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New year brings new school and programs



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There is one small thing that will keep peace in the kitchen of apartment 147 at University Village East this year.

It's a pack of multicolored star stickers.

"We originally thought of those garage sale stickers," said Aspen Cosson, who shares the apartment with three other students at the University of West Florida.

"Then I had these, so we used them," chimed in fellow roommate Heather Phillips as she pointed to the pack of stickers pinned to the refrigerator.

The other two students sharing the apartment are Sarah Everhart and Mary Ann Vaughn. All four are second-year students at UWF, and each has a designated color sticker on all food products she wishes to claim for herself.

All the roommates agree the plan has been effective the two days it's been implemented.

Students began moving into the dorms on Wednesday in preparation for the fall semester, which begins today.

This year's enrollment figures won't be available until the end of the week when the students' class schedules are finalized.

For the fall term last year, the enrollment was at 9,655, which included undergraduate and graduate students.

According to Ruth Davison, interim director of Housing and Residence Life, about 1,500 students will call on-campus dorms home this year.

By Friday, about 120 students had yet to check into their room assignments at the Southside and Village apartments, she said.

"It's been really great to have so many people come early this year," she said.

Resident advisers Javier Leuag and Melissa Gardner said the first few days of students moving in were hectic at University Village East, but things were running smoothly by Sunday afternoon.

"We've had a lot of work orders regarding (air conditioning)," Leuag said. "But the East Village was closed for the summer and had a lot of renovations, so it was kind of expected."

The fall semester will welcome a number of new programs, including a new school.

UWF announced the creation of the School of Allied Health and Life Sciences in June. The school will include the existing undergraduate programs in health sciences, nursing and clinical laboratory sciences and graduate programs in public health and health communication, along with various certificate programs and workshops.

"This change in status from a division to a school is a reflection of the increasing scope and complexity of programs undertaken at UWF to assist in health-care delivery in the Panhandle," said George Stewart, director of the new school.

New programs added this year include an online graduate certificate of professional accountancy offered by the department of accounting and a new graduate certificate in entrepreneurship.

The entrepreneurship program will be taught through a case method with successful local entrepreneurs sharing their startup experience. Featured entrepreneurs include Rus Howard, Quint Studer, Ray Russenberger and Steve Riggs.

"This program continues our commitment to regional economic development through innovative resources for entrepreneurs," said Ed Ranelli, dean of the UWF College of Business, in a press release about the program.