

Speaker 3: Hello, and welcome to the Decipher podcast. This podcast is hosted by William & Mary staff members who are committed to student success. We all know that this year has been unlike any other. And our hope is that this podcast provides a fresh perspective on the challenges our students are facing.

Speaker 4: Navigating college life is no walk in the park and being a William & Mary student in 2020 is no different. Join experts from around campus as they discuss ways to decipher common college experiences.

Lauren Garrett: [00:00:30] Hello everyone, and welcome to this week's episode of the Decipher podcast, helping new students, current students and families decipher the William & Mary experience and what that might mean for us as members of this larger community. For those that may not necessarily be aware about what time of year it is, it is officially spring here in Williamsburg and with spring, [00:01:00] not only comes flowers and allergies, but it also comes time to think about what happens next in terms of the summer semester and something that quintessentially has to happen before summer hits is that we have to clear out the residence halls and end the spring semester. So with me here today is Shylan Scott, Dr. Shylan Scott with residence life who works in a variety [00:01:30] of capacities and has worked at William & Mary in a variety of capacities with our students around residential living and initiatives, but is here today to be our expert on the moving off, or I guess moving out of campus experience, not necessarily moving just off campus, but moving out of campus experience. Shylan, tell us a little bit about yourself.

Shylan Scott: Hi Lauren. I'm excited to be here today. A little bit about me, I have been at William & Mary for [00:02:00] over 15 years and all of that time has been in residence life. I spent a lot of time as one of our area directors, and those are professional staff members who live in the residence halls and they'll be working to help with everyone with the move out process. Right now, I work with the professionals who work in the residence halls and I can say that we are very prepared and getting ready for moving out at the end of this semester.

Lauren Garrett: [00:02:30] When exactly is the move-out time period, because we seem to talk about it a whole lot, and then it happens rather quickly. And inevitably there are some students that seem to be taken aback that it happens tomorrow. So what exactly, what's the timeline looking like for the move out process?

Shylan Scott: So move out really can happen anytime a student is ready to go. They just have to do the self checkout process through the housing portal. But the last day [00:03:00] anybody can be in the residence halls is Monday, May 24th at 10:00 AM. And they're really no exceptions to that. That is our final. That is when people have to be out of the residence halls. The guidance we generally give students and families is that they should anticipate leaving within 48 hours of their last exam or their last assignment. If they need to wait like for a weekend for someone to come to get them that's [00:03:30] okay. But generally we, that

the good guideline is 48 hours after your last assignment is due or after your last final.

Lauren Garrett: When a student is all packed and ready to move out of their space, do they need to make sure that it's clean? Do they need to report any damages? How do those particulars work? Because I know that sometimes families, especially I'll be a little stereotypical. Sometimes the mamas [00:04:00] or siblings come in with the broom and the dustpan, and they're ready to sort of tackle to make sure that everything's spick and span like you would an off-campus apartment or home. If you were moving out, what does the standard in the residence halls?

Shylan Scott: We generally say we want it to be generally the condition that you found it in when you arrived, but we aren't going to quibble over a little dust. I think the most important thing is making sure that you open [00:04:30] every drawer, open every closet door, look under every bed to make sure you have collected all of your personal belongings. That is probably one of the biggest things that happens is that things get left behind. If there is garbage left in the room, we will likely charge for that. We do expect people to remove any sort of garbage out or recycling out to the dumpsters. And [00:05:00] in terms of damages, it would depend. If people think that they have damaged the facility, they can reach out to their area director and let them know, Hey, this was broken or the blinds don't work, or this needs to be repaired. And then we can work on taking care, but over the summer. As long as it's not negligent, if it's just wear and tear, generally students should be fine.

Lauren Garrett: What is the most frequently left object [00:05:30] in someone's residence hall room after [inaudible 00:05:33] out?

Shylan Scott: Typically, it's a drawer full of socks or underwear. That bottom drawer or like the middle desk drawer is the one that gets missed.

Lauren Garrett: See, the tips and tricks, right?

Shylan Scott: Open everything. You can leave all of your drawers and doors, your closet doors open. That could be the last thing you do on your [00:06:00] way out is just to check to make sure you have everything.

Lauren Garrett: That's awesome advice. That's awesome advice. When it comes to moving out of a residence hall, a lot of our students, you and I both know this. They're embarking on summer adventure. Some of them will be studying abroad. COVID-willing. Other might be headed for internships back home. Some might be moving back in with family or relatives. What's [00:06:30] your advice for students that are moving into, let's say a temporary living space? What do they do with all that stuff they've accumulated over the course of the academic year, over the summer? What's your best advice so they're set up for success for next fall?

Shylan Scott: We have several different options. Companies that we work with that could be helpful. One is dorm room movers, and there are flyers up all over the residence halls, but essentially they will come. They can pack [00:07:00] up the room, they can take your stuff and bring it back to you next year. So that one we find is a really good option for students because they don't have to worry about where they're going to actually keep the stuff because this company will keep it and return it to you. The city of Williamsburg also has really good storage places. We don't have relationships with them, but if you have a vehicle using a local storage place is a good option because it's not [00:07:30] far. And you can get back and forth pretty easily from campus. But to be clear, we don't have any storage on campus there. We just don't have any space or availability to store student belongings.

Lauren Garrett: This is where that advice at the start of the year where we told folks, or we recommended folks to sort of pack light and think strategic, because what you carry in is what you have to carry out. Really does ring true for [00:08:00] some of our families, especially those that are navigating multiple stairwells.

Shylan Scott: Right.

Lauren Garrett: And those of you who have ever had either you, yourself or your students have lived on a third floor of any of our residence halls know that those that can be really tricky, really tricky. So really excited there. When you're thinking about Shylan, as you're thinking about the end of the semester [00:08:30] and sort of students making that transition off-campus sometimes for the first time at the end of their first year, or is there preparing to think about sort of next year? What sort of emotions, what sort of conversations are you hearing students have either amongst themselves or with their resident assistants in terms of the transition that's happening?

Shylan Scott: Oh, I think transition and change is always the hard, it's the closing of a chapter. And so often [00:09:00] people are a little sad to leave this room that has been their home all year, they are figuring out how to keep in connection with their first-year hallmates and friends and roommates, and even their RA who they created the relationships with. And then there's some excitement for what's new and what the next step will be. Maybe not always excitement about where they're going to be for the summer, but excitement about their, where they will [00:09:30] live next year. And, what next year will look like too. We really try to provide some activities to close out the year, some opportunities for residents to think about what the year has been and to create places for them to connect with one another before they head out.

Lauren Garrett: I think that's really important is highlighting how the resident assistants and the student staff within residence [00:10:00] life really try to create a bookend experience for that year, whether they're a first year student or they're an upper-level student, they want to close the chapter as you put it on a high note. And so, it sometimes there's the creation of a playlist or there's some sort of

community something that gets created and shared as a memento. So those are always fun to see.

Shylan Scott: Their playlist. I think there are, [00:10:30] well almost all of our communities have group needs or other little ways that they communicate daily back and forth with things that come up in the hall, compliments, encouraging one another, activities that are happening. I think a lot of people are doing final hall dinners or walks down to CW. People are doing little care packages that say like, do great on exams, maybe with a little candy [00:11:00] or a little treat for residents, just to remind them that we are thinking about them as they go into finals. And we're still here for them during this part of the semester.

Lauren Garrett: So important, so important. So we only have a few moments left. And so I thought Shylan, could you talk through some of the logistics that families might need to know about closing and about moving out of the building? Obviously you've shared that Monday morning [00:11:30] is sort of the ultimate last time. [inaudible 00:11:34] are there any time limitations, any limitations in terms of guests or move out helpers that our families or students should be aware of, similar to the start of the year?

Shylan Scott: Yes. Each resident is permitted to adults that are 16 or over to help them move as long as they have proper masking and properly doing distancing protocols. So people [00:12:00] are allowed to have help and have people help them move in and out of the building. Depending on where you are, there should be spaces available for you to park for move out. So you just have to look for the move out spaces. We also will have huge stowaway dumpsters. So if there's lots of things that you need to dispose of, they'll they're usually in the back of the buildings. So you can find those there. Just remind people that just to lightly, [00:12:30] once all the belongings are removed to wipe down the room and take out any garbage and recyclables and turn off the lights and lock the door when they're done. And then people turn their key into, usually key dropboxes and on the drop boxes, they'll be a QR code where students can just do an electronic checkout and then they would be done. So essentially turning in the key is the last step.

Lauren Garrett: [00:13:00] Wow. It's come a long way since I last checked out of a residence hall room. That's [inaudible 00:13:07]. So sounds pretty contactless. It sounds like you all have your basis covered in terms of COVID-response and making sure that we're still maintaining our healthy-together campus commitment. So, that's great to hear. If there are questions or concerns, the best person that students or families should reach out to is ...

Shylan Scott: You could just start with living@ [00:13:30] wm.edu and whatever question you have, we'll be happy to answer.

Lauren Garrett: That's awesome. Thanks so much for being with us here today, Dr. Scott. You've earned the title. Let's use this frequently as we can, but glad that you're able to

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chat with us today and look forward to having you on another episode, hopefully down the road.

Shylan Scott: Very good. Well, thank you so much, Lauren.

Speaker 3: Thank [00:14:00] you so much for tuning into this episode of the Decipher podcast. For our show notes, please visit our website: decipher.blogs.wm.edu. Take care.