

UPSCALE COLLEGE LIFESTYLES HIT RIDER

Lucky Lawrenceville students enjoying the fruits of University's largesse

By Nicole Southern

Imagine a wondrous world where there would be more than enough space to live comfortably, a bathroom being used by only roommates and a chance to cook meals once in a while. This place exists not only off-campus, but now in the halls of the new residence building. A select group of people have the pleasure of experiencing this innovative college lifestyle in its infant year.

Senior Kristen Gore and her three roommates are among the lucky few. They live in a four-person apartment, complete with four single rooms, their own bathroom, a kitchen, and a vast common area. But for Gore, the personal washer and dryer is the best perk.

"You don't have to worry about someone taking your stuff out of the washer because you didn't get down there in time," she said. "You can wash three shirts and not feel guilty."

This luxury is not available to students who live in suites or pods, who, instead, have two laundry rooms that they can share, according to senior Charlie Marchant, who is living in an eight-person pod. There is one in the new building, as well as the original laundry room in Ziegler's basement.

Aside from having an array of ways to do laundry, residents of the new building are able to enjoy the satisfaction of having their own air conditioners, a benefit that people all around campus envy. In fact, many flock to the building to visit friends in hopes of escaping the heat for a few hours.

"I'm a lot more comfortable here. I'm not sweating," said Marchant. "People come here a lot. This is the place to hang out."

Although the air conditioning attracts a lot of people, there are many other reasons students have been finding their way to the new building.



Photo by Katie Coscione

This semester marks the first use of the newly-built apartments, suites and pods located in Ziegler and the new building. Residents have responded positively to the building and its many conveniences.

"You can rent out the conference room and both lounges for meeting spaces," said Gore. "They had the extra space for lounges and they used it well."

According to Gore, the lounges have been used for leisurely activities as well.

"The pool equipment is signed out all the time," she said. "The lounges upstairs always have kids playing cards in them. There's going to be a big screen TV [on the first floor], too."

While many residents are using the lounges to build community, others find that the new rooms are limiting their socialization with other residents, according to senior Hope Kaufman, who lives in a two-person suite.

"I know the people who live next door to me, but I don't really know anybody else," she said. "I think it's a little segregated because of the apartments. People keep to themselves."

Senior Anna Badurina agreed.

"Even when you shared a bathroom, you met someone in there and could talk to them," she said. "It's nice having

your own place, but you miss being able to see people around."

The isolation from the rest of campus is a small price to pay for the lavish lifestyle the building offers, said Gore.

"I would take the apartment over that any day," she joked.

The new building has been a great step for Rider. It has proven to be a success, especially since it was a wonder the building was completed in time. Attempts to finish up were going on even after students moved in, said Gore.

"We moved in a week early for RHA and they were still finishing," she said. "They were still painting in Ziegler, and the paint was still wet."

Gore and her roommates are still waiting on parts of their apartment to be finished, she said.

"They have to wait until the final inspection comes through before they install the fan over our stove because it wasn't in the original plans," said Gore.

A short time after the building's opening, there were problems with the

elevator, which was included in the plan to accommodate those with disabilities. This was an inconvenience for many of the building's residents.

"Walking up and down all the steps was very tiring, especially when you have a bunch of classes in one day," said Kaufman. "It was annoying. I was afraid the elevator wasn't going to work [when I was moving in]."

Despite the little problems here and there, many of the residents are thrilled with their new rooms and the things that make them special.

"Everything is brand new and working perfectly," said Kaufman. "I like how the walls are painted because we don't feel like we're living in a jail cell."

Marchant also was excited about the quality of the room, he said. After living in a residence hall he felt was falling apart, he was pleasantly surprised on move-in day.

"I came in at nine in the morning and everything was white and new," he said. "I was like 'Wow, this is unbelievable.'"

That wasn't the only good surprise for residents of the new building. Although they had seen the floor plans of the rooms, some had underestimated its size, according to Gore.

"When you see the floor plans you don't really know what to expect," she said. "I was picturing the room to be smaller. It definitely surpassed what I thought it was going to be."

All in all, the new building has changed the way that students view their college experience in a positive way, according to Kaufman.

"I think I get a different perspective," she said. "When I'm here, I feel like I'm not really at Rider. There's a totally different feel to this building. I feel older, too. Living here, I feel like I've grown up. I feel like living in the dorms [makes] you feel immature and young. It's just a different experience."

Oh, What a Staff! 2005 team shines

By Jodi Cantor

While the 2005 Orientation Staff got the chance to lend a hand to incoming freshmen, members were also able to form a bond that they wouldn't have found in any other summer job.

Junior Esi Sapara-Grant, a member of the team, spoke highly of her experience, claiming she had never worked in an environment with such an emphasis on group work.

Living in the same residence hall and working closely each day while planning the orientation program forced the staff to get along.

Sometimes the team came across bumps in the road, but they still had fun with the time they had.

"You couldn't walk away from people or ignore problems, which made us communicate better," said senior Cathleen Ziegler.

"We loved cracking each other up," said Sapara-Grant. "Someone would say some stupid quote, and then everyone would start laughing. We would have such a good time, we would forget that we were fighting."

The most memorable program of the orientation events is a skit that is put on each year. The skit depicts students of all types—shy, outgoing and anal retentive—adjusting to college.

"I wasn't sure we'd be able to pull it off, but then everyone played their parts real well," said junior Jeff Foulkes, who played "shy guy," whose romantic interest was Ziegler, the "shy girl."

Looking back on their time together, the orientation staff speaks highly of their experiences and regard them as priceless.

Until a new staff is chosen for a new round of freshman, the staff continues, helping freshmen whenever the chance arises.

Q&A: How do you feel about rising gas prices?



Denise Sarcewicz
Senior

"As a commuter, I made sure I got a car that had more mileage per gallon. I used to go home between work and classes, but now I come straight here."



Jen Thackray
Senior

"A while ago, we'd get really upset if we saw oil for \$2. Now, if we see somewhere with gas for \$2.90, we are thrilled with the 'cheap prices.'"