

# RA

magazine

THE

# Inclusive ISSUE

## THE LAND OF [MISSED] OPPORTUNITY

THE STATE OF INTERNATIONAL  
ENROLLMENT AT U.S. COLLEGES

## GENDER-INCLUSIVE HOUSING

SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER  
STUDENTS IN THE RESIDENCE HALL

## BRINGING BOWWOW

LOGISTICS OF HAVING  
PETS AT SCHOOL

## HOW-TO WITH RLC

BUILDING COMMUNITY  
WITH MOVIE NIGHTS

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issue thirty-one

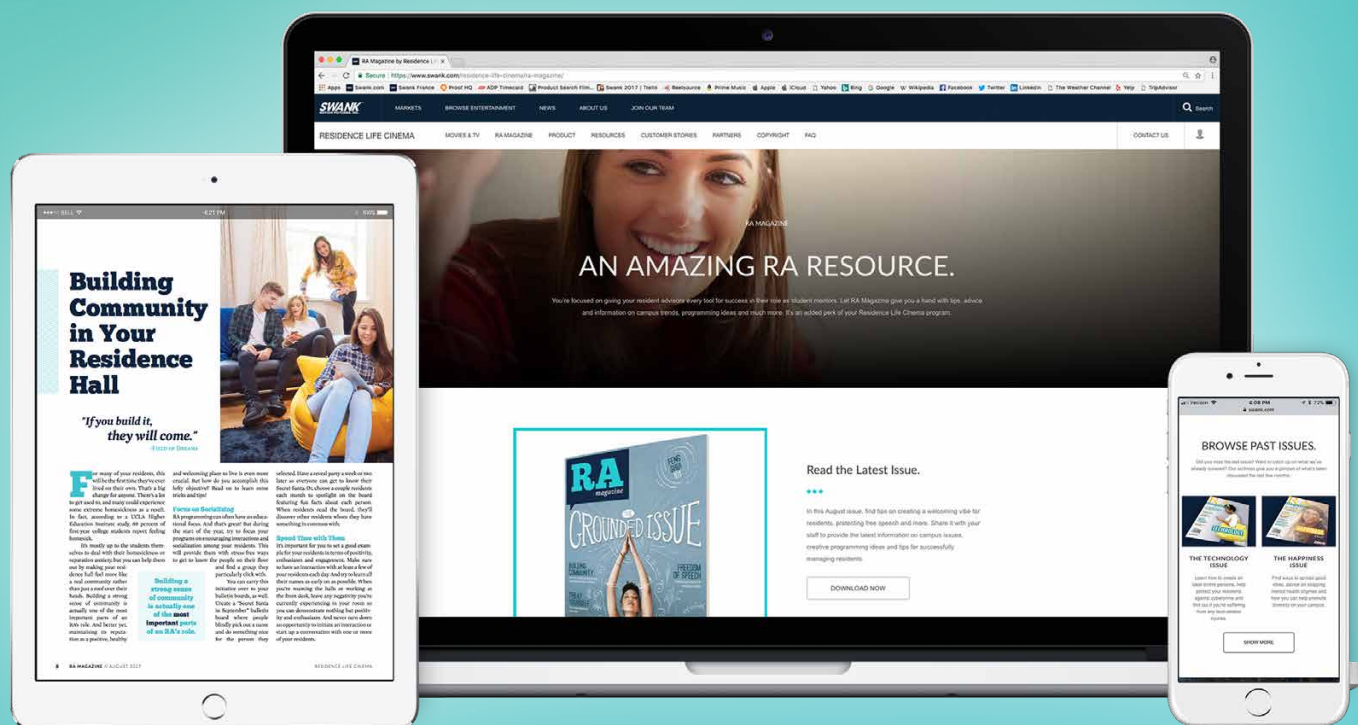
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RESIDENCE LIFE CINEMA



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**SWANK**  
RESIDENCE LIFE CINEMA

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FOR A **FREE ISSUE!**



# What's one movie you think is universally loved?

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Peter Swank "The Shawshank Redemption."

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**

Colin Crane Any "Harry Potter" movie because I'm a wizard.

**TEAM LEADER**

Alex Pieschel "Forrest Gump."

**CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGER**

Cassie Wood "The Breakfast Club" because "we're all pretty bizarre. Some of us are just better at hiding it."

**ACCOUNT MANAGERS**

Amanda Gasich The majority of the world's population loves the "Fast & Furious" franchise.

Jordi Palmer "You've Got Mail."

**INSIDE SALES SPECIALIST**

Dylan Kay "The Goonies."

**ONLINE CONTENT MANAGER**

Kelsey Reizer It seems everyone is really into the recent movie "Baby Driver" — I've heard nothing but great things.

**COPYWRITER**

Catherine Rolwes In my experience, no one can resist "The Notebook's" charm — including guys!

**MARKETING MANAGER**

Lindsey Hamm "Almost Famous" has everything. It's a coming-of-age story set in the golden age of rock music. What else could you ask for?

**MARKETING COORDINATOR**

Lizzie Maassen "Mean Girls," because it's the most quotable movie of my generation.

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Kara Rinella "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" is a classic film that's funny and clever in its own odd, strange way.

The Land of  
**MISSED**  
 Opportunity

The state of international enrollment at U.S. colleges

Check out our *brand-new*  
**RA training video**  
 to learn how to use the *full power*  
 of **RLC** on your campus!

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Nearly 40 percent of surveyed schools experienced a decline in international applications for the 2017-2018 academic year



The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Offices surveyed over 250 American colleges and universities and found that nearly 40 percent witnessed a decline in international applications for this coming year. But this decline doesn't mean foreign students are just staying put. Instead, many are choosing Canada for their study abroad experience. Canadian schools have seen a substantial increase in foreign applications with the University of Toronto – Canada's top-ranked and largest university – seeing a 20 percent increase in applications. Other schools reported increases as high as 33 percent.

This trend is attributed partly, at least, to the Trump Effect – suggesting the President's criticisms of foreigners are causing the decline in U.S. applications. Alan Shepard, president of Concordia University in Quebec told *The New York*

*Times*, "The so-called Trump Effect is real when it comes to enrollment in Canada. Applications from international students for this coming fall's semester have surged."

Other factors include a lower cost of tuition in Canada, confusing travel bans, as well as the recent visa policy news that the Department of Homeland Security is considering a proposal that would require foreign students to reapply for permission to study in the U.S. each year they attend school here.

The idea that students in other countries don't feel welcome to pursue, or continue to pursue, their education in the States is upsetting on its own. But U.S. students should be concerned for reasons that directly affect them, as well. International students contribute over \$35 billion to the U.S. economy. Not only does this significant source of

tuition revenue directly benefit domestic students, the diverse perspective they provide in classes explicitly improves Americans' education.

**Undocumented Students**

International students aren't the only ones worried. Every year, approximately 65,000 undocumented teens graduate from high school in America. For many of them, this is the end of their education as they cannot legally receive federal student financial aid of any form, including loans, grants and scholarships. And most states require them to pay out-of-state tuition to attend public schools, also prohibiting them from receiving state loans, grants and financial help. With the high price tag of private institutions, that doesn't leave much hope for high-achieving, undocumented students wanting to pursue a college education.

However, about half of all undocumented students make it happen thanks to private scholarships and programs like TheDream.US, which offers scholarships to students who qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. Undocumented immigrants who qualify for DACA status are legally able to work, obtain a driver's license and secure a temporary Social Security number. This allows them to establish residency in the U.S., which then allows them to attend public schools as in-state residents.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 728,000 undocumented immigrants have gained protection under DACA since 2012. As a result, the number of DACA students attending U.S. colleges has surpassed the number of undocumented immigrants. However, the future of DACA is currently unknown under

the Trump administration – not to mention the anxiety undocumented, non-DACA status students have.

**Raise Your Voice**

If you want to help reverse this trend and alleviate fear, then speak up. College presidents, professors, leaders, students and anyone else involved in higher education need to share their concerns about the dangers of international enrollment continuing to fall. College is where action is taken and change is fought for. Advocate that our nation, in its entirety, welcomes and appreciates a global intellectual community on college campuses and elsewhere.

College is where action is taken and change is fought for.

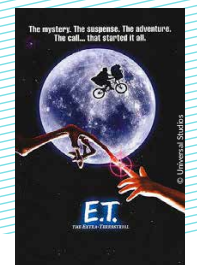
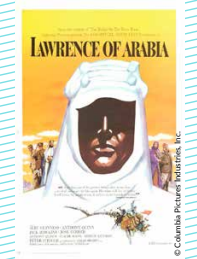
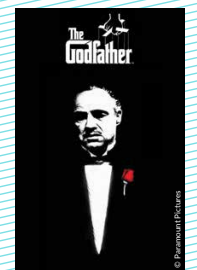
Last year, Smith College raised their voice in regards to illegal immigration in the U.S. when they formed a brand-new scholarship fund to support U.S. permanent residents with refugee or asylum status, undocumented students and international students.

Jacqueline Olds, the woman responsible for establishing the fund in honor of her mom, a Smith grad and one-time refugee, said, "It is important that the college be able to continue to support the educational needs of these students who face unique challenges. Someone needs to stick up for refugees, and I hope this sets an example for others to follow." Smith's President, Kathleen McCartney, continued saying, "Smith has a long and proud history of opening its doors to women from all over the world and making sure they have the means to succeed. This is especially important for refugees."

Smith isn't the only college standing up. Yale also has affirmed their commitment to undocumented students. The school's College Dean, Jonathan Holloway, said: "We are really going to be an advocate for students, whether they are abroad and need to get back here quickly, or they need to change their plans about going abroad, you name it. We are going to do [whatever] we can to support our students." ■

5

ICONIC AMERICAN MOVIES International Students SHOULD WATCH:







# WHAT SHOULD YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME

## BE?

1. Your costumes are typically:



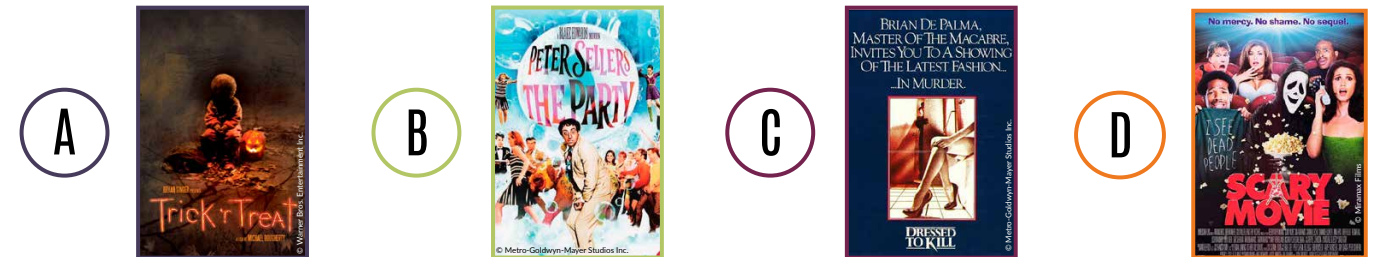
2. What's your favorite Halloween film?



3. Your Halloween costume inspiration usually comes from:



4. What does Halloween mean to you?



5. Your dream is to become:



MOSTLY A'S	MOSTLY B'S	MOSTLY C'S	MOSTLY D'S
 <p><b>WONDER WOMAN OR SPIDER-MAN</b></p> <p>You love dressing up for Halloween, but with as little effort as possible. Hey, there's no shame in buying your costume – especially when you look as awesome as you do. After all, costumes are just one part of what makes this holiday so great.</p>	 <p><b>ATOMIC BLONDE OR BABY DRIVER</b></p> <p>You have a knack for twisting your knowledge of culture and current events into one extraordinary, original costume because your worst fear is accidentally twinning with someone else. Odds are you'll hear, "Why didn't I think of that?" more than once during the night.</p>	 <p><b>BAYWATCH OR JAMES BOND</b></p> <p>You don't care about the creativity or creep factor. You just want to look good. Halloween is the perfect opportunity for you to go all out, and there's no chance you're going to waste it on an unflattering ghost getup.</p>	 <p><b>ANNABELLE OR PENNYWISE</b></p> <p>Forget the high heels and red lipstick. You're out for blood – and the more the better. You prep for your favorite holiday by binge watching nightmare-inducing horror films, and come the 31st – your costume is nothing short of terrifying.</p>

Call **Residence Life Cinema** now to add these great movies to your lineup!



# IMPOSTER SYNDROME



## What it is and how to deal with it

When whittled down to its core, imposter syndrome is essentially self-doubt. It makes people believe they're not good enough or smart enough for the success they've experienced. If you're experiencing symptoms, you might be scared everyone's going to discover you're not as qualified, cool or confident as you seem.

Some researchers believe up to 70 percent of the population has experienced these feelings at some point, and the prevalence is particularly common amongst high achievers and minorities. Even if you do occasionally experience these feelings, you should never let them stop you from working to reach your goals. Here are some ways to work through any lurking symptoms of imposter syndrome:

### 1. REALIZE NO ONE IS PERFECT

Perfection is an impossible goal, so instead, let go every once in a while. Put a "good" effort toward an assignment or project instead of working tirelessly to make it your best work. And make sure to take time to celebrate your successes and appreciate your hard work.



### 2. FIND MENTORS

Build a supportive, encouraging group of people or mentors to help you recognize your strengths and personal progress, or to remind you of them when your confidence is lacking.

### 3. RECOGNIZE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EXPERTISE

Reflect on the hard work you put in to get where you are now. Be grateful and proud of where you are in life, and remind yourself that you earned it. If you need more proof, tutoring or mentoring can help you realize all the knowledge you have gained and just how far you've come.

### 4. SEEK HELP

For some people dealing with imposter syndrome, individual therapy can be extremely helpful – particularly Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, which focuses on "identifying and correcting faulty thinking and belief patterns like identifying negative thoughts and reality-checking beliefs."

### 5. TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING IT'S A SYMPTOM OF SUCCESS

The most successful, smart, competent people are the ones most at risk for experiencing imposter syndrome. So while it's not very fun to experience symptoms from time to time, it at least means you likely have things figured out.



JODIE FOSTER

“When I won the Oscar®, I thought it was a fluke. I thought everybody would find out, and they'd take it back. They'd come to my house, knocking on the door, 'Excuse me, we meant to give that to someone else. That was going to Meryl Streep.'”



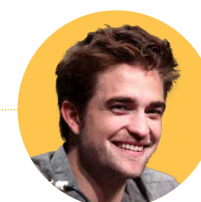
JENNIFER LOPEZ

“Even though I had sold 70 million albums, there I was feeling like 'I'm no good at this!'”



TINA FEY

“The beauty of imposter syndrome is you vacillate between extreme egomania and a complete feeling of: 'I'm a fraud! Oh God, they're on to me! I'm a fraud!' So you just try to ride the egomania when it comes and enjoy it, and then slide through the idea of fraud.”



ROBERT PATTINSON

“In a lot of ways, I'm quite proud that I'm still getting jobs. Because of falling into a job, you always feel like you're a fraud, that you're going to be thrown out at any second.”



DANIEL RADCLIFFE

“I think the most creative people veer between ambition and anxiety, self-doubt and confidence. I definitely can relate to that. We all go through that: 'Am I doing the right thing?' 'Is this what I'm meant to be doing?'”



AMY POEHLER

“You will never climb Career Mountain and get to the top and shout, 'I made it!' You will rarely feel done or complete or even successful. Most people I know struggle with that complicated soup of feeling slighted on one hand and like a total fraud on the other.”



# Mastering the Art of NAPPING

Napping isn't just for the sleep deprived, lazy vacationers or small children. Anyone can reap the benefits an extra dose of sleep provides – no matter the length – including improved focus, alertness, memory, mood, performance, creativity and problem-solving skills. But snoozing at the wrong time of day or for too long can backfire, so follow these tips to achieve the perfect siesta:

1. Naps as short as six minutes long have proven beneficial effects. To avoid feeling groggy or disoriented after a nap, keep it short. If you want a deeper sleep, than stretch your nap to a full 90 minutes in order to cycle through all of the sleep stages.
2. The best time for a nap is midafternoon. Depending on what time you woke up and what time you're going to bed, this could be anywhere between 1 and 4 p.m.
3. Nap slightly upright to avoid sleep inertia – a hangover-like grogginess that lasts up to 30 minutes after you wake up.
4. The ideal nap lighting is dim to dark to stimulate melatonin. Consider investing in a sleep mask or eye pillow if you plan on becoming a serious snoozer. The napping space should also be cool and quiet.
5. Always set an alarm. If a power nap is your goal (10 to 20 minutes), hold a pencil in your hand when you're drifting off. When it falls, you'll be woken up. Thank Einstein for this trick.
6. Experts advise drinking a cup of coffee before a power nap for maximum alertness once you wake up as the caffeine won't kick in for 20 minutes.
7. If you can't fall asleep, meditate, do breathing exercises or listen to sleep-inducing music. Even if you never drift off, this relaxing state will leave you feeling more alert and refreshed.

## PICK THE *Perfect* SLEEP



*The*  
**POWER NAP**  
10-20 MINUTES

Ideal for a boost in energy and alertness; easy to wake up from.



*The*  
**NASA NAP**  
26 MINUTES

Scientist-proven nap length to improve pilot performance by 34 percent and alertness by 54 percent. Best for an extra-long work day.



*The*  
**BAD NAP**  
30 MINUTES

Studies show that this length might cause sleep inertia – a groggy feeling that lasts up to 30 minutes after you wake up before the nap's restorative benefits kick in.



*The*  
**DEEP NAP**  
60 MINUTES

A deep sleep snooze to improve cognitive memory processing. Great before a big presentation, but there might be some grogginess upon waking up.



*The*  
**FULL NAP**  
90 MINUTES

This length puts your body through a complete sleep cycle so you can have a deep sleep without the grogginess. Improves emotional and procedural memory as well as creativity.



# Gender-Inclusive Housing

*SCHOOLS EXPAND HOUSING OPTIONS TO  
FIT A MORE FLUID DEFINITION OF GENDER*





**ONLY  
1 IN 10  
COLLEGES  
CURRENTLY PROVIDE  
GENDER-INCLUSIVE  
HOUSING OPTIONS.**

In 2012, the National Transgender Discrimination Survey found nearly one-fifth of surveyed transgender or gender-nonconforming students reported being denied gender-appropriate housing in a higher education institution. Five percent were even denied campus housing altogether. However, in May 2016, residential colleges and universities received a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) from the Obama administration that evoked Title IX to clearly state federal law protects transgender students' right to live in housing that represents their gender identity, among other recommendations for how colleges could protect the rights of trans students. As a result, hundreds of universities worked to add gender-inclusive housing options. Since then, however, a new president sits in the White House who, in February of this year, revoked the DCL and guidance in his own DCL – making it pretty clear that from a federal regulatory perspective, institutions are not required to provide gender-inclusive facilities.

So where does gender-inclusive housing now stand with the more than 2,000 residential universities and colleges across the country?

**NATIONAL TREND**

Campus Pride, an organization that supports LGBTQ rights in U.S. higher education institutions, conducted a recent study that reports only one in 10 colleges currently provide gender-inclusive housing options. The most recent documented figure for the total number of colleges was 213; however, that number is likely an underestimation as colleges are routinely adding housing options.

According to Lambda Legal, an LGBT rights advocacy group, universities in the Northeast and along the West Coast have been the most responsive to allowing gender-inclusive housing, with the South and religious-affiliated schools being the least likely to do so. Broadly, a spokesman for the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International said in June 2016, the organization had seen an increase in the number of questions they received about transgender housing.

This increase is not attributed to a school's fear of losing federal funding, but rather in response to a growing demand for mixed-gender accommodations among incoming undergraduates and the rising visibility of transgender issues. According to an analysis from University of California Los Angeles' Williams Institute that included both federal and state data, about 1.4 million adults in the U.S. identify as transgender. This figure is double the previous estimation, and is believed to rise year-after-year as more become comfortable with identifying as transgender.

**WHY IT'S IMPORTANT**

Research routinely shows trans students experience high levels of discrimination and harassment on campuses. A 2015 "Association of American Universities Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct" found that trans and gender-nonconforming students experienced greater rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence and stalking than any other campus group. In fact, a larger survey, the 2015 "U.S. Transgender Survey," reported nearly one-quarter of the college

student participants who were out, or perceived as trans, on campus had been verbally, physically or sexually harassed. And in a 2010 State of Higher Education for LGBT People survey, more than a third of transgender students said they seriously considered dropping out of school because of the challenging climate.

No matter your gender or sexual orientation, everyone and every school should make gender-inclusive housing a priority in order to alleviate one of the many situations that can negatively impact a transgender person's college experience. Every individual, regardless of their gender identity, should have the right to a normal college experience, and that includes a roommate. They also have a right to feel just as safe and welcome on their campus – particularly their "home" – as any cisgender individual, which is people whose gender identity matches their birth sex. Making all students feel comfortable

is one of housing professionals' main job responsibilities – and this includes transgender students.

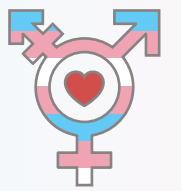
**HOW TO HELP**

Create a trans-supportive housing policy that publically states trans students, who inform the college in a timely manner, will be housed according to their gender identity and that every attempt will be made to provide trans students with safe and comfortable housing assignments. Your gender-inclusive housing option should be available to all students, both new and returning, not just trans ones. And options should ideally be offered in different parts of campus in different types of housing. This includes doubles, suites and apartments. Finally, be sure to include gender-inclusive bathrooms and showers.

You can also ease trans students' struggles or anxieties in your residence, particularly with the intimate college housing setting, by respecting the student's chosen name and pronouns. •

*MAKING ALL STUDENTS  
FEEL COMFORTABLE  
IS ONE OF HOUSING  
PROFESSIONALS'  
MAIN JOB  
RESPONSIBILITIES—  
AND THIS INCLUDES  
TRANSGENDER STUDENTS.*

**6  
MOVIES FEATURING  
TRANS  
CHARACTERS**



**Supporting  
TRANS STUDENTS**

1. Have staff attend trans-focused ally training
2. Enable students to use a name other than their legal first name on campus records
3. Allow students to change their gender marker on campus records if requested, without letters of support or a legal change
4. Develop and publicize a trans-supportive housing policy
5. Establish a policy for trans students to compete in intramural athletics
6. Aim to have gender-inclusive restrooms in at least half of the administrative and academic buildings on campus
7. Include "gender identity" in your campus' general nondiscrimination policy
8. Hold a regular trans health clinic to provide trans-specific health care services
9. Appoint a client advocate at your school's counseling center or have a visible procedure for trans students to report concerns and instances of poor treatment
10. Create a fair equitable process for hiring, training and maintaining trans-identified and trans-knowledgeable staff in all areas

(Source: Consortium of Higher Education)



# BRINGING BOWWOW TO CAMPUS

## Logistics of having pets at school

College, for many people, means saying goodbye to the familiar to move to a new city, where you will meet new people and [hopefully] learn countless new things. But what if you could bring a little bit of home with you – beyond your shoe collection and favorite pillow? Some college students opt to pack up their two, four, and no-legged friends to join them on their transition to college life.

Research has shown that petting dogs and having other animals around can lower blood pressure, boost moods and increase social interactions. They can also improve people's psychological well-being and self-esteem. Under the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act, colleges must allow residents to bring their emotional support animal if they have the proper documentation from a doctor or therapist. And a handful of schools also allow dogs, cats and other domesticated animals to join their residence hall community even without a medical need.

Loyola University student Victoria Hedin was approved to have an emotional support animal because she suffers from anxiety and depression. She adopted her dog, Paisley, to comfort her during the transition of being far away from her family in Charlotte, N.C. "It helps a lot, having that comfort," Hedin said. "She sleeps with me at night, and just knowing that she'll be there when I need her is really nice."

*Research has shown that petting dogs and having other animals around can lower blood pressure, boost moods and increase social interactions.*



While it's wonderful students can now bring their wet-nosed besties with them to campus, there are some necessary logistics to consider. Make sure your residence hall, and the residents themselves, avoids complications by effectively preparing for these new roomies.

### ALLERGIES

One main issue to keep in mind when housing animals in a residence hall is allergies. Many of your residents could be allergic to dogs, cats and other animals. So when the animals walk through a hall or hang out in a common space, those residents could be negatively impacted due to the dander and hair that remains even after they leave.

To avoid irritation, consider designating a specific floor for animal-owner residents to keep pet dander contained. Also ensure the separate groups do not share any air vents, including common spaces. And make sure everyone signing up to live in your residence

hall understands animals will be present throughout the year.

### TAKING CARE OF THE ANIMALS

It's important that the animals residents bring to campus are properly cared for every day. These animals cannot be neglected if workloads suddenly increase or if a big social event pops up over the weekend. Residents need to have a serious commitment to their pets. This is not only to avoid other residents or housing professionals having to deal with the repercussions of a neglected animal, but also because these animals are living beings that deserve, at the very minimum, basic care.

To avoid trouble later on in the semester, have residents sign forms guaranteeing their commitment and responsibility to their pets, including day-to-day care, preventative treatments and more. And clearly outline the consequences that will occur if they fail to meet these responsibilities.

### ROOMMATES

If you allow residents with pets to room with non-pet owners, make sure they completely understand what this living arrangement will mean for them. You don't want roommate issues to arise because of their ignorance of the situation.

### VACATION & BREAKS

Make sure your residents understand their pets cannot stay on campus during school breaks, vacations or weekends away. Because some

residents might not have family members within driving distance of their university to watch pets over these periods, they need to make arrangements for their travel, or arrange for them to be boarded for the duration of the break.

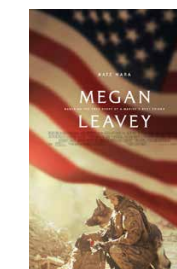
### DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

The resident director at Greenville University in Illinois lives in a dormitory with his wife and two dogs. One of his dogs – Dudley – was causing quite a number of complaints when he first joined the residence hall community because of his persistent barking. Realizing something needed to be done, Dudley's owner taught him how to whisper bark. Barely audible, the dog can now express himself whenever a sound is heard or excitement occurs without disturbing the residents.

Of course, whisper barking is not a realistic solution for every dog causing disturbances on college campuses, so it's important to ensure dogs, and other animals, are well trained before accepting them into your community. Plan a meet and greet with each proposed pet to see if they have the personality and training necessary to live in a highly social and active community like a residence hall before welcoming them to your school.

If you take the proper steps to avoid problems in the beginning, and enforce the rules and penalties when issues arise, then your community can only benefit from having energetic, cuddly and, of course, cute creatures sharing your living space.

## WORKING PUPS



## BEST PETS TO KEEP AT COLLEGE



FISH

1.



HAMSTER

2.



HERMIT CRAB

3.



SNAKE

4.



BUNNY

5.



LIZARD

6.



GUINEA PIG

7.



HEDGEHOG

8.



# NEW RELEASES

## Programming Ideas

Create an original movie event with these film-inspired programming ideas



### Wonder Woman

PG-13; 141 minutes; Warner Bros.

Create your own Amazonian training camp in a green area near your residence hall. Residents will have fun developing Wonder Woman-like skills in the areas of strategy, hunting and knowledge. Feature activities that focus on her tools of the trade, like the Lasso of Truth, indestructible bracelets and infamous tiara.



### The Big Sick

R; 119 minutes; Lions Gate Films, Inc.

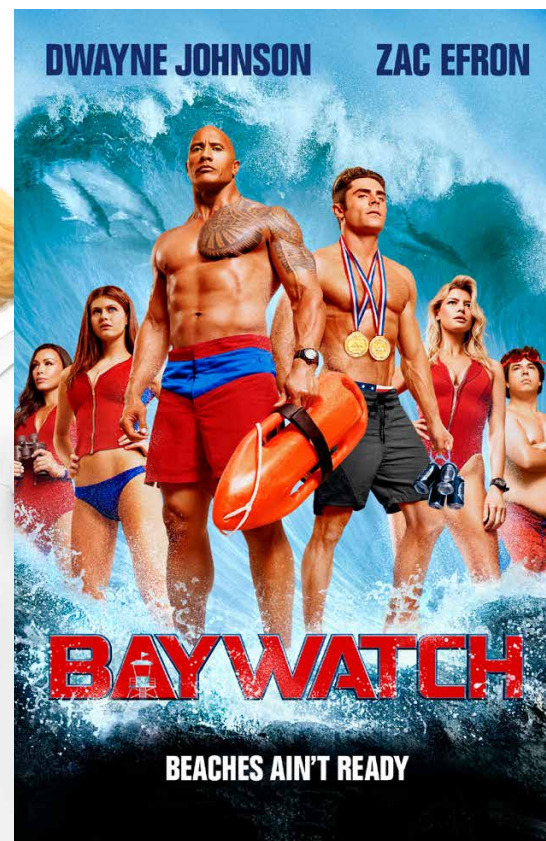
One of the main characters in this indie rom-com is a stand-up comedian. Before the show, host an open mic night allowing anyone to come up and share their talents with everyone on the floor. Who knows, you might just be living alongside the next Louis C.K. or Kate Tempest.



### Despicable Me 3

PG; 90 minutes; Universal Studios

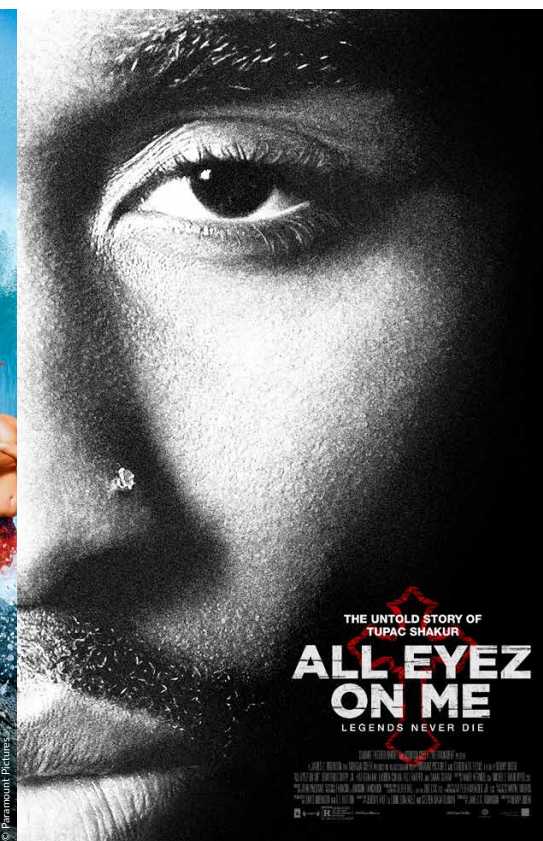
The minions are back at it again! In this sequel, Gru's nemesis is a former '80s child star. Invite residents to show up for the screening decked out in totally radical '80s style and award prizes for the best dressed. You can also play classic music and board games from the decade beforehand, like Girl Talk and Guess Who?



### Baywatch

R; 116 minutes; Paramount Pictures

A showing of this summer blockbuster definitely calls for a beach-themed party! Bring sandy shores to your hall by using pool floaties as seating, adding umbrellas to tropical drinks, decorating with beach balls and, of course, spotlighting a beach-themed photo op wall. And, if possible, serve summer-friendly treats like snow cones or Popsicles for residents to enjoy while the movie plays.



### All Eyez on Me

R; 140 minutes; Lions Gate Films, Inc.

This biographical drama calls for a rap battle to honor the late hip-hop artist Tupac Shakur. Invite residents to show off their skills before the show by spitting a few (clean) rhymes. Award the winner with copies of Shakur's greatest hits, or a copy of the DVD itself.



### Rough Night

R; 101 minutes; Columbia Pictures

Before hysterically laughing at the full-blown antics in this female-driven comedy, take the opportunity to educate residents on partying responsibly in a relaxed environment. For a larger event, partner with every hall on campus so residents can "Hall Hop" visiting each hall for one hour with a different educational theme at every party.



HOW-TO WITH RLC:

# BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH

# Movie NIGHTS

Movie nights are one of the easiest ways to entertain your floor, while also building community. Use your Residence Life Cinema service to engage your hall with hundreds of the latest new releases and timeless classics. Wondering how to get started? Here's everything you need to know to put on successful movie nights in your hall all year long.

▶ **START PLANNING**

First, decide the date and time of your showing. Many people choose a Saturday or Sunday afternoon so people are free to relax instead of worrying about schoolwork. It's also a good idea to turn your movie program into a series. It will increase your chance of success by boosting attendance and creating something for residents to routinely look forward to.

## KEEP IN MIND THAT NEW RELEASES ARE ALWAYS A HUGE DRAW.

Next, select the movies you will feature. You can either browse RLC's website yourself to select the perfect title, or make it a collective effort by creating your own ballot, to let residents decide. Keep in mind that new releases are always a huge draw.

▶ **MAKE IT A PAIR**

One great way to increase interest and attendance in your showing is to make it relevant to your residents. Is a popular film's sequel about to be released? Then show the original. Is your campus experiencing a controversial issue? Then ignite conversation with a pertinent film.

An easy way to ensure your showings are, in fact, relevant is to align them with holidays and upcoming celebrations. Show a football-focused film, like "The Longest Yard," before your school's first kickoff. Or, have a scary movie film series before October 31st hits.

▶ **TREATS FILL SEATS**

College students are almost always hungry. Draw them in to your event with some free treats. Popcorn is always a great idea for a film-focused event. Or, spring for some box candy to make the experience feel more like a visit to a movie theater.

It never hurts to offer snacks that match the film you are showing, either. For instance, do a BBQ theme for a showing



of the "Fate of the Furious" featuring lemonade, instant mac 'n' cheese cups and BBQ chips, or beach eats for a "Baywatch" screening.

▶ **SPREAD THE WORD**

Create buzz about your event or series within your residence halls by promoting early. Utilize the free, customizable promotional materials found in our online toolkit to create door hangers, popcorn stickers, flyers, movie posters and more. You'll also find sample copy to draft an email to your residents and to promote your event via social media.

Make sure to place materials in areas where residents spend the most time. This includes community areas, kitchens and entryways. If your residence hall or housing association has a Facebook page or other private account, post the details of your event. Be sure to add the time, date and place of the screening! Save the pictures you take during the event for any public social media presence—and be sure to send them to your RLC representative because we always love to see how schools use the service on campus!

## Top TITLES

LOST AS TO WHICH MOVIES TO SHOW? HERE'S OUR TOP 15 TITLES FROM THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR:

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# "The Big Sick"

Written by Kumail Nanjiani and Emily Gordon, *"The Big Sick"* is the charming and compelling true-life story of their tumultuous courtship. Kumail, an aspiring, Pakistani comedian living in Chicago, meets grad student Emily at one of his standup shows. Their romance quickly grows until Kumail's family's cultural expectations interfere. But when Emily unexpectedly becomes seriously ill, Kumail is forced to face his fears – and her parents – to take ownership of his life. *"The Big Sick"* is a film that provides "all the feels" and asks important cultural and personal questions of each of us.



Issues | Family • Relationships • Career • Culture • Illness

## Questions

- Discuss Kumail and how he evolves over the course of the film.
- Why do you think Kumail struggled to be honest with his family about his life?
- Emily is a graduate student studying counseling and wants to be a personal therapist. Discuss her and her family's past and how it might have impacted her career goals.
- How do Kumail's friends support each other? How do you and your friends support each other?
- Do you think Kumail was being fair to Emily in regards to their relationship? Why or why not?
- Do you agree with Emily's decision to leave Kumail? Why or why not?
- Kumail's family pressures him regarding an arranged marriage. Why do you think it was so important to his parents that he follow their cultural heritage?
- Do you think Kumail would have been just as happy had he picked one of the women he was introduced to? Do you believe there are many people in this life that could make someone happy in a relationship? Why or why not?
- How do we balance our own cultural heritage with the greater culture of our community and our country?
- Discuss Naveed. He seems to have feet planted in both his Pakistani heritage and the United States culture. How do you think you would navigate this balance if you were living in another country/culture?
- At one point Kumail says to Emily, "You know what they call arranged marriage in Pakistan? Marriage." Do you think it is fair to impose our cultural mores onto other cultures? Why or why not?
- A doctor asks Kumail multiple times if he can sign to have Emily put into a medically induced coma. What was the doctor implying to Kumail? Do you think it was ethical for Kumail to agree to the medical procedure? Do you think it was ethical for the doctor to ask like he did? What would you have done in this situation?
- Discuss Emily's parents? How are the different? How are they alike?
- How does their relationship with Kumail evolve over time? How do they support Kumail? How does Kumail support them individually?
- How do Emily's parents respond to the doctors? How do they react to Emily's condition? What do their actions say about how they were dealing with the stress? How do you think you would react in this situation?
- Emily's parents go see Kumail perform. While there, Kumail is heckled about his heritage. What would you have done in this situation? Have you ever had to defend someone being harassed? Discuss.
- How does Emily's illness impact Kumail? Do you think he would have changed if she had not been ill? Do you think they would have gotten back together if she had not been sick?
- Kumail shares with his family he does not want an arranged marriage and he is not sure what he believes. How do his parents react? Do you think he was right or wrong? Why?

# Movies at a Glance

Use these movies to enhance programming you build around the featured articles.

**The Land of (Missed) Opportunity**  
Pg. 3-5

The state of international enrollment at U.S. colleges



**Gender-Inclusive Housing**  
Pg. 11-13

Supporting transgender students in the residence hall



**Bringing Bowwow**  
Pg. 14-15

Logistics of having pets at school



**How-To with RLC**  
Pg. 18-19

Building community with movies



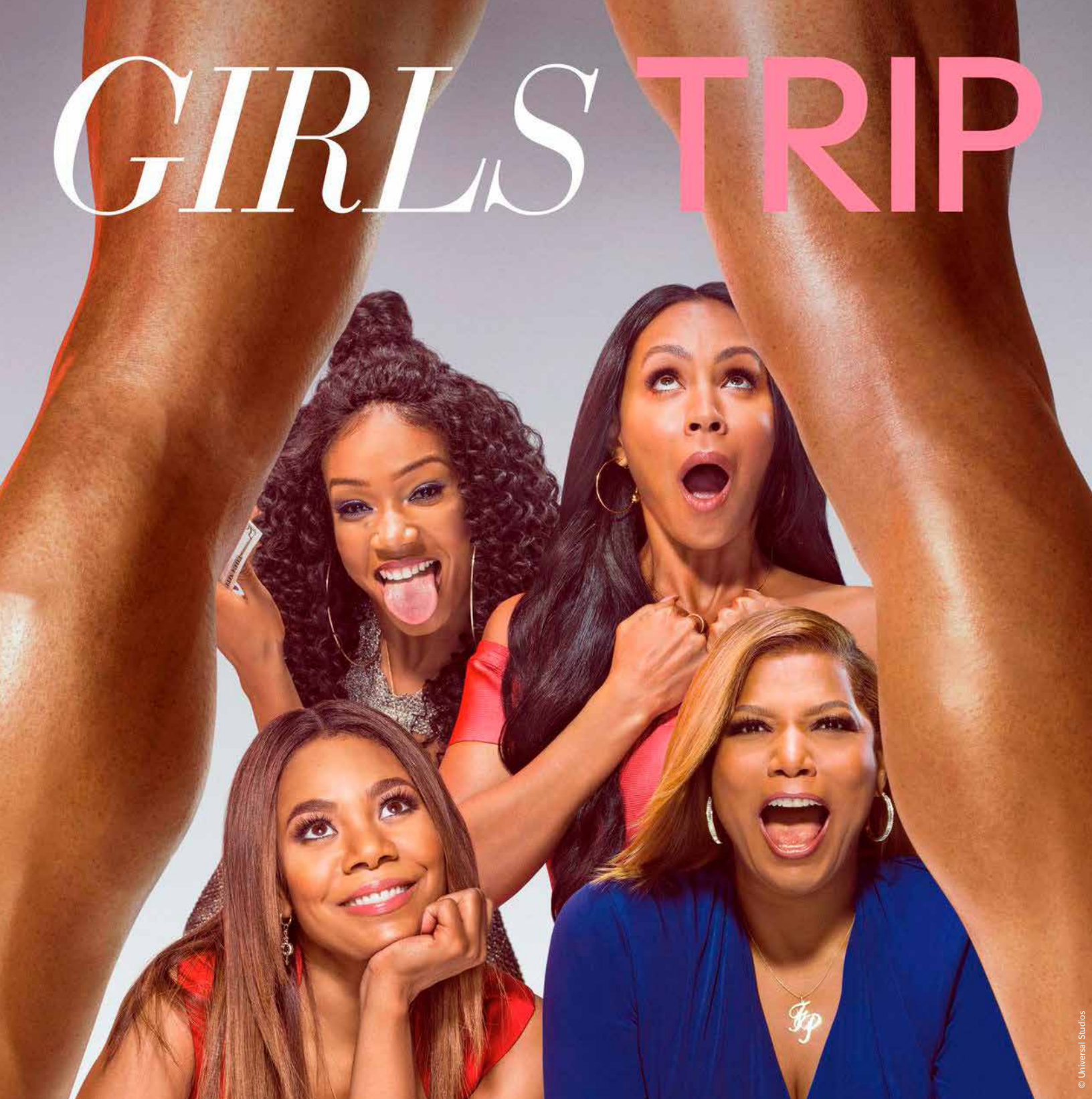
» Movie discussion guides ignite easy conversations! Call your RLC rep to request additional guides! «



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