Winter Break is a time for students to relax, reconnect with family, and prepare for the spring academic semester. While we encourage our residents to take this opportunity to go home, we understand that some students need the ability to remain on campus during parts of the break. In order to accommodate those needs we will allow students to sign up for Winter Break access to all residence halls up until 12:00 noon on Friday, December the 11th. Students seeking this access will need to come sign up in the John Hunt Town Center, will have their cards encoded and fill out necessary paperwork. Residence Life does reserve the right to revoke access in the event of any behavior or conduct issues. All students who stay between the break will have access to the buildings up to Monday, January 4, 2016; at this time residents will need to complete the standard check in process to have their room access updated for the spring semester. Maintenance will be entering all rooms during the break between the hours of 7:30 AM—8:00 PM. Residence Life staff will not offer access to residence halls during the Winter Break and key cards cannot be updated after 12:00 noon of Friday, December 11th. Please be aware that all students who are graduating, transferring, or withdrawing must be completely checked out of housing no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 11th to avoid improper check out charges. Returning students do not have to remove belongings, but are encouraged to take all that they will need home.

We are so glad that your student has decided to live with us for the 2015-2016 academic year. We have already been very busy ensuring that they have not only a positive academic experience, but also a developmental one. We strive to offer our residents a diverse range of experiences as well as opportunities to get involved through the Residence Hall Association and National Residence Hall Honorary. As we wind down the fall semester and gear up for Spring we do want to share some important information about some of the things going on and all the important dates your student needs to be aware.

Our office has an open door policy for all of our residents, we encourage them to come see us even if it’s just to say hey. We want to be a resource for them and help them in any way we can. We feel the same way about our students’ family and friends. If you have any questions about what is going on in Residence Life or need more information regarding the info in this newsletter or our policies please don’t hesitate to ask. We are looking forward to a successful end to our 2015 fall semester and also can’t wait to see what spring 2016 has in store.

Thank you,
Dr. Chris Kinsey
Director of Residence Life
Two weeks after the beginning of the spring 2016 semester we will once again open up a Roommate Lottery. This lottery allows residents to make 1 for 1 swaps within their building. This program allows for students to live with who they choose. Please be aware that due to high occupancy we cannot move students prior to this program, but students can start looking early so that they can find a roommate that is right for them.

ABAC Residence Life offers many opportunities for residents to get involved in different types of programs. The first annual Fall Festival is a prime example that recently saw 500 student participate in various fun activities. There was plenty of dancing going on thanks to DJ Trent Hester. The students loved it, and even the far off academic buildings got to participate thanks to the awesome sound!

Students also got a taste of some authentic North Georgia fall treats with caramel apples, funnel cakes, fried Oreos, and corn-dogs being made on sight. There were several inflatable games along with air brush tattoos and pumpkin decorating.

Residence Life consistently tries to keep students out of their rooms and involved with each other. If your students ever say they are bored, make sure they are taking advantage of all of the developmental and community building programs we offer on a weekly basis!

Housing Cancelation and Breach of Contract
This is the time of the semester that students may decide that they no long want to live on campus. The reasons are many and sometimes they will result in different results. At the beginning of each semester students sign a two semester housing contract, this binds them to payment for both semesters of an academic year. There are some circumstances that will allow for these student to be completely released from their contract; graduation, marriage, birth of a child, military service, and medical withdrawal. These students will still need to fill out a Breach of Contract form. In all other cases students will be held to the contract. Students may receive a half price buy out resulting in a charge of half of the semester rate of their room by completing a Breach of Contract form at the John Hunt Town Center. If a resident moves out without completing the Breach of Contract form they will be charged the full price of housing for the spring semester. This charge can result in a hold on the student’s account, prevent access to transcripts, prevent the student from being able to enroll in other USG institutions, and balances may be sent to collections. Please ensure that your student completes the proper process if they choose not to return in the spring.