

Speaker 1:

Welcome everyone. We're going to wait just a minute. As all of our attendees are entering the webinar, we've got a really great group of admitted students registered for this session. So while we're waiting for everyone to join, we would love for you all to put into the chat where you're joining us from today, city and state or city and country would be awesome. I also want to start by congratulating you all on your acceptance to Suffolk. We are so excited to have you join us today. As you continue your journey through the college search process. My name is Amber Fitzgerald and I'm the associate director of enrollment visitor services here at Suffolk. I have the wonderful opportunity to work with students from all over who are looking to learn more about Suffolk, either virtually or on campus. And I'm really excited to be in this zoom room with you right now.

Speaker 1:

We have a really great session planned for you today. So let's go ahead and jump in. Joining me is Shigeo Mia director of residence, life and housing, alongside a fantastic group of students who are going to speak to the experience of living on and off campus here at Suffolk. We'll also have Matt McGrath, associate director of residence, life and housing. Joining us in a bit to answer any questions that come in throughout the session throughout the session, we do encourage you to submit any questions you have using the Q and a function that you'll find on the lower menu of your zoom screen. So without further ado, let's go ahead and jump in. We're so excited to get to know you better and to tell you more about our residence life and housing opportunities. Shigeo, I'm going to let you take it from here.

Speaker 2:

Great. Thank you, Amber. Um, my name like Amber said, my name is Shigella Umea and I'm the director of residence life and housing services here at Suffolk university in Boston. Um, we are thrilled for you to join this zoom call, to talk about housing and residence life on campus. And we have some tons of student leaders that are going to directly talk to you about their experiences on campus. But first we're going to go over some technical details about what to expect in the housing, um, process and selection process, and also the kind of things. So I wanted to give you some tips and tricks of what to navigate and everything like that to go through certain things, introduce you to some of our residence halls. Um, and then we'll kind of go straight to the more important part of actually speaking to the students directly.

Speaker 2:

Okay. So first and foremost, I've been getting tons of emails asking what's the next step. What's the first step can we can do. And the first step is to just simply do the enrollment conference confirmation deposit of \$800 by May 1st, 2021. If you're an incoming college students, we guaranteed two years of housing and we certainly want to make sure that you do the enrollment confirmation deposit for \$800. There's two enrollment confirmation deposits, one for \$800 for on-campus housing and one for 500 for people that don't need housing. If you, all you do is make the \$800 deposit and we take care of everything else from there. Um, and then early may, once you're officially in as a Suffolk student and you get a, um, Suffolk email address and all those other kinds of things, the housing portal opens up and you'll get an email to say, please participate in the housing portal.

Speaker 2:

Please sign up for your preferences in the preferences. You'll be able to ask a B B asked a lot of questions such as, are you a clean cleanli per year? Are you a person that likes cleanliness or do you like friends to visit, or do you study with music on, or do you study with in complete silence? Silence? What

is your preference also in the preference you can list? Um, I would like to live in a single double, triple or quad or slightly larger because you'll all introduce you in a second of what our rooms types are. Um, but you will not be able to request what building to live in. That is something that is completely random. Um, but your room types are something that you will be able to request. The three residence halls that first-year students can be assigned to or Smith hall Miller hall in one court street.

Speaker 2:

And I'll talk a little bit more about each of the buildings. Now Smith's hall has 450 students living in the building and their offers for mostly first year students. They have singles doubles, triples and quads and their suites and common spaces. There's a dining hall on the first floor and Smith hall located at one 50 Trimont street in Boston, Massachusetts. The second building that you can be assigned to is Miller hall, 330 students and singles doubles and quads all a hundred percent suite-style building. And it also houses our honors and leadership, living, learning communities as well. And then our newest excitement building one court street. The third first year Senate building 300 students doubles. There are no singles in this building, doubles triples quads, and believe it or not five, six, and eight person rooms with their own bathrooms attached to it. Um, it is formerly the Ames hotel, um, that Suffolk university purchased in 2018 and opened in 20, 20, 20 this fall for the first year ever. So we're super excited to welcome people into our communities. Having said that, let me stop there for right now. And I'm going to pass it over to Mateo, our, um, RA in Smith hall.

Speaker 3:

Thank you so much again, my name is Mateo. Uh, I'm an RA here at Smith hall. My pronouns. Are he him? His, I just wanted to talk a little bit about, um, sort of like our role in what we do here on campus. Pretty much we, um, are in charge of like community building, whether it's, you know, sort of one-on-ones and we host a lot of programs as well. Um, and they've been really fun for everybody to connect with and feel like they're sort of a part of the Suffolk community. Um, a few of our programs that we've had, uh, one of them was called Smith's snacks where we actually partnered up with insomnia cookies and we had over like 200 cookies for the whole building. It was very fun. Um, and everybody was able to sort of interact and meet new people. Um, and it was a really fun time for everyone.

Speaker 3:

Um, I also want to talk a little bit about sort of like the transfer experience. I was a transfer here at Suffolk, uh, fall of 2019, uh, which was, it seems like forever ago now. Um, but it was a really rewarding time and, you know, I, I worked a lot and it was, um, it was very, uh, important for me, but I chose Suffolk because of the advertising program. And it was something that I, I worked really hard to do. And I basically, you know, I really wanted a school where I could connect with people who were interested in the same things that I was. And that's why, you know, I sort of really looked to Suffolk. And when I got here, I was, you know, really, uh, surprised to see that there was this open community here, um, that sort of embraced me with open arms.

Speaker 3:

And I felt right at home. I quickly became an RA here and I'm currently an RA at Smith hall right now. And I work with other transfer students as well, and sort of, um, with my own experiences, being in a new place, not really knowing many people. And, uh, I was sort of able to take that and help other students who are in my same situation. And yeah, it was, it's been a rewarding process and getting to know everybody has been really awesome. Um, and yeah, there's no matter who you are, what a walk,

what kind of walks of life you come from, uh, everybody is here, um, ready to sort of embrace you and, um, uplift you. And there there's a home here for you at Suffolk, no matter what, what's, what your major is, what year you are. Even if you're a transfer student like myself, uh, you will find your place here at Suffolk. Um, all right, now I'm going to pass it on to another RA, uh, at one court street and it's Emily.

Speaker 4:

Hey guys, my name's Emily Boyle. I'm an RA at one court street and my pronouns are she her hers? So one of my jobs as an RA is to help students transition to life as a college student at Suffolk, whether it's from high school or another college. So one of the ways we like to do this is by getting students connected in involved with leadership opportunities, clubs, programs, um, things like that. And there's a lot more, so one of my favorite ways to do that is with Ram chats, a rim chat is when I connect with my residents one-to-one and have a conversation periodically throughout the semester, we have these conversations and it's a great time for them to ask questions and to check in and for me to catch up with them. Also, these conversations are a great opportunity for me to get to know them personally.

Speaker 4:

This is my cat, um, sorry. Um, to get to know them personally, and by getting to know them personally, it allows me to recommend the appropriate, like clubs, opportunities, organizations that I feel like they would really connect with or would benefit them the most and help enrich their experience. Um, also during these conversations, I like to just check in, make sure they're doing okay academically with their grades, and I can offer them the resources and help them connect with tutoring services and the library, um, and just being sure we're all good overall it's I love my favorite way to connect with my residents. Um, so funnily enough, I actually understand what it's like to transition to college with two perspectives. Um, one as a transfer student, because like with Teo, I transferred to Suffolk in 2019, um, and have been loving it ever since. And also my brother is actually a, currently a high school senior right now. And, um, he just went through that whole process of applying to schools, looking at different colleges and he actually ended up committing to Suffolk and is really excited about it. And I am also really excited about it. So I totally understand what you guys are feeling and what you're going through right now. Um, so yeah, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me. And now I'll be passing you off to Lindsay who is an odd, who is another RA currently standing by live at Miller hall.

Speaker 5:

Hello everyone. Thank you so much. Uh, Marie, my name is Lindsay. My pronouns are she her hers? And first of all, I just want to say, thank you all for coming on here. It's been a crazy year. So for you to be joining us and giving us your time this evening, we really appreciate it. Um, I am a currently a sophomore student, a resident standing by at Miller. And if you're wondering if this is a virtual background behind me, in fact is not, this is the view you will be seeing from Miller hall, 19 floor, if you so are, um, placed here. The beautiful thing about Miller is in all of Suffolk is that we are at the center of Boston. Yes, the inner city is busy and it's booming, but it's also super, super fun. I'm from Dorchester, um, which is a town in Boston, a neighborhood in Boston.

Speaker 5:

And for the longest time I knew that Boston was my home, but I didn't know how to connect to my home. Right. And so coming to Suffolk, which was probably was my first choice in school. So shout out to admissions for taking me, but the way that Suffolk really immersed me into the community without,

without fail is just, it was an amazing experience. There are so many things to do from interning at the state house to opportunities with the city hall, for anybody that's really into any type of social justice work. There are so many coalitions and student organizations that are at the heart and at the center of Boston right next to Suffolk. And what's even more beautiful about this campus is that we are literally in the middle of history. We have the African-American meeting house. Um, that was literally where Harriet Tubman came once.

Speaker 5:

And we have so much history. The freedom trail, the Boston commons is right behind us. The public gardens, there is so much life that is all around us and the way that Suffolk does a great job at connecting you to these resources so that you can really find your passion outside of an setting is amazing. So thank you all again for tuning in and listening to us. If you have any questions about my experience or any of our experiences here in the historic Boston area, please let us know. I am passing it over to Elena who is a resident at one court street. Everybody, my name's Aleida, my pronouns, are she her? And I'm currently living in court street. I'm originally from a small town in Maine. So when I moved to Boston, the beginning of the fall semester, it was incredibly overwhelming. And I was very worried about how it would fit into the city, but I found that stuff.

Speaker 5:

It gave me incredible support in between the RAs to the ramps supporters. There was always people for me to talk to and reach out to. And at this point in time, I feel so incredibly connected with Suffolk and everybody has been very welcoming and encouraging and has really helped me embrace being a college student and living in Boston, which was very different from being in my small town. And I love that. There's just always things to do. And there's always new experiences and cultural differences in diversity around which I wouldn't have found if I stayed in my town and I have a great group of friends here and we always have things to do. And it's just really great. And now I'm going to pass it to Connor. Who's my friend and coworker also, and court street.

Speaker 6:

Hello. My name is Connor. I currently live in one court street, um, as light as said, I work in the mail room at court street with her and I as well come from a small town. Um, I was definitely worried about coming to Boston. Um, I graduated with probably 80 kids and I was, I was definitely worried about coming here. Um, not been to Boston many times. Um, the coach on the, um, cross country and track team reached out to me, wanted me to come up here and run. So any questions about athletics, feel free to ask me. Um, but the recruiting process about how it is because currently on campus, um, I work in the mail room and I also juggle sports and school and it's, it's smooth. It's, it's not as hard as everyone, uh, has it out to be. Um, I love Boston, always something to do coming from a small town.

Speaker 6:

You know, I can just walk outside and find something to do. We're in downtown Boston. It's great on the team's great. You make a lot of great friends just from meeting them at, in class, um, in your residence hall, if you end up doing sports, you meet them everywhere. It's a great community. I love it here. And any questions, um, to do with living on campus, juggling sports, you know, work, stuff like that, or just any athletic questions in general, I'm more than happy to answer them. And now I'm going to pass them to, I'm going to pass it to Logan, who is a former resident. And currently off-campus thank you so much, Connor. Hi everyone. My name's Logan, I'm currently a junior here. Um, I'm from SoCo, Maine originally

shout out to the person from Wyndham. Um, and it was born in Chandler, Arizona. So shout out to the person in Chandler. Um,

Speaker 7:

I'm currently an honors student, uh, with a political science major concentration law public policy. Um, and I have two minors in environmental studies and foundational art studies. Um, some things I'm involved with on campus is I actually have a work study job in the ResLife office, in the central office. Um, so if you have any questions, maybe you'll see me on the phone or hear me on the phone. Um, I'm also involved with the photography club. I've been doing that for three years now. I'm on the executive board with Mateo actually. Um, Mateo is the treasurer and I'm the secretary. Uh, it's been pretty fun. Uh, it's been a really cool leadership experience. I'm also involved with the student government on campus. Um, and I'm the chairman of the housing facilities committee. We deal with issues relating to ResLife and physical campus stuff. Um, but I am an off-campus student.

Speaker 7:

I lived my first two years on campus in Smith hall. Um, my first one as a resident, I'm in the honors LLC. So if you do have questions about that, um, definitely reach out because that's a really fun place to live. Um, but if you're an honor student, you don't have to be in it necessarily. It's definitely an option though. Um, my second year I was an RA in Smith hall, um, and I got to really enjoy that leadership experience too. Um, but now I moved off campus and I'm now in East Boston. Um, one of the very popular neighborhoods for a lot of Suffolk students. Um, I live off the blue line on the orient Heights stop. Um, and that is about 20 minutes into school. Um, a thing about East Boston is for Suffolk students who are off campus. Uh, you're only competing with Suffolk students in that area for rents.

Speaker 7:

Um, so it's a little bit easier to get an apartment over there. Um, and we're the only university on the blue line, which is great. Um, but in transit in general, um, we're also connected with the orange line, the red line, the green line, uh, and commuter rail, uh, really wherever you live in Boston, you can get to Suffolk by public transportation. Um, we do have a lot of students that live on campus, but we have an even greater, um, commuter, um, size on campus too. Uh, and there's a lot of resources available for students, um, who are off campus. Um, when I was moving off my, uh, sophomore year, I actually, uh, was with the residence life and housing program. Um, I had them look over my lease for me, uh, when I was like finding my place, uh, because I just didn't want to, uh, run into any issues with that.

Speaker 7:

Um, I also had them review my realtor and just make sure that the person that was like showing me properties and stuff, um, was going to be somebody that was going to be helpful for me. Um, I'm personally more of an independent student who can kind of find his own on like, you know, the average, uh, the, you know, Facebook rent pages and stuff. Um, but Suffolk does have a lot of resources for off-campus students, um, for finding roommates or finding apartments, um, off campus after those two years, it really is the culture outside the university that after your first two years on campus, um, you typically of feel more of an adult and you're ready to kind of for that next step. Um, a lot of people will start off in one of the three freshmen halls, um, and then maybe move over to 10 West where that is more of like a kitchen apartment style, um, for upperclassmen that kind of prepares you for having an apartment outside of the school.

Speaker 7:

Um, and that's a really good stepping stone. Um, but I just want to stress that moving off campus is definitely not the end of the world. Um, at the Boston, you know, real estate market is competitive. Um, but if you're in there early and you're using, um, especially the services that Suffolk gives you, um, you will definitely have an opportunity to get a good place. You know, um, I live in East Boston, um, that is very popular for Suffolk students. Um, other popular places would be like the North end, um, downtown beacon Hill, if you can afford it, uh, the South end, uh, Allston-Brighton area. Um, there's just a lot of people from a lot of ways. And like I stressed earlier, you can really get to, you can really get to campus, um, really easily. Um, so you can really make it work how you want it to be. Um, but yeah, and I'm going to hand it back to Shigella now

Speaker 2:

Great. Um, on this call today, um, we also have our associate director of residence life and housing services, Matt McGrath, um, which is our technical expert. If you want to call it that way about our housing selection process and assignment process and the obligations and everything like that, I will only call on him. Um, should there be any tech technical questions, but we do have him standing by to answer any technical questions. Um, Amber, I don't know if we should go to, I would like to open up to questions and answers, questions and comments. Um, but I have not been watching the chat, um, to understand

Speaker 1:

A question. Yeah, we've got lots of questions. Um, so there's been a lot of questions about honors housing, so, um, I think we've been able to answer some of them, but I think it's good to just address it to the full group since there seems to be a lot of interests. So, um, most importantly, it seems like people want to know where our students would be housed and then what the benefits would be for student to, um, you know, want to be in an honors placement.

Speaker 2:

I'm going to answer the first part and then pass the second part to Logan. Um, the first part is the honors living, learning community is located in Miller hall. That does not mean that honor students have to live in Miller hall. It's only the students that are opting in to the honors living, learning community, because if you're an honor student, you do not have to live in the honors, lemme learning community, but there is a benefit for living with all honors students, um, in that little community because of the fact that you can, might maybe have take classes together and inform some study groups and all those other kinds of things, but as far as like actual living environment and benefits, I'm going to talk to that question to Logan.

Speaker 7:

Awesome. Thank you. Shigeo um, so I lived in the honors LLC, my freshman year, which was 2018, um, when it was still in Smith hall and it was about three floors, um, and it's dedicated all towards honors students. Um, so when you're filling out the housing survey and take this with a grain of salt, since I was a freshmen a long time ago, um, I just selected that I was interested in the honors LLC. Um, and I got assigned into that. Um, so I was living with, um, four other, um, uh, roommates in a cluster style in Smith hall. Um, and maybe somebody will describe that later. Um, but I had, um, two people in doubles beside me, um, and they were really good with me. Um, I went random as well, too, so I like really, really paired with people, I didn't know, in the beginning, but like we really worked.

Speaker 7:

Um, and we're also really good friends. Um, I actually was just working with one, um, the Suffolk crew radio, uh, here they did a 24 hour, uh, radio drive for, uh, Beth Israel and they just raised like \$650. Um, my friend Harry, uh, he stayed up for 24 hours. Yeah, he was my old roommate. Um, but some benefits of living in there. Um, you're going to be with honor students, um, who, if you're taking honors courses, um, and those are courses that are going to be specifically available to honor students. Um, and the advantages of that is you're going to be with, um, other students who are just as, um, work-focused as you, especially with things like group, project work too, which is a big thing here. Um, it's really great to have people that have the same academic figure, um, and are really waiting to get that same grade as you.

Speaker 7:

Um, so that is definitely a benefit, um, of the honors program, but when you're living in the honors, LLC, you're most likely living with the same people you're going to class. Um, so it's going to be easy because my freshman year I lived in three floors. Um, I think it varies. Um, but I kind of just had to go down a floor and just talk to my friend Katia, who was in the business school with me at the time. And we had a bunch of classes together. I knew, you know, it was really easy to like work on, um, group presentations and stuff like that. Um, and the last part I will say about it too, is the honors RAs, um, are also in the program so they can help you navigate all the things relating to honors. Um, and they also hold, um, specialized honors events to, um, specifically for your floors. Um, but yeah, there, they will help you really get connected in Suffolk. Um, all the RAs are super helpful, but the honors RAs will definitely help you with that RS aspect. Um, but yeah.

Speaker 1:

Awesome. Um, can I have some of, y'all go a little bit more in depth in regards to the on-campus living experience in the amenities in the building. So some of the components like security, um, the, maybe some meal plans or how to access food around campus laundry, things like that. Yeah. So every building is equipped with it's all laundry building our room, um,

Speaker 2:

And it's, there's a big laundry room in every building. Um, we don't have in unit washers or dryers or anything like that, but there's one, one at least one laundry room in some buildings up to, um, laundry rooms in each building. Um, the security is 24 seven, 365 days a year. If the building is open, there is a security person at the front desk, always monitoring entry. All students will have to use their ID to get into the building, both to swipe into the building as well as pass security twice. So yes, Emily is showing her, Oh, actually I don't think people can see you because you're on mute, but, um, you you'll have an ID then you can swipe in, in and out of the building. Um, and that's how you gain access. And we are in downtown Boston. So we take the security of our buildings very seriously because we're in an urban environment.

Speaker 2:

Um, and so, and we're, we're, you're after you're ranked very, very high when we do student satisfaction surveys that people feel very think in our buildings because of the double security feature. Um, Amber, you asked her another oatmeal plans. Um, currently our meal plans are in a declining balance. So once students receive a meal plan, they can swipe everywhere on campus. We have six cafes or currently, but in fall 2021, we will have six cafes operating again, and students will just go to a cafe

and swipe for what they purchase. So for example, if they go and get a big hole on a coffee, instead of using a whole meal swipe like you would at like in any other university where you can go to an, all you care to eat, you will simply swipe and get a cup of coffee and did bagel, which not sure how much that would be maybe about \$3, three 50 or something like that. And then you would swipe \$3 and 50 cents off all your declining balance. It is just one declining balance program. And once you're out of money, there's way to add more. Um, and then if you, um, don't quite use all your money in the fall, it will roll into the spring as well, as far as the in unit, um, amenities. I'm going to have a light, uh, talk a little bit about what's what's in your room currently right now.

Speaker 5:

Yeah. So I actually am living in a triple right now and I haven't really big bathroom, which is incredible. It's very specific to one court because it used to be a hotel and I have a shower and I actually have a heated towel rod, which all of my friends are jealous of. And they have to mention every single time I come in, um, we also have air conditioning and heat that we control from our room as well, which was really great. And yeah, I really enjoy it.

Speaker 2:

There's a bed desk, um, chairs and all sorts of normal furniture in the room as well and dressers as well.

Speaker 5:

We've had a few questions about, um, just our location, speaking to what it's like to live in the city and not have maybe a more traditional campus environment. So can somebody else speak to your experience and when it's been like, you know, even just thinking about like walking to class from your residence hall and getting around, I'm going to toss out one to Emily then, and then also to Lindsay, because they both talked a little bit about that in their experiences.

Speaker 4:

So it's really cool living in Boston to say the least, um, I actually transferred from a more traditional like college style campus, um, to live downtown in the city. So the location of Suffolk is really unique in the way where I am maybe less than a five minute walk from Faneuil hall, the Boston commons. Uh, I like to go down to the Wharf and eat lunch there sometimes really beautiful locations. Um, and it's been, it's really great living in city, like walking into class, you're just walking through downtown Boston. There is nothing like it. Like I just, I think about how my friends will come dress up for a Boston day, but for me, I'm, I'm walking to the dining hall wearing sweat pants, but it's a normal day. Um, but it's really great living in the city. I really enjoy having, um, the city is our campus essentially so many, not only do we have our on-campus like dining places and stuff, but you can go out to these, um, like restaurants and with your friends, you can go to the commons, like sit there on a picnic blanket and eat lunch. I like to roller skate around the park. Um, and also Boston feels like a very safe city to be around, but having SUPD is we had the numbers posted everywhere and I've never even felt like I've had to call them for an escort, but we always can. And there's an app called the live safe app, which you can utilize, um, would you have, but it feels it's. I feel very safe. I've never felt unsafe here at Suffolk. So Lindsay,

Speaker 5:

I completely agree with Emily and something else that I really appreciate, which I've mentioned before is how closely connected it is. Especially with like social justice issues and things like that. But if you're somebody who just likes to have fun, there are so many like shopping outlets. If you're into thrifting,



there's a lot of their stories or like little ThreeWill stories that you can find yourself in. Um, we're also really close to Haymarket station, which is like right next to it. There's farmer's markets every single Saturday, um, which is amazing if you want to get something, you know, a little healthy, fresh out the farm. Another thing also is if you're a gym rat like myself, there is we have our own, um, gym here on campus. But if you prefer to have your own 24 hour membership to planet fitness, we also have that, um, something that's really unique about Suffolk is that while we're in the middle of Boston, there are so many things happening. So many events, um, like for example, there was a carnival or a parade that happened my freshman year and last year, which I didn't even know what it was about, but it was so fun, um, to see just a lot people just community together

Speaker 2:

And just having so much fun in the comments on the public gardens. If you want to take a walk after studying all morning or all evening, you definitely can, if it's completely safe and I recommend clearing your head for a little bit as well, as far as the distance between your actual mez hall and your classes, you're in, you're in your classroom within like five minutes or less, depending on where you are. So Miller is unique in that it's at the center of all the academic buildings. So you'll probably get there in five seconds. So if you're not an early riser, I'm right there with you right there with you get up, roll out of bed, run out the room and you're there. And two, a minute tops. Um, if you're located at Smith or one quart, no issue at all, either five minute, three minute walk, depending on how fast you're walking. Um, so it's really great.

Speaker 1:

We have a lot of questions about food. Um, so there's a lot of questions about access to kitchens, community kitchens, um, you know, what types of rooms or residence halls are going to provide the kitchen, um, and other food outside of Suffolk. Um, so food in the area that you might all enjoy.

Speaker 2:

Um, let me talk about the food in the, um, so common kitchens, there are common kitchens located in Smith hall, um, but no common kitchens in Miller hall or one court street, um, both, uh, Miller hall and one fourth street, um, do have access to dining halls as well. Um, but, and Smith hall does too. Um, but there is no common kitchen in Miller hall or one fourth street, only a common kitchen to come and kitchens in Smith hall. Um, the, there are kitchen units, um, and 10 less are modern, but those are more for upperclassmen. And so their second year of living on campus, you will have access to potentially have access to spaces like that. Um, as far as, uh, food around campus, it's, it's so interesting because I shouldn't even speak, I'm going to let somebody else speak on this one because I don't think I, I don't wanna make myself up here too, on, on cool with the places I select. Um, so let's go with people that are much cooler than me, which is probably like Mateo or a LIDAR or Connor and all those people.

Speaker 7:

Maybe we could go around and shout one out. Yeah, sure. Okay. I'm going to shout out, uh, bobas in the North end, um, open 24 seven, it all roads in the North end lead to bobas. Um, it is the best, it's better than Mike's, it's better than modern bobas. Um, but I also want to mention the McDonald's right next to Smith too. Uh, I visited that one too many times, so I'll give it to Mateo.

Speaker 2:

Thank you. Yeah, I'm uh, I go to McDonald's every day. It's

Speaker 3:

Probably not the best thing to say, but it's right there and I love it. Um, I'm also going to say near Smith, there is a Chipotle, um, and it's really awesome. I love to play. It's like the best ever. Um, so there's Chipotle and there's also, um, uh, five guys that's near Smith hall as well. Um, so there's just so many different kinds of places that you can go. Um, I'll pass it to Emily next.

Speaker 4:

It's hard. Cause it depends on what you want because the North end is like right there and you want Italian food or Chinatown. Um, but shake shack is a good one. Um, was the other one, there's just, there's a lot of really good places. Hmm. Who maybe a lighter funner.

Speaker 5:

I love Chinese food, which is something that we don't have too much of in Maine. And so I discovered PF Chang recently, and it is amazing to attend recommend as well as Boba is. I made many midnight runs last semester with a couple of friends of mine down there. Uh, cognitive Maga.

Speaker 6:

Yeah, sure. Um, so of course I have to agree with both of us. Um, so good. Always there. Um, insomnia is pretty close to us. I go there a lot, um, a place I really like in the North end, um, it's an Italian restaurant it's called El Dante is really good there. Um, had some pumpkin ravioli from there really, really good. So, but there's just a lot of places everywhere. There's just too many pick really,

Speaker 3:

For those of you that don't know insomnia is a cookie place, just so you know, it's not a sleep deprived place at all.

Speaker 5:

I agree with everybody's selections, uh, freshman year, what really got me through was black seed brilliant cafe, which is a Mediterranean spot. It closes at like three in the morning. So those late nights buddy sessions when I needed a snack, but I didn't want to go all the way to the North end. It was my saving grace. Um, we also have Boloco Wendy's, uh, Chipotle, which is great five guys. Oh my gosh. I'm like just thinking about the food is amazing. Um, there's also like little ice cream carts that are in the common when it's a lot nicer. So like during the spring time or early fall there there'll be out there. Um, coffee spots are literally everywhere. There's this really cute cafe called cafe you Jewish. Um, there's great food there for breakfast. The opportunities are endless.

Speaker 4:

I also want to add really quickly that something that I didn't know that Suffolk had until I went here was there's like a good amount of Starbucks in our school buildings. Like, uh, it's like a part of the dining hall. So it will be like a Starbucks menu on when the academic buildings and, uh, also in one course street too. And there's also plenty of Starbucks and Dunkin donuts on the streets of Boston, every single corner you turn, there's probably one. Um, so yeah,

Speaker 1:

So we've got some questions in regards to the number of years in which students can live on campus. And then what that transition looks like moving off campus. So Logan, can you maybe talk a little bit about your experience and moving off campus, you know, what resources you used through the, um, housing office and what that transition was like?

Speaker 7:

Yeah. So I'm back in my second year when I was getting ready to move off campus. Um, I started the search and about, I want to say, uh, late January, early February and that's really early. Um, but the earlier you get it, the better deals you get. So, um, we wanted to be really early on it. Um, but we started, um, by, uh, I talked earlier about, I'm more of an independent student, um, and I kind of use some of the services, but not all of them. They offered. Um, I actually researched, uh, my own realtor. Um, but, but I did have, uh, the housing and services office, um, uh, just look her over and just make sure that she was actually licensed and was actually gonna get me a good place. Um, and of course she was, um, but they had that, uh, they were able to check that over for me, um, and then finding the place as well, too.

Speaker 7:

Um, but once we put down like our application, um, and uh, our deposit, so we could, uh, sign the lease and everything. Um, we had the residence life and housing services office, um, look over our lease. Um, and they actually are, uh, this, uh, woman, you know, that, um, last year she really helped me. She broke down everything, everything that was in the lease. Um, so I really did understand everything that was gonna do was gonna happen. Um, what we were liable for, what we were responsible to pay, um, things like electricity, gas, water, um, all of those things are very dependent on the property or the landlord you choose. Um, so you do have to know that information. Um, but she also like helped us break down, like the more minute things, um, like our apartment has a garbage disposal and we have to only, there's like a banned list of certain items that we're not allowed to put in it.

Speaker 7:

So we just had to make sure that we don't do any of that stuff. Um, but yeah, I mean, um, there's also other services available, um, to people that want to move off campus, um, such as like roommate finders, um, we have a service that will match you with like Suffolk students. Um, but there's also a lot of Facebook groups at Suffolk or, um, in general around, um, Facebook and stuff that will help you with like roommate findings, um, both for like, uh, just like a single room or if you need a place as well too. Um, Suffolk has an apartment finder as well. Um, so there's services on the university side. Um, but they're also there just to help you answer questions, um, anything you might have, uh, they have definitely answered. Um, so they are like the people that head up, you know, um, if you need, uh, like, uh, realtors, I, you don't know where to start, you can hit them up, they have a, uh, entire list that they give out of a ton of different people you can call.

Speaker 7:

Um, and like I was saying earlier, uh, we are in the middle of downtown and there's a lot going on around us. Uh, we have, uh, like the, all four of the transit hubs, um, around here. So you can get anywhere on all of the blue on blue, red, um, orange, green line, all of that. Um, as well as the commuter rail too, because, um, North stations right by, um, so there are plenty of ways to get to Suffolk and that really expands your options on like where you can live. Um, a lot of people do choose East Boston, um, that is off the blue line. Um, that is, uh, it's lucky for Suffolk because we're the only

university on the blue line. Um, so when it comes to like real estate over there, um, it's a little bit cheaper than something like the North end or beacon Hill where it's more downtown.

Speaker 7:

Um, there are other places where students live like Fenway Kenmore, um, back Bay, Brighton, South end. Uh, I just said the North end as well to Charlestown. Um, so there's just a lot of options available to you. Um, I personally, as a Suffolk student was not super stressed once I got into school about it. Um, when I was like making the college decision, I was like, Oh my God, what's going to happen after the two years. Um, but, but I honestly like going through the two years on campus, um, was really helpful for me and like gave me enough independence that when those two years came to an end, um, I was pretty set up and ready to go. Um, although if you're not like me and you do want to stay on campus, um, I just want to stress that they do have a housing lottery for upperclassmen, um, as well too, it's not guaranteed, um, like your first two years is, but, uh, students who do apply for that will, they'll try to get you housing as much as possible. Um, so it definitely is an option too. Um, I still have some friends that are living on campus, um, as well as, uh, people that are like across town from being out to so, uh, but yeah, that's a little bit about my experience.

Speaker 1:

Thank you so much for sharing. Um, there's been a couple of questions in regards to, um, like educational programs or really, and I think what the questions are I'm really specifically asking is maybe more about like, um, like alcohol safety and, you know, just really getting acclimated to campus. So I know that RAs will do programming on things along those lines to help students. Um, so can some of you speak to some of the things that you've done,

Speaker 8:

I'm going to pass it to Mateo? Well, actually this way to Mateo, um, because he's spoken earlier about programming and community development. Sure. Um, so we have done a lot of programming, uh, to a lot of educational programming to help residents, you know, certain things

Speaker 3:

On campus. Um, we do also create, uh, boards as well. We have created a few boards, um, just talking about alcohol safety on campus, um, and just reiterating that and making sure that everybody, um, sort of like knows the rules and what to do and stuff. Um, we also had a one program, another RA Kendall, and I, we partnered and we had a program called what's cooking with [inaudible], where we taught people how to make, um, like really easy. Um, we have, so we have a kitchen in Smith hall on the second floor. And so we utilize this and pretty much made like some quick meals, um, that were like under five to 10 minutes to make. And then we talked about food insecurity and we also talked about, uh, the, uh, Suffolk care's pantry as well, where they're located on 73 Treemont street. Um, so just about like a five to 10 minute walk from Smith hall, pretty close, where, um, if anybody isn't, if you'd like, for instance, if you run out of, um, of any money or you just sort of need more food, um, you can go to the care's pantry and they can provide food and they have gluten-free options, dairy-free options.

Speaker 3:

There's a whole range of food for, um, for everybody. So yeah, those are just a few of the programs that we've sort of done that, um, have helped students, um, find different, uh, things on campus to help them

Speaker 1:

Awesome. And along those lines, we actually have had a few questions in regards to dietary restrictions. So Shigeo, can you talk a little bit about that as well, in terms of how partner with, um, Sedexo and other offices to get those accommodations squared away?

Speaker 2:

So we have a, um, dietician on campus that will help students navigate through their dietary issues and if they have allergies or anything like that around food. Um, and so we do specifically work with those students and refer them to dining services and making sure that they're, um, getting access to certain, um, sort of foods and be able to eat, to turn their, um, their, uh, access to menus have having said that we also work closely with the office of disability services. If students have a very, very strict allergy on a particular dietary need, like a gluten allergy or anything like that, to talk about it from an accommodations place to like they need an access to a kitchen to be successful as a student. And, and based on those, because we're not the experts in those areas, we, we do talk to, and essentially outsource these conversations from a diagnostic or a observation place to the office of disability services. And they can help us determine if a student needs a reduced meal plan or a meal plan, um, with completely waived and access to a kitchen or different kinds of things like that. So we w we do actually work closely with our campus partners to making sure that we ensure people's food allergies or food debts or concerns, um, to ensure successes.

Speaker 2:

There was a question in the chat chat about tours. And I didn't know how to answer that question.

Speaker 1:

Yeah. I think he was asking if we were going to be able to give a virtual of the dorms tonight, I think, um, but we are out of time, so we won't be able to get to that, but I do want to make sure that everyone is aware of our interactive campus map online, which does have photos and three 60 photos and videos of all of the residents hall options available to our students. So I will copy and paste that link into the chat for you all, if you have not already browsed through it. And we are very limited on the campus tours that we have available remaining, um, before May 1st, but I will also encourage you to contact the welcome center so that we can further assist you in self guided options and things along those lines. So also put our contact information in the chat for you as well. And I'm not sure if Matt has been able to see any other questions, repeating questions that we might want to address live before we wrap up, or if she gave you notice any other questions that we might want to press that were popping

Speaker 2:

That wasn't, I wasn't watching the chats with the Q and A's because I was trying to listen to counseling health and wellness in like, um, we do partner very, very closely to, um, with our counseling health and wellness. So, and our RAs are trained to be able to refer to counseling and health, health, and wellness as well. So if a student is experiencing a medical emergency, actually, if it's an emergency, that's a whole different conversation because we would call the EMT services and PS we're right in the city. So they're the, um, access to emergency services is very quick. Um, however, if it's like a, Hey, I'm not feeling very well, or I am sort of mentally or psychologically potentially impacted by a certain incident orient, uh, sort of, uh, activity or anxiety or something like that, that's going on. We can refer to the counseling health and wellness office, which is located at seven 72 Treemont on the street as well. Um, and we partner with them very closely and we first, um, to, um, services all the time, um, that also includes things like

vaccinations when you first arrive it's, if students are not, non-vaccinated completely like meningitis and all those other kinds of vaccinations, they can receive their vaccinations as CHW as well. Um, but, um, we, we do give, um, access to students to be able to participate in counseling sessions, as well as medical services, uh, both from a physical health, as well as the mental health component.

Speaker 1:

I have a silly question, but I think it's worth answering scale of one to 10. How good is the best McDonald's nearby? I will say

Speaker 2:

That the ice cream machine has rarely broken.

Speaker 8:

It's rarely broken. So not many McDonald's can say that I'll give it a smooth 9.8.

Speaker 1:

That's impressive. Um, so we are going to have to close soon, but I know there have been lots and lots of questions. So I want to make sure that you all have all of our contact information. I did input into the chat, my contact information for our welcomes or for any visit related questions, as well as Shigeo and Matt's contact information. So I highly encourage, if you didn't get your questions answered this evening to reach out to us. Um, I also know that sometimes you have more in depth questions, more personal questions that you'd like answered, um, and we're happy to assist in any way that we can. So we thank you all so much for joining us. And I really think all of our presenters for taking their time, Emily, your cat has been a big hit on that and the QA, um, so things that you go to Matt, all of our students, um, and thanks to everyone who was able to join us. We wish you all the best, and we look forward to hopefully seeing you on campus this fall.

Speaker 8:

Thank you so much. Thank you.