

**Community Assistants
2009 - 2010**

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Courtyards Connection

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Become a part of the 2010 - 2011 Staff

Being a Community Assistant provides opportunities to gain valuable professional skills, including leadership, communication, conflict management and crisis response skills as well as the opportunity to work with a diverse group of students and peers! As a Community Assistant, you will be a part of a small team that creates an academically and socially supportive community for all Courtyards residents. The Community Assistant position is incredibly rewarding and very important to the success of

The Courtyards, therefore, we are looking for individuals who we feel are best suited for the position based on the combination of your interests, skills, and experiences.

Before you apply, please consider the following:

- Are you able to commit to this 12-month position?
- Can you balance your current priorities with the priorities and commitments of the Courtyards Community Assistant position?

- How will you contribute to The Courtyards Team and Courtyards residents?
- In what way does The Courtyards Community Assistant position suit your goals and needs?

- Does The Courtyards Community Assistant position fit with your values and priorities as a University of Maryland student? If you are interested in the position please contact Victor Lee at vlee@capstonemail.com for an application.

Swine Flu Targets Young People

Courtyards to educate residents on H1N1
By: Krislyn Payne (CA)

Achew. The highest target groups for the swine flu also known as the H1N1 virus today are individuals ranging from ages 5-24 according to the Washington Post. In the college setting, early prevention is especially important to ensure healthier residents in classes and in living areas. That is why the Courtyards is dedicated to swine flu awareness. Victor Lee, Assistant Director of Resident Life at the Courtyards stated "prevention is our main goal, we want to give our residents as much information to keep them healthy, happy and productive students."

Tips on staying healthy in the Courtyards:

- Wash hands frequently, spend about 15-20 seconds washing with hot soapy water
 - Use sanitizers often
 - Get enough sleep
 - Stay hydrated, 8-10 glasses of water daily
 - Keep a healthy diet, colorful foods help boost your immune system
 - Avoid alcohol
 - Keep physically active
 - Wipe down frequently used areas with Clorox wipes and disinfectant
- Do not cough into hands, use elbow areas

If you start to experience these symptoms, contact a doctor or visit the health center:

- Unusual tiredness
- Headache
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or cough
- Loss of appetite
- Aching muscles
- Diarrhea or vomiting

For a full list of symptoms, please visit The Center for Disease Control Website at <http://cdc.gov> for more information on flu prevention and vaccine information.

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Courtyard's Spring Re-leasing

Need More Space in Your Room?

We have storage units available to rent!

\$25 per month
Contact Account Coordinator Misty Adams if you are interested or with any questions.
(301) 314-2466
Madams
@umdcourtyards.com

Don't want to make a trip home for your winter

Spring Re-leasing begins November 3rd. Graduating this semester? Studying abroad this spring? Accepting an internship out of state?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then re-leasing is for you!

Re-leasing gives you the opportunity to find a qualified student to take over your lease for the remainder of 2009-2010.

There are multiple steps that must be completed before you are released from the financial obligation of your lease, so now is the time to get started.

If you are interested in re-leasing, please visit the Courtyards

Website;
<http://www.umdcourtyards.com> and follow the "Re-leasing Process" link.

The Re-leasing Process:

- Step 1: Find a Re-Lessor
- Step 2: Complete the online re-leasing process
- Step 3: Determine your re-lessor's eligibility
- Step 4: Sign and return your re-leasing paperwork

The following items will be provided by staff at your appointment:

- Lease Transfer Agreement to be signed by both parties
- Your re-lessor's Lease Agreement
- Your re-lessor's application and roommate matching form

All checks and certified funds should be made payable to The Courtyards and should contain the appropriate student's name (current or new resident) and apartment number.

An added incentive: Remind your re-lessor that they will be given priority consideration for renewing their lease for the coming 2010-2011 lease year.

Please direct specific questions and concerns to our Leasing Agent: Darren Hoppert at 301-314-2466 or office@umdcourtyards.com

Reminder:

- **\$100 Lease Transfer Fee by come in Certified funds only**
- **You need a Zero Balance to transfer**

October is:

National Apple Month
National Cookie Month
National Dessert Month
National Pasta Month
National Pizza Month

Other Important Dates:

October 4: National Taco Day
October 7: Leif Erikson Day
October 9: National Dessert Day
October 12: COLUMBUS DAY
October 13: National Peanut Festival
October 13: National Pumpkin Festival
October 15: National Mushroom Day
October 17: National Pasta Day
October 18: National Chocolate Cupcake Day
October 28: National Chocolate Day
October 29: National Oatmeal Day
October 31: Halloween



For many Courtyards residents, this marks their final year at the University of Maryland. Right now graduating seniors are in the process of determining their post graduate plans. For those interested in graduate school there is pressure to decide whether to go straight to a program or find full-time employment after graduation. Advantages and disadvantages exist for both decisions. With the months until commencement swiftly approaching, now is the time to review the best option for you.

There are numerous benefits for attending graduate school after college. Most seniors have been in school since childhood up until the present. Therefore, the desire to take a break after graduating is understandable. However, already having the student mindset is beneficial when starting a master's program. The transition will be easier because you have the discipline to perform academic work. There is

no harm in pursuing your goals immediately after college. It helps if you already know the type of program you want to study. In two years or less you will have an advanced degree, which will greatly enhance your job marketability. In addition, master's courses allow you to apply skills and gain more expertise within a chosen discipline. You will acquire more hands on knowledge than what is offered in most undergraduate programs. For these reasons, graduate school may be the right choice for you once you graduate.

On the other hand, you have the option to work or take time off once you leave college. Four years of intense studying took a lot of time and energy. You could apply the knowledge you have learned to a job in your field. Perhaps at this time you are not conclusive about your future. Not everyone is decided upon what they want to do with the rest of their lives, which is completely fine. You can take time after graduation to review what di-

rection you want your life to go. Also, graduate school is a huge investment. Do not feel pressure to go to a program if you are unsure about it. Put your money into something you are truly passionate for. At the same time, you may find an employer who is willing to finance your graduate education. This may be more difficult because you would have to work full-time and take classes, which can be particularly draining. Always remember you have multiple options and time to come to make decisions.

As you reflect on your plans remain optimistic on what the future holds. Your accomplishments thus far prove your capabilities as a student and hard worker. Many of you may already know your post graduate endeavors. For those of you who remain undecided, weigh the pros and cons of going to graduate school. These decisions may feel overwhelming, but everything falls into place with careful review and planning.

Graduate School: Now or Later? *by Tinya Sensie (CA)*

Halloween comes to America



As European immigrants came to America, they brought their varied Halloween customs with them. Because of the rigid Protestant belief systems that characterized early New England, celebration of Halloween in colonial times was extremely limited there.

It was much more common in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups, as well as the American Indians, meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," public events held to celebrate the harvest, where neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance, and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing Ireland's potato famine of 1846, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Taking from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. Young women believed that, on Halloween, they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings, or mirrors. In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Hal-

loween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers, than about ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft.

At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season, and festive costumes. Parents were encouraged by newspapers and community leaders to take anything "frightening" or "grotesque" out of Halloween celebrations. Because of their efforts, Halloween lost most of its superstitious and religious overtones by the beginning of the twentieth century. By the 1920s and 1930s, Halloween had become a secular, but community-centered holiday, with parades and town-wide parties as the featured entertainment. Despite the best efforts of many schools and communities, vandalism began to plague Halloween celebrations in many communities during this time.

By the 1950s, town leaders had successfully limited vandalism and Halloween had evolved into a holiday directed mainly at the young. Due to the high numbers of young children during the fifties baby boom, parties moved from town civic centers into the classroom or home, where they



could be more easily accommodated.

Between 1920 and 1950, the centuries-old practice of trick-or-treating was also revived. Trick-or-treating was a relatively inexpensive way for an entire community to share the Halloween celebration. In theory, families

could also prevent tricks being played on them by providing the neighborhood children with small treats.

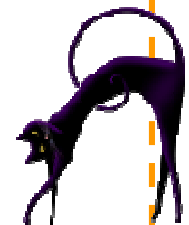
A new American tradition was born, and it has continued to grow. Today, Americans spend an estimated \$6.9 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country's second largest commercial holiday.

Taken from the History Channel Website. 2009.



Seasonal Decorations

During this holiday season please remember that some holiday decorations are prohibited. As stated in your lease, "the use of candles or other open flame devices... Connecting three or more sets of stringed lights, including but not limited to Christmas lights is likewise prohibited... Live cut trees (Evergreen Christmas trees, Chanukah bushes, etc.) are prohibited in residence."



Candles are not permitted in patios or balconies. These policies are in place to protect the community. Should you have any questions concerning decorations please contact the Courtyards office at 301-314-2466 or email office@umdcourtyards.com

SLOW DOWN! When driving in the Courtyards remember to "Slow Down" fellow residents and staff walk around the property. Speed bumps have been re-painted to accent their locations. Remember to stop at signs and beware of pedestrians . Be safe and SLOW DOWN.

THE COURTYARDS

at University of Maryland

The Courtyards Area Council Officers 2009-2010

Bridget Gallagher

President

Courtney Buchanan

V.P. Communication

Josh Grinter

Senator

www.umdcourtyards.com

Courtyards Area Council

The Courtyards Area Council is looking for a few good volunteers. Consider joining The Courtyards Area Council.

The Courtyards Area Council strives to :

1. Provide more effective and open lines of communication between Courtyards management and Courtyards residents.
2. Organize and provide Courtyards residents with activities and programs.
3. Address issues residents may have such as safety concerns, trash collection, parking, and roommate situations.
4. Organize and allocate the money available in the budget for community improvement.

**If you are interested in making a difference in your community,
please come out to our meetings.**

Recipes of the Month - Halloween Treats

Caramel Apples



INGREDIENTS

- 6 Granny Smith apples
- 6 wooden sticks
- 1 (14 ounce) package individually wrapped caramels, un-wrapped
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Insert wooden sticks 3/4 of the way into the stem end of each apple. Place apples on a cookie sheet covered with lightly greased aluminum foil.
2. Combine caramels and water in a saucepan over low heat. Cook, stirring often, until caramel melts and is smooth. Stir in vanilla extract. Dip each apple into the caramel and gently run apples around insides of saucepan to scrape off some of the caramel. Scrape excess caramel from the apple bottoms using the side of the saucepan. Place on the aluminum foil and chill until ready to serve.



Don't have a PlayStation 3? Well use ours! Wireless remotes and games are available in the Club-house. Just bring your I.D. and your game face.

Some of our titles include: Leisure Suit, Larry-Box Office Bust, Shaun White Snowboarding, Burnout Paradise, Madden 09, Star Wars- The Complete Saga, Midnight Club-Los Angeles, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas, Virtua Fighter 5, NCAA Basketball 09, Socom- U.S. Navy Seals Confrontation, Call of Duty 4- Modern Warfare

Oven Sweet Potato Fries

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into wedges
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of cayenne pepper



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450°F. Toss sweet potato wedges with oil, salt and pepper. Spread the wedges out on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until browned and tender, turning once, about 20 minutes total.

Computer Lab

Did you know you can print for free at the Courtyards? Just bring your own paper during regular hours:

Mon-Thursday 9am-10pm

Friday 9am to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 6pm

Sunday 10am to 10pm