

American Eats: History on a Bun

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American Eats: History on a Bun was a program presented by the Cate Center President's Council on October 17, 2001. Residents flocked to the Cate Social Lounge at the opportunity to sample lots of free food and learn a little bit about American pop culture. Residents sat in front of a big screen television and watched a History Channel special called, aptly, American Eats: History on a Bun. The show features the history of many American foods and restaurant chain icons such as the hamburger, hot dog, submarine sandwich, McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken and much more. As a particular food was being discussed on the screen, a corresponding food would be served. For example, during the segment on McDonalds, McDonalds hamburgers were served. Over the course of the two hours, residents sampled McDonalds, KFC, Klondike Bars, hot dogs, White Castle burgers, Pizza Hut and Dominos pizza, fortune cookies, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The only thing missing was Pepto Bismol! Residents left with full bellies and had the opportunity to learn the history of many of the favorite foods that they eat every day.

Politically Incorrect Series

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This is an ongoing series of programs that aims at bringing students together to critically think. The series is of course based on the format of the television program, that have a number of panelists speak about an issue. The panelists are the students and we, Hall Council; RA staff introduce a topic for them to discuss. Our topics have ranged from the climate of their campus community to Greek life. We have found this to be a wonderful environment that encourages discussion and debate in a co-curricular environment.

The Clothesline Project

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The Clothesline Project is a visual display of t-shirts decorated to represent an individual's experience or relationship with domestic violence or sexual assault. Those who attend have the opportunity to view the shirts, make their own shirt, and write a reflection on their experience at the program. All shirts on display have been created by James Madison University students, faculty, staff, and local community members. About 325 shirts will be displayed this year at JMU's ninth annual Clothesline Project.

NADA Olympics

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Residents planned events that ranged from a soccer tournament to a baking contest. Each floor-team created a flag for their 'country' to display at the Opening Ceremonies. Teams that won events were awarded edible gold, silver and bronze medals. Each medal was worth points that were doubled for teams that invited professors to participate. The team that won the most medal points was given free NADA T-shirts. We posted the medal count and lots of pictures on our website (<http://www.sc.edu/ips/NADA/olympics.shtml>) Overall; the event was such a big success that we won't wait four years to do it again.

Suites of the Week

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Each week (starting on Sunday), two different suites were randomly selected to be the Suites of the Week. Each resident in the suites decorated a biographical poster that had their picture on it and questions such as "hometown, b-day, favorite movie, favorite food, etc." These posters were displayed at the front of our hall (by the elevators). Then, each Suite of the Week had a sign outside of their door, designating them a Suite of the Week. In addition the two suites received a supply of a different type of candy. Throughout the week, other V2 residents stopped by the Suites of the Weeks' rooms to say hi and chat. When they did this, they could take candy and mark a check next to their name on the roster, indicating that they had stopped by. The Suites of the Week then presented their posters at our weekly event on Sunday nights (for about an hour) called Suites and Treats. Here, they were able to tell about themselves as well as have fun. At each Suites and Treats we had a different treat and craft (i.e. making cereal necklaces, decorating cupcakes, coloring turkeys and eating pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving, making ants on a log -peanut butter, raisins, and celery). After the Suites and Treats, two new Suites of the Week were selected for the week. This continued until every suite had a chance to be Suite of the Week. Points were kept track of as an incentive to visit each Suite of the Week and get to know fellow residents. However, there was such a great participation in this program that a prize was given to everyone at the end of the five weeks (instead of the suite with the most points). Participation at Suites and Treats was outstanding, with about three-quarters of the floor attending each one. In addition, residents helped out with ideas for the program as well as sending reminders to each other for the Sunday Suites and Treats. ...and now my residents are asking when we are going to start up again for this semester.

50's At the Hop

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Residents and Faculty members are invited to an evening of free food and a fun atmosphere of the 1950's Classic Soda Shops. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and dip, flavored sodas, ice cream cones, and root beer floats are served. There is a "jukebox" playing music from the 1950's with classics from Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, and many more. This event is held in a Faculty-in-Residence apartment, which has a breakfast bar that doubles as the "soda counter". This program is fun for all attendees-faculty and students!

Cooking for Dummies

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The Resident Assistants of FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus organized a day long cooking and safety class for residents of the FYRST (First Year Residents Succeeding Together) Living Learning Community in September. FYRST residents received an "Intro to Cooking and Safety" presentation before being split into cooking groups, which included salad, dessert, main dish, side dish, vegetables and starch. The groups led by an RA and FYRST mentor were given their recipe to cook. Before engaging in the wonderful meal, each group was asked to present how their dish was prepared.

Bay Vista Olympics

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In the spirit of the Winter Olympics the Resident Assistants and Floor Representatives of FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus organized a week of Olympic competition from February 21st-24th. Activities included a pool, basketball, tennis, track and field, flag football, brain bowl, swim, and volleyball tournament. The entire building was divided into 4 teams; points were scored for 1st-4th place as well as for attendance at activities. The final day included a barbecue and closing ceremonies.

Free Pizza and Condoms Night

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A speaker from the Health and Wellness center was invited to present along with a representative from Planned Parenthood. The advertisement catches students' attention since they get two great incentives: pizza and condoms. The program was a sex talk on risks, diseases, and interesting facts. Pizza was served and condoms were given to every participant. Having different types of condoms helps!

Mr. & Miss Panther Hall

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A pageant where residents of the building are given the opportunity to showcase their talents and compete for a very glorious title. This program has evolved to every residence hall in FIU, and now the winners of each complex compete at the MR. and Miss Housing Pageant.

Spirit Day

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A program where each wing of our residence hall competes at a wacky Olympics. The winner of the Spirit Day takes home the spirit stick to decorate it with the wings colors, symbols, etc. The games at the Spirit Day include tug-of-war, balloon toss, egg balance, etc.

Mardi Gras

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This program was a replica of the parties that take place at New Orleans. We have beads, music, a charade master, a spirit master and tons of fun. The best part of this program was in the decorating and having fun.

Breakfast Club

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Description: A community building program where residents of one wing are looked in a lounge for an entire night. The residents have breakfast at midnight and from there on a night full of activity starts. Activities include dancing, games, study time and snacks.

Positive Recognition

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While this idea might seem "elementary" it is amazing the competition and pride the residents have in seeing their name publicized for a positive contribution to the community. This program opens lines of communication among the residents and staff. Even our "challenging" students are motivated to be acknowledged for a good deed. The Housing Staff recognizes residents who have positively contributed to the community in some fashion (assisting an intoxicated friend, carrying someone's groceries, helping someone with their computer etc). A brief thank you note is sent to the resident recognizing their efforts. A monthly bulletin board is posted with the resident's name and those students are invited to monthly social (pizza, ice cream etc).

Midnight Breakfast

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Students can usually find money to eat! Why not give them the opportunity to chow while donating to a charity organization. The student coordinators also learn the valuable lessons and skills involved in planning an event. Publicity is needed only a few days before the event. Pancakes are simple to make and you can purchase small breakfast sandwiches, donuts, muffins and juice. Be mindful to have some fruit too! Serve the meal later in the evening (11pm-1am) when students get hungry. If tables and chairs are set-up in the room it will passively encourage residents to eat there instead of taking the food to their room. Community members may engage in conversations with others and foster a sense of community.

Breakfast Club (2000-2001)

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This program was created and implemented by the Gryphon (Resident Assistant) staff in Sayre Park Village at Lehigh University. Sayre Park is a brand new facility and the staff wanted to implement some traditions for the area. Breakfast Club started on August 29, the first Sunday the student were back to school and has continued every other Sunday since. The Gryphons make breakfast for the students from 11:30-1 PM. The costs of the program have been small, considering the amount of cooking which is done. The staff offers pancakes, french toast and sausage along with juice, coffee, hot chocolate and cider. They make everything to order, so the food is hot. The staff uses doorhangers, individual signs and email to publicize the program. The doorhangers have been very effective because they hang on each individual door and the signs are always in the shape of a breakfast food with the information written on it. They have also used paper plates with plastic forks and knives attached to publicize.

Sayre Park is an apartment complex and it was hoped that Breakfast Club would bring residents out of their apartments to interact with one another. The biggest struggle with the upper-class apartment areas has been getting residents to respond to programming. This program has been very successful especially with creating community. About 50 residents (out of 150) show up for the program and on some weekends the response has been larger. The people who attend the program vary from week to week, with about 20 regulars. The students enjoy food and the chance to catch up with other people in the area. They also show cartoons and movies during the time. The staff has invited the Vice Provost of Student Affairs and Director of Residential Services to attend and help cook. This has given the students a chance to see some of the campus administrators in another light.

A Week with Deborah Harris (2000-2001)

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Deborah Harris has been a youth pastor in Mobile, Alabama for 17 years and has been on many short term Christian International Mission Trips, leading primarily youth groups. She spent six days on campus where she met with different student and staff populations and discussed a range of topics from basic communication issues to spirituality and the millennium. Various programs were co-sponsored by Residence Life, The Residential Housing Association, Residence Halls, Religion Department, Minority Student Services and Social Work.

Community Assistant Program (2000-2001)

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A Community Assistant (CA) is a volunteer hall leader who works on the floor with the Resident Advisor (RA) to build community. There is one CA for each floor in the building. The CA's work together with the RA's to create positive living environments through programming, bulletin boards, newsletters, advisement for floor government, ect. As well as serve as additional resources to residents with questions, concerns, or hall issues. The CA also serves on a staff that is advised by a hall staff member. The staff meets weekly to discuss resources, programming opportunities, hall concerns, and issues related to working with students. The concept behind the Community Assistant Program is to provide more leadership opportunities to students and more staffing in the residence halls with no additional financial costs.

The Haven Hall Points Program (2000-2001)

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The Haven Hall Points Program was created to combat the challenges in Haven Hall in getting residents to attend the high quality programming being offered by both the Resident Advisor Staff and the Hall Council. By creating a point system, we gave students opportunity to attend events in the hall and become involved in the activities of the building. By doing so, the students accumulated the greatest number of points, a \$100.00 gift certificate to the local shopping mall. The second, which was awarded to the floor which accumulated the most points, was an additional \$100.00 in floor programming funds.