



DTH/LINHDA TRAN

Senior Jenny Glace (right) and sophomore Tammy Yahner relax in the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority house. Greek houses provide a meal plan option and the chance for members live in the house and interact daily.

## Greek houses unite members

BY ALICE DOLSON

STAFF WRITER

With room and board prices comparable to on-campus housing and a meal plan, many students choose to live in their fraternity or sorority house because of the community feel.

"It's like you're living in a home rather than a hallway or apartment complex," said Jay Anhorn, director of Greek Affairs.

Walker Rutherford, president of the Interfraternity Council, said that living in the fraternity house is a good way to get to know people in the organization.

"It's great to be able to go to a central location.

You go eat lunch, meet friends and just hang out," said Rutherford, a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity.

About one-third of UNC students involved in the Greek system live in their fraternity or sorority houses, Anhorn said.

Of UNC's 47 Greek organizations, 30 have houses available for student living.

Although the Greek houses vary considerably, between 20 and 30 students live in each house, with sorority houses typically having more residents, Anhorn said.

Living in a Greek house is significantly different from living on campus.

Most of the houses have their own chef to prepare lunches and dinners specialized for the residents.

The houses usually serve lunch and dinner on weekdays for residents as well as other members.

Also, the residents of Greek houses take a more active role in the upkeep of the houses.

"You take a lot more pride in where you live," Rutherford said. "There's a sense of ownership."

The atmosphere of different types of houses can vary considerably. In sorority houses, social functions take place outside the house, and alcohol is not allowed in the house, said Piper Monk, president of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority.

"Generally, sorority houses are

better kept than fraternity houses," Monk said.

"We have a big screen TV downstairs, but there are never problems with people being loud."

Fraternity houses do host parties, but Rutherford said there is a trend toward holding more events at outside venues such as local bars.

He added that parties usually do not interfere with residents' studying habits.

"People are really respectful because you know them so well. It's not hard to ask them to be quieter," he said.

"Also, you know when there's going to be a party, so people can generally budget their time accordingly."

Rutherford said that one of the biggest misconceptions about Greek life is that it attracts a specific type of person.

"We do the same things as someone living on campus."

Contact University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Campuses strive to meet the demand for housing

BY ADJOA ADOFO

STAFF WRITER

Like many of its peer institutions, UNC-Chapel Hill struggles to retain students in on-campus housing.

One of the ways UNC-CH officials are trying to do that is by offering apartment-style housing as an on-campus living option, something that is already offered by many of its peers.

In 2006, the school hopes to open a new apartment complex on South Campus to better accommodate the growing demands for on-campus housing.

Rick Bradley, assistant director of housing services for UNC-CH, said the school hopes to provide 3,000 more beds for upperclassmen. "It won't be offered to freshmen," he said. "It's an effort to increase the number of upperclass students living on campus."

The Web site for the Department of Housing and Residential Education states that the number of applications received routinely exceeds the number of spaces available in campus housing.

"We have currently been able to

accommodate incoming freshmen and returning students, but not incoming transfers," Bradley said.

Freshmen are not required to live on campus and entering students are not automatically assigned to campus housing. Though available space is not guaranteed, the school manages to house 98 percent of first year students and retain 83 percent of its upperclassmen.

"We are not trying to house every undergraduate student," Bradley said. "We have a goal to house every undergraduate student who requests housing."

Unlike UNC-CH, the University of Virginia requires its first year students — about 3,000 people — to live on campus.

John Evans, director of accommodations at UVa, said the school considers the first year to be a year long orientation. "Statistically, students who live on campus their first year tend to stay at the university."

This school offers less space to upperclassmen, and only 30 percent return to on-campus housing. UVa. houses 50 percent of its undergraduate population.

However, almost 500 students are already on a waiting list for housing in the fall. "We will build more upper class housing in the future," Evans said.

At N.C. State University, on-campus housing is on a first-come, first-served basis. New freshman are not guaranteed housing.

"We don't have a problem keeping residence halls full," said Jim Pappenhagen, assistant director of administration for N.C. State's University Housing. "We don't require any students to live on campus."

He said that the school sees a 62 percent retention rate in students returning to campus housing each year. "In the last 18 years we have seen a high rate of students returning. Our rates are very competitive."

He also cited comfortable housing and convenience as factors. "Because freshmen aren't allowed to have cars, the new apartment complexes being built 3 miles away are a problem."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Recontracting begins in February

BY LAUREN HARRIS

STAFF WRITER

For students who wish to live on campus next semester, it's time to start thinking about recontracting.

With applications already released for theme housing, the yearly process has begun, and officials said it is important to be well informed about recontracting dates and procedures.

Students should begin considering where they would like to live on campus and who they will select as a roommate, said Christopher Payne, director of housing and residential education.

He strongly recommended that students who wish to live on campus pay the required \$200 deposit before at 5 p.m. March 1. Students can pay the deposit at the Cashier's Office in Bynum Hall.

Students should pay the deposit

early, because all fines must be paid and all stops must be cleared before students can register for housing, Payne said. If the problems are discovered ahead of time, there will be time to take care of them.

All specific dates and descriptions of recontracting procedures can be found in the housing Web site's FAQ, which will be posted early February.

On-campus students will complete their online applications on designated dates, while off-campus students wishing to live on campus must apply on paper in the Carr Building. Payne stressed that on-campus students and incoming freshmen will have priority in the recontracting process. Requests for the same room, theme housing and substance-free housing are binding. Starting this semester, students can access residence hall floor

plans on the housing Web site to find out which rooms are available.

Payne said the most common problems students have during recontracting result from failing to click on the "I Agree" button on their online applications and not printing a copy of their confirmation. "Students need to be aware and well-informed of the recontracting process and all of their options."

A series of recontracting workshops will take place in various residence halls throughout February, and students will receive e-mails regarding the workshops.

Currently, there are more than 7,200 undergraduate students living on campus. Payne said, "It's the most we've ever had."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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