Office of Residence Life

September 2014

Notice to the Class of 2016: Important Information Regarding Living at the Beach

All full-time undergraduate students are required to live on campus all four years of their undergraduate experience. In turn, Fairfield University guarantees on-campus housing in one of the University’s student residences for all four years of students’ undergraduate experience. Only seniors are permitted to live off campus and they must first be granted permission (i.e., a release) by Fairfield University before they will be allowed to live off campus. The decision whether to grant or deny a request to live off campus rests entirely with Fairfield University. If a student is not granted permission, they are required to live on campus and will be billed accordingly.

During the first semester of junior year, the Office of Residence Life conducts a random lottery for all students who are requesting to be released to live off campus/at the beach. Following are important points about the Off-Campus Boarder release and the signing of leases. Students must be aware of these issues well in advance of the lottery. Please review this information to avoid difficult financial and emotional stress:

- Students entering the off-campus lottery are not automatically guaranteed a release to live off campus. In any given year, the number of requests to live off campus can exceed the number that can be released. The release is based largely on enrollment. Enrollment changes from year to year so students should not assume that any two years will be the same in terms of the number of students released in the lottery. Unless a student is formally released as part of the lottery, he or she is considered by Fairfield University to be an on-campus resident and will be held to the obligation to reside on campus as set forth in the Student Handbook.

- Students and parents are advised not to sign a lease until the lottery has been held and after they have confirmed release from Fairfield University’s four-year housing requirement. In any discussions with prospective landlords, students should tell the landlord of their commitment to live on campus and of the housing lottery process described herein. If a student signs a lease and is not released by Fairfield University to live off campus, Fairfield University has no obligation to honor the lease the student signed, or to otherwise accommodate any contractual residential relationships the student enters into. In other words, students who sign leases prior to being released do so at their own risk. This is noted solely for students’ own protection. Students and parents are urged to call the Office of Residence Life before making any commitments regarding off-campus housing.

The Office of Residence Life will contact all students in the next few weeks regarding the lottery process for on- and off-campus living. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ophelie Rowe Allen
Director of Residence Life