programs: This tab is where you can easily enter, edit, and view programs. Entering a new program can be done ahead of time now, and you can even add attachments! You are also now able to view every old program.

Search Programs: It’s also super easy to search for programs based on title, date, subject area, and more!

This Programming Database is such a vital tool to your success as an RA. Make sure you utilize this tool by always entering:

- Programs (active/passive)
- Bulletin Boards
- Floor Meetings
- Extended Orientation Programs

Don’t forget that if you ever have questions, programs or concerns, just shoot Holly an e-mail at haagat@wm.edu.

Fun in February

Love is in the air! Everyone knows that February is the month we all celebrate our relationships (romantic or not) on Valentine’s Day... But did you know that there are lots of fun ways to use this holiday for fun bonding? Here are a few fun Valentine’s-related programming ideas:

- Making Valentines—You know what a great resource the PRC can be, so bring your residents down here to make valentines for each other! We have so many materials available that everyone can express their true feelings. Just make sure to schedule your time with a PA beforehand!
- Valentine’s Jeopardy—Get your hall together for a fun evening of food and trivia! Check out Wikipedia’s article on Valentine’s day for trivia to use, stop by the PRC to make a Jeopardy board, and make sure to bring some fun Valentine’s prizes!

And let’s not forget another very important February holiday—Mardi Gras! This year Mardi Gras falls on February 20, and there are lots of fun ways to celebrate this holiday with your residents. The PRC even has some Mardi Gras party supplies available for check out. Just ask a PA!
Upcoming Program Pursuit: Programming to Co-ed halls

Even something as simple as a door tag requires a lot more thought than it should have to. Well, worry no more! The next Program Pursuit addresses this exact problem. We'll help you with everything you need to know for co-ed programming, from fun activities to educational programs and, of course, door tag ideas.

Another important issue we'll address is catering to diversity among the individual genders. An RA with an all-female hall might want to do door tags with the men from “Grey’s Anatomy” on them, but would a lesbian resident be offended by a McDreamy or McSteamy door tag? We'll discuss how to deal with problems like this and so much more in the PRC on Sunday, February 11th at 3:30pm. Come check it out!

February: Black History Month

As the month rolls in, our country takes this time to pause and remember some of the most important Americans in our history: African Americans who broke the boundaries holding back their race and setting the tone of success and equality for generations to come. Many people have heard of people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harriet Tubman, but have you heard of these mold-breaking heroes?

- Blanche Kelso Bruce
- Dr. Guion Bluford Jr.
- Sarah Goode
- Matthew Henson
- Mae Jemison
- Elijah McCoy
- Maggie Walker
- Norbert Rillieux

Find out who they are at: http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/aframer/bios/.

The New Lottery Room Selection

Ask any person here at W&M, student or staff, and they'll be quick to tell you what a pain in the butt W&M’s old-fashioned in-person housing lottery system is. Luckily for us, Residence Life is finally creating a much easier online system for students to use!

This new system will be available in every student’s myWM account. If you go into the “Student and Financial Aid” section of Banner, there will be a new housing link at the bottom of the list. This is where students can go during their pre-schedule time block to choose their rooms, roommates, and electronically sign their housing agreement.

In January, most of us student staffers tested this new online lottery room selection system. Despite a few kinks, the trial was a success! After a short tutorial, system testers found it extremely easy to go in and use the new system to choose a room and roommates.

A similar tutorial will be made available online via video to all other students once it gets closer to registration time. The few problems that occurred during registration should be resolved by the time the system is put to real use towards the end of the semester.

If a student cannot be near a computer during their scheduled time block, all they have to do is simply request Residence Life staff to act as a proxy and choose their room for them. It is important to remember that fellow students CANNOT serve as proxies; it is too risky to give out one’s student ID and password.

This new lottery room selection system should save everyone involved a lot of headaches!