

Greetings Taylorites-to-be,

First of all, let me congratulate those of you who are new comers to the University of the West Indies. You are now among the elite 2% of Jamaicans that attain tertiary level education. Let me also congratulate those of you who are entering your second or final years of study. You have shown much promise in your choice of living on the Great Tyloria.

For many of you, this will be your first experience away from the nest and on your own, making decisions independent of your parents or guardians. As such I will provide a few guidelines for residing on campus as well as making the transition from high school to university. Some of you will have to make some adjustments in order to live peacefully in this communal setting.

Taylor Hall produces more first class graduates than any other Hall of Residence. We dominate in almost all sporting events on the Mona Campus. Taylor Hall gains the most awards for cultural activities on campus. We also contribute to the surrounding communities such as August Town via the ongoing Mentorship programme. This programme facilitates regular contact with the children of that community as well as a means to assist them with homework, sports or just lyming. In short, Taylor Hall promotes the total development of the individual; no one will be left out as there is an activity for everyone.

It is of the utmost importance that while living on campus and more specifically, on Taylor Hall, you learn as soon as possible how to manage your time effectively. Try to keep your activities as organized as possible. Once you have started your semester and know exactly what you will be doing in terms of coursework, mid-semester exams, Hall activities and University activities, try to set up a schedule. Put this schedule on a poster in your room and try as much as you can to stick to your schedule. There will be times when unexpected events will come up. The lyme is an informal social gathering to discuss various topics and it is a necessary part of living on campus. Lyming facilitates a sense of community between yourself and those with whom you live. It also gives you an idea of where the people you live with are coming from, which gives some insight into why they operate the way they do. Having an idea of where people are coming from also aids in your ability to relate to them on a personal level.

Living in a communal setting requires some amount of compromise at some point in time. If you know that you will not be able at any point in time to compromise to some reasonable extent for the benefit of everyone in the communal setting, **TELL THE STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER THAT YOU CANNOT LIVE ON CAMPUS AND FIND SOMEWHERE OFF CAMPUS TO LIVE.**

For those of you who are Christians, living on campus may prove to be a test of your faith. However, it is possible to be involved in Hall and University activities without compromising your faith. There are numerous places of worship in and around the campus. There are also many secular activities such as fetes and sessions almost every

weekend on the campus. Being away from home may make such activities seem much more inviting than usual. Try as much as possible to make decisions that you will be able to live with.

Mark “Chink” Green