

RLA magazine

FEBRUARY 2016

MOVIES OF THE MONTH

*Titles to Help Your
Floor Celebrate*

Sharing a Ride with Strangers

*A Look at the Security
of Uber and Lyft*

HOST YOUR OWN OSCAR® PARTY

*Plus Red Carpet-Ready Treats
and Mocktails*

Humans of New York Celebrates Our Wonderfully Diverse World

BEAT YOUR URGE TO IMPULSE SPEND

*A Look at Why it Happens
and How to Stop*

The Diversity Issue

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issue twenty-four
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RESIDENCE LIFE CINEMA®
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You've got the movies **NOW WHAT?**



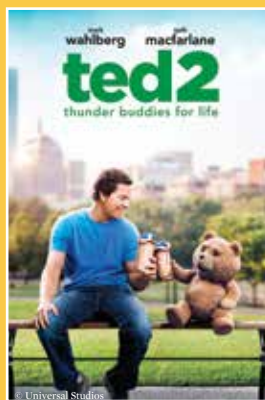
Check out Residence Life Cinema's Best Practices Prezi for more information on how to:

- Make RA programming easier
- Plan for the semester
- Promote and increase awareness of your program
- Choose the best content lineup to drive student interaction
- Maximize your RLC program

This presentation also covers all of the additional tools RLC provides and how to use the custom content feature to incorporate student content, announcements and much more!

Don't Forget About Our New Releases

Brand new movies are available for your Residence Life Cinema program! Call today to show these hot new titles to your residents.



**CONTACT YOUR ACCOUNT MANAGER FOR
MORE INFORMATION! 1-800-244-6173**

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How one man's move is inspiring millions

Recipe of the Month

ROCK CANDYPACK
Mix up a few of these tasty snacks and alcohol-free favors to serve to your guests during your Oscar® party.

INGREDIENTS:
1 (12 oz) bottle of ginger ale, chilled
1 (64 ounce) bottle of white grape juice, chilled
1 pound of pineapple, chilled

Combine ingredients with a large punch bowl. Serve chilled and garnish with raspberries. To feel extra festive, serve in plastic champagne flutes.

SOBER SANGRIA
Combine two parts grape juice with one part ginger ale. Add in some sliced fruit and stir. Serve chilled.

NO PUSS, NO PUSS RECIPES!

RED CARPET MENU

Subscribe

RA
magazine

HAZARDS of Hard CONVERSATIONS
A conversation starter

Preschooling Drama
Tips for dealing with situations of your kid

Listening is Harder Than Hearing
How you could be missing a lot

GENERATION
The stars behind one of the most creative communication methods

The Communication
Issue

RESIDENCE LIFE CINEMA

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- 12 MONTHLY MUST-HAVES**
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Email INFO@RESLIFE.COM for a **FREE** issue.

What is your favorite springtime movie - one you look forward to watching every year as the weather warms up?



EDITOR IN CHIEF

Kelsey Wesche With wedding season right around the corner, *Bridesmaids* tops my list.

SALES MANAGER

Mike Grana Mine would be *The Great Outdoors* with John Candy and Dan Akroyd. It's a great movie to get you excited to get back outside!

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Lydia Bishop One of the top movies that reminds me of spring is *Dazed and Confused*.

Mike Eyler *Meatballs* gets me ready for summer - I mean come on, this is Bill Murray's first major role!

Emily Lechiara My favorite springtime movie is *P.S. I Love You*. Not only is it a good tear-jerking romance movie, but the scenes in Ireland are absolutely gorgeous.

CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGERS

Alex Pieschel *Dirty Dancing*. Does it get any better than that?!? "No one puts baby in the corner."

Lindsay Myers *Now and Then* - it reminds me of my summers growing up, and we watched it at every girl's night!

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Stacie Taylor *Easter Parade* is such a classic, feel-good springtime movie. Who doesn't love a little Judy Garland and Fred Astaire?

Jennifer Waters *The Secret Garden* is a springtime classic. It reminds me of being a kid and reading the book in grade school.

Jordi Palmer *She's All That* is my favorite springtime movie because of the makeover scene. Everyone loves a good geek to chic moment.

ART

Ellen Woltering I always kick off baseball season by watching *Bad News Bears*.

Katie Powell It's not necessarily a spring movie, but I'll be watching *Minions* this spring for sure.

**Residence Life Cinema Presents:
A New Video Series on**

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

Increase awareness of bystander intervention tactics, the definition of consent and risk reduction strategies on your campus with these brief, yet impactful videos.

Show them anytime between movies and shows on your Residence Life Cinema streaming site or channel.

Awareness. Action. Empowerment.



Call your Account Manager today to customize and order these videos! 1-800-244-6173

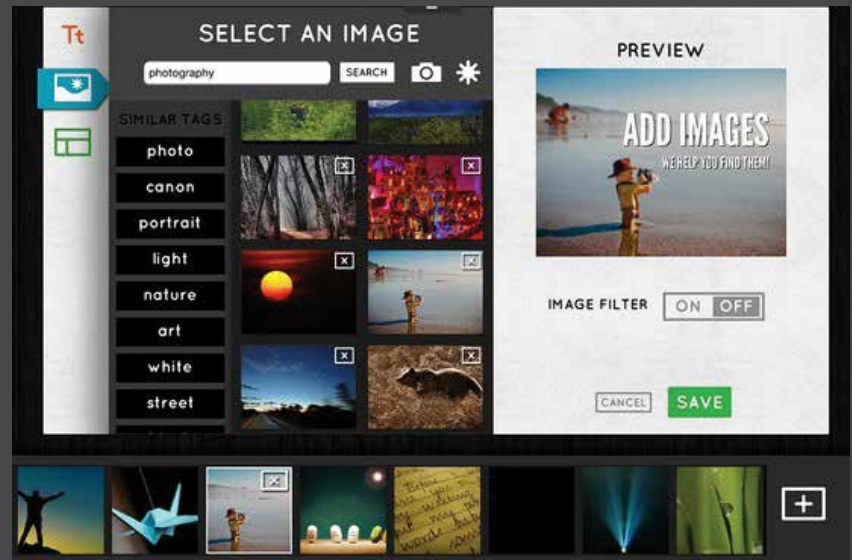
PRESENTATIONS WITH PIZAZZ

The Best Tools to Use Right Now

Is PowerPoint™ a presentation tool of the past? It's looking that way as online options that work well from any computer or web browser are taking over the scene. Perfect for on the go, there are plenty of free or low cost alternatives that deliver a lot more buzz than traditional presentation tools like PowerPoint. Plus, they store all of your data online so it's accessible anytime you need it, meaning you don't necessarily need your own computer to present your ideas. Here are a few of the most popular presentation tools that you can use to wow your audience the next time you're presenting.

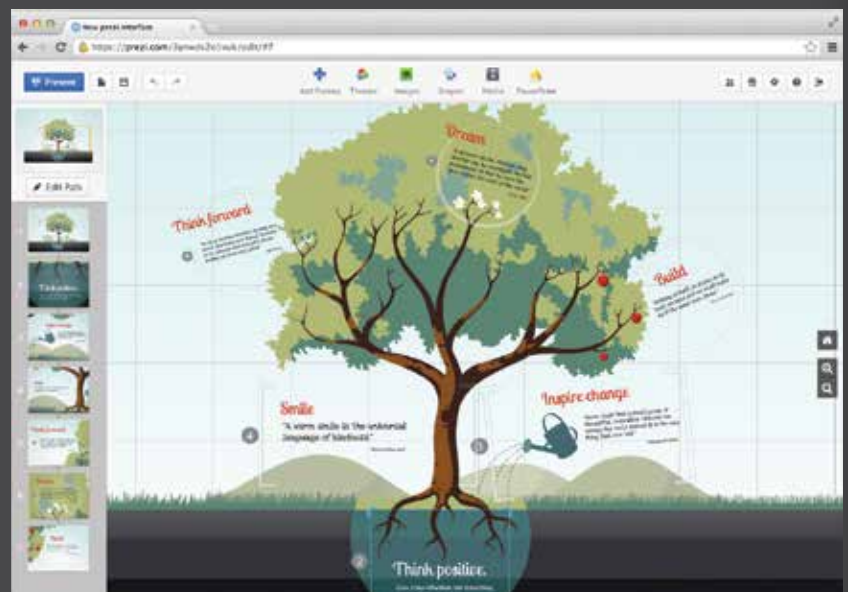
Haiku Deck

If asked to describe this presentation software in just a few words, we'd go with sleek, modern and streamlined instead of the dense, busy and text-heavy slides we've all seen at some point in the past. With a web and iPad app, slides created in Haiku Deck focus on images and graphics more than words and phrases, but you can customize your deck however you want. Another great reason why this tool is preferred by many is because it's as easy to use as PowerPoint, yet has more bells and whistles so your presentation doesn't end up looking like everyone else's. Completely free with more than 35 million images, you can also upload your own pictures. However, a drawback some might see is that it only has 6 free presentation themes to pick from – you can purchase premium themes and images for an additional cost.



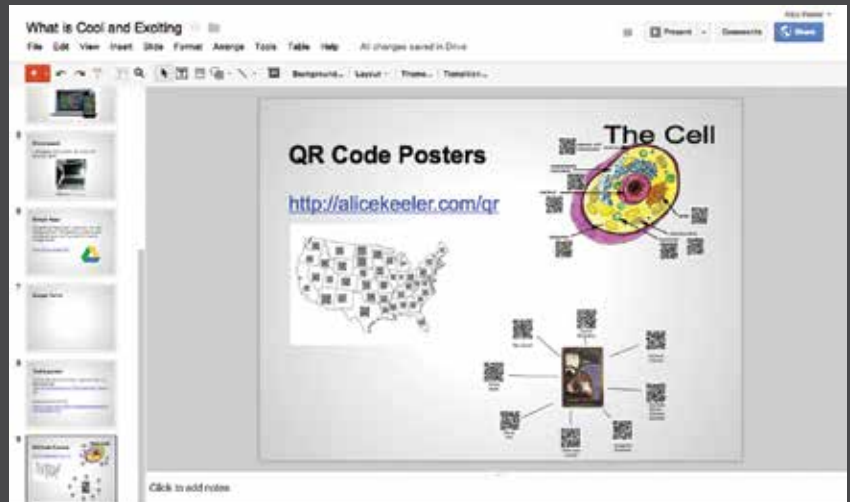
Prezi

Prezi is quickly gaining steam in the online presentation tool world - it's now heavily lauded as one of the best alternative tools to present with instead of PowerPoint™. One of the reasons why this tool is so popular is because it lets you have a little fun with movement throughout your presentation. You can create dynamic, fluid, non-linear slides with animations that give the effect of movement instead of a static transition from slide to slide. While the threat to zoom and swish all over the place throughout the presentation does exist for some, most love this tool because it is excellent at showing how ideas correlate to one another instead of just presenting them one after another. Graphs, charts, multimedia and your own images are welcome in Prezi and simultaneous collaboration with multiple individuals is also a huge plus. Prezi is free, but all of your presentations will be available to the public unless you subscribe to a platinum plan.



Google Slides

Google Slides embraces what most presenters like about PowerPoint™, such as the professional look and feel, dynamic transitions, numerous presentation themes, images and other familiar tools. Yet, it's the simplicity of the user interface and the substantial feature set that entice people to switch. Everything is stored on the web, allowing you to collaborate in real time with other users – great for group projects -and access your presentation any time from any browser. Importing your own multimedia, charts and images is easy, and slides can open, save and convert into regular PowerPoint files. Not sold on this one yet? It's also completely free and allows you to edit offline. Plus, if you have a Google account, you've already got access to it!



Keynote

iCloud users and Apple fans rave about this software that's part of the iWork productivity suite and has been used for all of the Apple keynote speeches. Thanks to the iWork for iCloud Beta, you can find and use Keynote online if you have an Apple account and access to iWork. It can open PowerPoint™ files, has tons of templates and lets you upload your own media, charts, images and graphs. All of your presentations are stored in iCloud and are available on your other devices like tablets and smartphones. Even though it's completely free, one drawback is that it's still in its beta phase, meaning Apple could discontinue it, stop supporting it or place restrictions on it at any point. This might make you think twice before using it for presentations that you'll want to keep around and use for a while.



Presentation Tools Provide Visual Aids!

What you're saying is the star and your goal is to connect your slide to your verbal message. You'll earn bonus points if it triggers a reaction from your audience since they'll want to know what you're going to say to connect the image.

10/20/30 Rule

- 10 slides
- 20 minutes
- 30-point font size

Stuck on a Boring PowerPoint™?

Lifehacker.com has some tips on how to keep “death by PowerPoint™” from happening to your audience. They urge you to remember that less is more when it comes to presentations and encourage anyone presenting to abide by the 10/20/30 rule. This limits you to 10 slides, a presentation time of 20 minutes, and at least a 30-point font size. They also turned to communications expert Nancy Duarte, who offered this helpful mnemonic device to keep in mind as you create your presentation.



Simplify

Lose the clichés

Information needs emphasis

Designate elements

Empathy for the audience



CONFRONTING NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR

One of the hardest parts of your job as an RA probably involves calling out your residents when they do something you don't approve of. Whether it's against residence hall rules, harmful to themselves or those around you, or just downright dangerous, these situations do happen no matter how well behaved your floor is and are likely to happen again without proper reprimanding. How can you get them to realize the error of their ways and shape up without stooping to their level, getting upset or taking it personally?

TALK ABOUT NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS EARLY

Give yourself a pat on the back for wanting to take care of a problem right from the get-go. When you don't correct a negative problem or behavior as soon as you see it, it can be a subtle signal of acceptance or tolerance of this action and other behaviors like it. Your desire for peace or your fear of confrontation may be reasons why you don't want to say anything, but as a leader in your residence hall, you might end up with more confrontations if you look the other way and keep quiet. When addressing a situation, showing respect and keeping a positive attitude is first and foremost critical, but also know that their opinion of you isn't something that's going to make or break you.

BE PREPARED, SPECIFIC AND BRIEF

Before jumping to conclusions in a tricky situation with your residents, do your best to get all of the information beforehand. This may mean going straight to the source to figure out what's up. Preparation can help during this step, since it will make it easier to get to the point quickly, explain why the policy exists and why this behavior is against the rules. Spelling out these points from the onset can in turn get the rule breaker to realize you're just doing your job and can also take some pressure off of you. Forbes.com contributor Kathy Caprino also recommends imagining what the individual you're about to confront cares about most, then putting yourself in his or her shoes to see how he or she will likely respond. Based on this knowledge, try to come up with an ideal resolution for both parties before you meet with the offender or offending party.

KEEP DISCUSSIONS TO IN-PERSON CONVERSATIONS ONLY

Nothing is more effective when stopping bad behavior than face-to-face conversations. When confronting residents, relationship and family therapist Roger S. Gil states in a LifeHacker.com article on productively calling people out, "When a manager has to officially reprimand an employee, he or she often has to be able to specify the exact incident that led to the corrective action. When someone is doing something that we find hurtful or overly-bothersome, we should be able to do the same thing. It shouldn't be vague (e.g. "That person is mean"), it should be specific (e.g. "I hate it when that person eats off my plate without asking"). Doing this will help prevent you from entering a whine-fest when you confront the person because you'll know where to focus in order to avoid a global assault on their character."

As for tips, Caprino suggests making your fact-based opening statement, then stop talking. This gives the other person a chance to respond and allows you to fully listen to his or her side. It can also help to pull the person who's being reprimanded away from the rest of the group. As a resident advisor from Northern Carolina State University commented in a residence life internet blog, it's easier to handle a situation where one student challenges policies than it is to handle a situation where the resident in question plus four others are chiming in.

ABOVE ALL, STAY CALM AND CONFIDENT

Whining, a bad attitude and disrespectful language can all be byproducts of a confrontation with a resident, and it's next to impossible to get anything accomplished when you and your resident are both upset. If things start to get heated, take a moment to stop the conversation and cool off suggests Michael C. Popkin, Ph.D. in a brochure for Active Parenting Publishers. Come back to the conversation when you're both ready to address the issue through a calm discussion and try not to take his or her actions personally. Remember, every interaction is 50% you and 50% the other person – so be fully accountable for your part. If you're going to promise to do something, make sure you follow up and express to your residents that you expect the same treatment.

Bored of Being Broke? Beat Your Urge to Impulse Spend.

Mark our words, there will always be a new pair of shoes you want, electronics to upgrade, restaurants to try or events to check out. That's how impulse spending can get the best of your wallet and your stress levels. Whether you suffer from purchase trigger finger, buyer's remorse or simply get caught up in the fun of buying something new, if not kept in check, impulse spending can put you on the fast track to drowning in debt. Let's look at why this happens and how to prevent it from killing your budget.

Why did I just buy that?

Ever make a purchase and immediately ask yourself if it was the right move? If so, you've been a victim of impulse spending – and you're not alone. According to a telephone survey of 1,000 American adults by CreditCards.com, three out of every four respondents have made an impulse purchase. Another surprising finding of the study is that mental state is a huge factor when deciding to buy. Mental health experts at *Psychology Today* explain that your unconscious mind is operating under the “basic evolutionary drives and tactics of retailers,” making you a prime target to hit the buy now button regarding something that doesn't have an immediate need in your life.

“Like a gambler that only remembers the wins, the feel-good buzz that comes from spontaneously buying something that turns out to be a great buy leaves a much greater impression in our memories than the product that was bought in the same way but never used,” explains consumer behavior expert Philips Graves in the *Psychology Today* article “Five Reasons We Impulse Buy.”



The love of shopping, the fear of missing out on a special offer, unconscious rules of thumb that help justify quick decisions, always looking at what you don't have and even the desire to save money are all driving factors in impulse purchasing, according to Graves.

Did I really need it right now?

With the holidays behind us, most people's wallets are hurting at least a little bit. Gail Cunningham, vice president and spokeswoman for the National Foundation for Consumer Credit, the nation's largest nonprofit financial counseling organization, notes, “The cold reality of the bills arriving has canceled out many happy holiday memories.” 'Tis the season, indeed.

In fact, the average American household has more than \$7,000 worth of credit card debt; this number takes into account those who have zero debt and those who owe. However, when you look only at those households that owe, this figure skyrockets to more than \$15,000. “When it comes to shopping, many Americans don't think about the consequences,” said Dr. Dorothy Sasmor, a Central Florida psychologist in a CreditCards.com article. “People can be impulsive -- ‘I want what I want now’ -- and don't really think through their decisions.”



With enticing end caps, endless virtual shelves and rock-bottom deals crowding your conscious everywhere you look, how can you stop the itch to impulse buy? When you find yourself reaching for your purse or wallet, pause, think and ask yourself some questions.

It might help to ask yourself:

- Is this a crucial item to have right now?
- Why do I need it?
- Is it something that I could borrow?
- Is there a better way for this money to be used at the moment?
- What's the trade-off of buying this item now versus waiting a little bit longer?

What can I do to stop spending?

If asking yourself a few questions doesn't work, here are some strategies you can try out to stem your spending habit. The first suggestion up for trial is to create a 30-day challenge that prohibits you from buying anything that isn't a necessity. Put a notepad or piece of paper somewhere you'll see it and each time you have the urge to spend, write down the item and date it. After one month has passed, if you still really want the item, go for it. Many times the urge will have passed and you can cross the item off of your list.

Skipping physical stores - other than the grocery store or shopping for necessities, of course - can also help prevent the "I need this now" craving. If you must go into a store, stay on task with a list and don't stray from it. Not only are you less likely to cave for something you don't really

need, shopping will take a lot less time! Staying away from shopping online is another biggie. Ads, social media and emails are huge causes of impulse buying so watch what you're clicking. If you catch yourself browsing, try mimicking the rush of buying by adding something to your cart, just don't complete the checkout process. Another way to curb impulse buys is to monitor what you see in your inbox so try unsubscribing from the stores that make you spend. By editing out your junk mail, you'll see less temptation

You can also monitor your buying urges and plan your purchases. It can help to budget in some fun money if you're prone to buying a little something here and there. Preparing for this each month or every time you get paid is a simple way to make sure these purchases don't sneak up on you. Paying cash for everything is another way to make sure you're parting with your money for a smart purchase.

Programming Idea:

Invite a representative from your finance department, a local bank branch or a financial advisor to council residents on how to be smart with money. Host a money matters workshop to discuss the complexities of credit card debt, student loans, investing and other pertinent financial matters.



SHARING A RIDE WITH STRANGERS:

A Look at the Security of Uber and Lyft

Growing up, your parents probably told you to never get into a stranger's car. However, millions of Americans are hopping into the cars of those they don't know on any given night thanks to incredibly popular and cheap peer-to-peer car service apps like Uber and Lyft. These services can save you up to 50% or more on the cost of a cab ride, which is huge considering a college student's budget. Yet, thanks to the combination of recent, rapid expansion and lingering news reports questioning the safety of these services, many potential riders are starting to become on edge about jumping into the back seat.

How exactly do these services work? "UberX is peer to peer," Uber spokesman Lane Kasselmann explained to ABC News. "These are new entrepreneurs sort of creating their own business and using their own vehicle to provide rides." According to Uber's website, UberX drivers are at least 21 or 23 years old, depending on the city, have their own insurance and a mid-size or full-size 4-door vehicle in excellent condition. The premier service, Uber Black, lets users ride in a black upscale or luxury vehicle for an increased price that's still cheaper than most taxi services. Lyft, based in San Francisco, operates in a pretty similar fashion and has nearly identical policies for drivers participating in the ride-sharing service.



Regarding the safety of these services, first it's important to mention that all Uber and Lyft drivers undergo background checks. However, taxi officials are claiming that their drivers undergo constant checks as opposed to just one check for Uber or Lyft drivers. Also, many taxis are equipped with cameras to screen footage of a ride at any point, something that's missing from the vast majority of ride sharing cars.

The next point worth mentioning is who's liable if something happens while using Uber or Lyft. Uber describes their services as a technology company that matches drivers and riders instead of a transportation company, so their policy is that the company is not liable for anything that occurs while you are using their services. A legal disclaimer on the Uber website reads "Uber shall not be liable for indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, punitive, or consequential damages, including lost profits, lost data, personal injury or property damage related to, in connection with, or otherwise resulting from any use of the services." This translates to you personally having to take action against the driver if an incident occurs, which could be difficult and costly to prove.

It's also important to know what you're agreeing to when you sign up for a ride using one of these services. The fine print of Uber's terms and conditions does note that passengers accept any risk by using the service. "You understand, therefore, that by using the application and the service, you may be exposed to transportation that is potentially dangerous, offensive, harmful to minors, unsafe or otherwise objectionable and that you use the application and the service at your own risk," Uber's terms and conditions read. Lyft's terms of service read almost exactly the same way. "Lyft has no responsibility whatsoever for the actions or conduct of drivers or riders," the terms of service states. "Responsibility for the decisions you make regarding providing or accepting transportation rest solely with you... Drivers and riders use the services at their own risk."

"People don't know what they're getting into when they get into one of these cars, they don't know what they're getting into when they download the app," said lawyer Chris Dolan of Dolan Law Firm, who is representing a 6-year-old girl struck and killed by an Uber driver earlier this year, in a CNet.com article. "They're giving Uber a free pass -- up to death." He also claims Uber's terms and conditions manage to absolve itself of any liability in cases of injury or accident and avoid responsibility for a driver's actions. "It completely covers their [behinds] and says 'We're not responsible for anything that happens to you, period,'" Dolan said.

In response to these claims,

Uber CEO Travis Kalanick remarks that the service is "ultra-safe." "Safety is No. 1 at Uber...so we make sure the system is in place so riders get the safest ride possible," Kalanick told CNN Money. "With that said, Uber is in the limelight. When things happen, if there's claims of any kind in any city in any car, we take those claims very seriously." Lyft states that they have a zero-tolerance drugs and alcohol policy, a critical response line, primary liability insurance coverage and the first-of-its-kind \$1 million liability insurance to insure driver and passenger safety.

So how can you ensure maximum safety while using these service? For starters, never get into an Uber or Lyft that you didn't order. Kasselmann recommends taking advantage of the app's "share your ETA" feature. "As soon as your ride is confirmed and the driver is on his way, you can actually input your destination into the app and share that with anyone via text message," Kasselmann said. Your friends can even watch your journey on a map in real-time, using the Uber app. Plus, after booking a ride, the app sends riders a photo of their driver, his license plate number and a description of the vehicle, so they know who to look for. "There's also real-time tracking," Kasselmann said. "It gives the rider a real sense of security."

SHARE THIS WITH YOUR RESIDENTS!

Your residents can use Uber or Lyft as an alternate way to get home, especially if their driver is under the influence. Use your Residence Life Cinema streaming solution or campus channel to create a bumper with the safety tips located in the last paragraph of this article.

B



MONTHLY *must-haves*



Selfie Phone Case

Never miss a selfie again due to bad lighting. The LUMEE phone case has LED lighting on both sides of the case give you a soft and beautiful light for every occasion. Case contains dimmer switch and comes in a variety of colors available on Lumeecase.com from \$49-\$59.



Reverse Charades

Reverse Charades is the hottest new game on the market and makes it easy to get your floor together for a fun ice breaker. Reverse Charades is played by the entire group acting out a card and 1 person guesses. No one is singled out! **Target** and **Amazon** for \$14.99.

trendy musts for every college student

Monthly **Must-Haves**

Crispy Cereal Bowl

Never eat soggy cereal again! The Obol separates your crispy flakes from the milk so you can "swoop and scoop" at your leisure. Bowls come in various sizes and colors found at Obol.co for \$15.



Robot Personal Assistant

Your new best friend just rolled into town. The MiP Robot is controlled by hand gestures or cell phone app. It can battle other MiP Robots, carry things for you and travel around your Residence Hall. The MiP Robot is sold **Target** and **Bed Bath and Beyond** for \$99.99.

Recipe of the Month

Mix up a few of these tasty snacks and alcohol-free faves to serve to your guests during your Oscar™ party.

MOCK CHAMPAGNE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (2 liter) bottle of ginger ale, chilled
- 1 (64 ounce) bottle of white grape juice, chilled
- 1 can of pineapple juice, chilled



Combine ingredients into a large punch bowl. Serve chilled and garnish with raspberries. To feel extra festive, serve in plastic champagne flutes.

SOBER SANGRIA

INGREDIENTS:

- Apples
- Strawberries
- Oranges
- Grapes
- 1 (64 ounce) bottle of sparkling grape juice
- 1 (2 liter) bottle of gingerale, chilled



Combine two parts grape juice with one part ginger ale. Add in some sliced fruit and stir. Serve chilled with a fruit garnish.

NO MUSS, NO FUSS RECIPES!

MUG CHEESECAKES

- 2 tablespoons confectioners sugar
- 2 tablespoons fat-free sour cream
- 3 tablespoons low-fat cream cheese
- 1/8 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 egg, beaten fluffy (egg substitute works too)
- Mix-in of your choice (if desired-fruit, chocolate, and peanut butter work well)
- 1 vanilla wafer

In a small bowl, mix together sugar, sour cream, cream cheese, lemon juice and egg until mixed well. Fold in your favorite mix-in, or leave this step out for a plain cheesecake. Microwave on high for 1 minute and let cool for 20 seconds. Microwave again for 45 seconds (you might need 20 additional seconds for mix-ins) and remove from the microwave. Let cool for 10 minutes, then transfer to the fridge for about 2 hours. Remove from the mug and place the cake on top of a vanilla wafer.





BULLETIN BOARD OF THE MONTH

You're a complex mix of all sorts of identities, characteristics and more. Some identities are given to you at birth like race and ethnicity, others are imposed on you as a child like location and education, some are made from your own choices like hobbies and career, and some consist of how others view you. All of these identities or ingredients come together in exactly the right proportions to create the unique person reading this page.

Based on Samuel Killermann's idea on the website ItsPronouncedMetroSexual.com, a soup-themed bulletin board helps visually show that all of these identities come together to form each unique individual. Perfect for the rest of the chilly winter season, this concept drives home the fact that your residents are not the same, but they're not entirely different either, since every person is a combination of dozens of identities that are mixed together.

Programming Idea: Turn this bulletin board into a film program about labels and identity. *Invictus*, *A League of Their Own*, *Milk*, *Guess Who* and *The Breakfast Club* are all films that explore characters from different backgrounds.

Use this as inspiration to create your own diversity soup-themed bulletin board.

RECIPE

From the kitchen of:
RLC

ADDITIONS:

Hobbies	Goals
Passions	Personality
Career	Strengths
Political beliefs	Weaknesses



SECRET EXTRAS:
Personal experience
Changes to other ingredients
Hidden identities
Misconception of other ingredients

RECIPE

From the kitchen of:
RLC

CORE INGREDIENTS:
Race
Ethnicity
Gender
Sexual identity
Disability status

RECIPE

From the kitchen of:
RLC

STARTING INGREDIENTS:
Socioeconomic status
Geographic location
Education
Religious beliefs and faith
Family structure

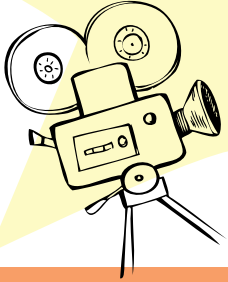
RECIPE

From the kitchen of:
RLC

Directions:

Combine Core Ingredients and Starting Ingredients to create a broth and bring to a boil. Add Additions and simmer for 18-22 years. Add Secret Extras to taste. Makes only one you!

MOVIES OF THE MONTH!



February means it's Black History Month, Valentine's Day and almost March Madness time. Here are some great movies you can watch with your floor to celebrate these events along with some quick programming ideas for each theme.

EVENT TO CELEBRATE: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Activity – Organize a trivia event with questions around important milestones in black history, holidays, civil rights leaders, traditions and much more. Some trivia nights can last for hours, so organize your group into teams of four and aim for five rounds with five questions per round to keep the interest up and the time needed to play down.



MOVIES TO WATCH:
Ali
The Blind Side
For Colored Girls
Precious

EVENT TO CELEBRATE: VALENTINE'S DAY

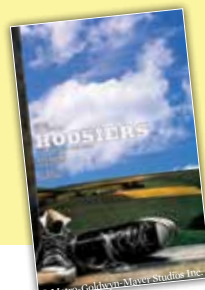
Activity – Grab the glue sticks and the glitter! Invite your residents to create their own valentines to pass out to friends or significant others. Grab your favorite crafting supplies like stickers, markers, glue, construction paper, crayons – anything that reminds you of your grade school Valentine's Day parties! Don't forget to bring some candy to snack on while working.

MOVIES TO WATCH:
The Age of Adaline
Forgetting Sarah Marshall
The Notebook
Titanic
Valentine's Day



EVENT TO CELEBRATE: MARCH MADNESS

Activity – Invite all of your sports fans to fill out their March Madness brackets and trade team-picking tips while watching a classic basketball movie and snacking on some hoop-themed snacks like cake pops, cheese balls and more. Is your school playing in the tournament? If so, invite all of your residents to watch the game together!



MOVIES TO WATCH:
Hoosiers
Love & Basketball
Blue Chips
Coach Carter

Floor Idea of the Month— Host Your Own Oscar® Party

This year's 88th Academy Awards® will be televised on February 28th!

Celebrate the biggest night in Hollywood for all of your favorite stars with your resident hall's own Oscar® party! Planning an award-winning soiree for your residents doesn't have to be complicated. Here's what you'll need to create your own voting system:

- Poker chips
- Oscar® themed bingo boards
- Oscar® voting ballots
- Pens/pencils
- A couple of prizes
- Snacks
- A big TV

Before the show, take a cue from Hollywood and promote, promote, promote! Create some posters to hang around your hall, pass out flyers and send a reminder email informing residents of your Sunday night event. Don't forget about social media – post on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and send out a few snaps on Snapchat! You can also build some pre-Oscar party buzz by showing a couple of last year's big winners like *Boyhood*, *The Theory of Everything* and *The Imitation Game*.

The Setting and the Seating

The Oscars® isn't just about the best movies and stars of the year winning little gold statues. A huge part of the telecast is also about who's wearing what, so you'll want to host your event in a place where most of your guests will have a good view. Since four hours is a long time in front of the TV, holding your event in a common area is a great idea so residents can move around and chit chat if they need to stretch their legs. You might also want to select an area with a couple of tables so you have places to set your snacks and drinks.

The Snacking and Drinking

If you're offering libations, it's easy to keep your menu simple, yet tasty. Pop-corn is a classic movie food, so why not create a few different varieties using melted chocolate (both white and milk chocolate work well), peanuts, candies, caramel and chocolate chips? You could even go one step further and

incorporate all of these items into a create your own trail mix bar. Other typical cinema crowd pleasers are candy, chips and pizza. Drink-wise, you can't go wrong with a few different kinds of soda (diet, dark and white) and bottled water. If you're looking to cater to your audience's sweet tooth or want to get a little more adventurous with the non-alcoholic beverage options, turn back to page 13 for some innovative recipes.

The Voting and Games

Create ballots to hand out as residents walk in so they can start predicting their winners. You'll need a voting sheet that lists each category, as well as all of the movies, directors, actors and actresses nominated. Residents can then circle their choices, and as each winner is announced, hand out poker chips to all who guessed correctly. At the end of the telecast, give the person who has the most poker chips a small prize.

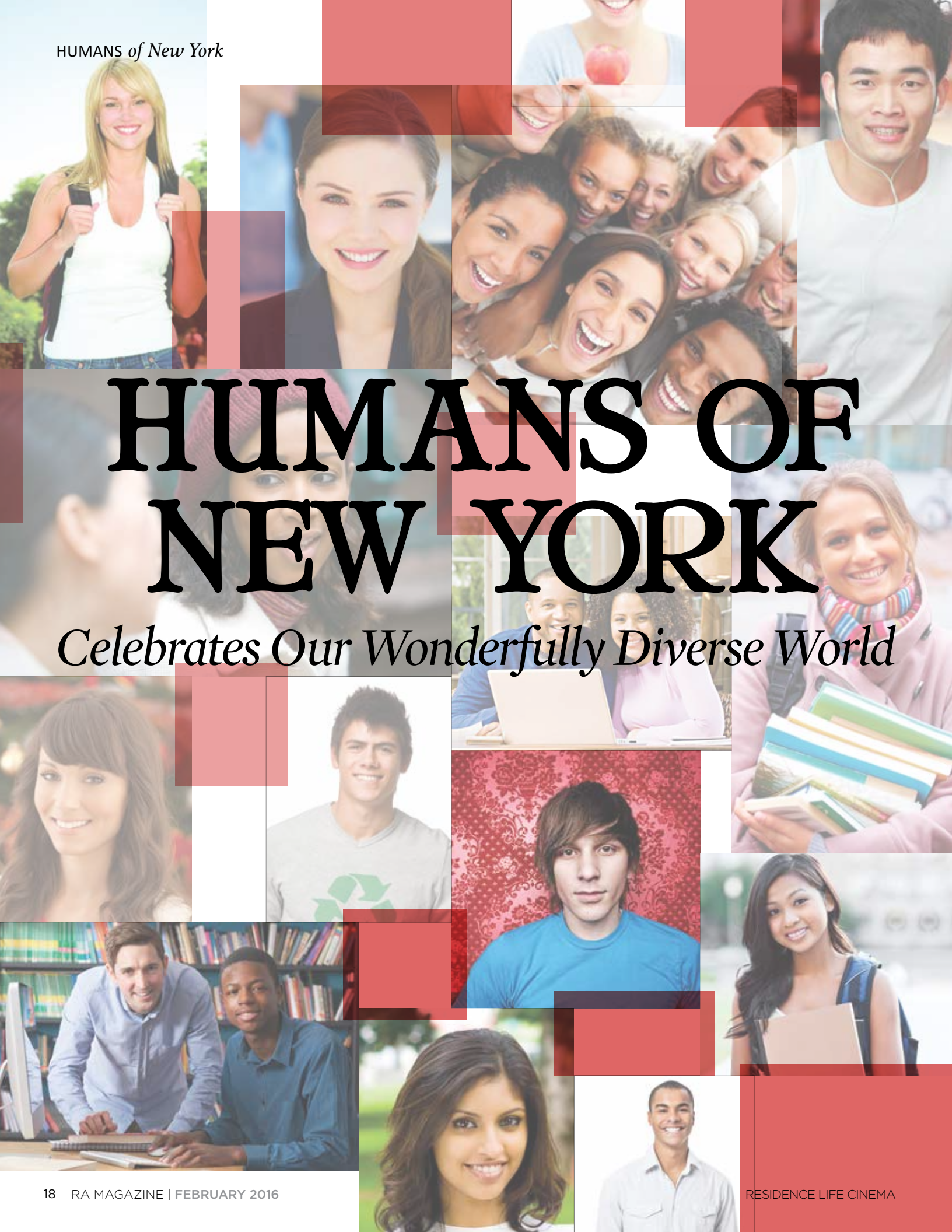
Another easy and fun game to play during the show is Academy Awards® bingo. This activity takes a little more prep time, because you'll need to create variation among your game cards. Get creative with your squares and have fun with filling in your spaces; you want to make around 30 different card combos to be on the safe side. When someone calls bingo, hand them a small prize.

Stumped on what to put in your Bingo squares?

Here are a few of our favorite spots:

- Winner describes something as "amazing"
- McDonald's commercial airs
- 5 or more people go on stage to accept an award
- The winner claims he or she didn't prepare a speech
- *Steve Jobs* wins something
- A selfie is taken
- Someone in the audience gestures to the camera
- A winner says something about their kids
- A winner gets played off the stage by the orchestra
- *The Martian* wins something

HUMANS of New York



HUMANS OF NEW YORK

Celebrates Our Wonderfully Diverse World

The current population of New York City hovers around 8.5 million people, an intimidating stat for a brand new transplant. In 2010, photographer Brandon Stanton, originally from Georgia, set out to capture the faces and stories of as many NYC residents as he could to feel a little more at home in his new city. He titled the project Humans of New York, or HONY for short, with the main goal of visually showing off the city's vast variety of colorful cultures, races, religions, backgrounds and more. He originally set his goal at capturing the faces of 100,000 people to create a collective mosaic of one of the most eclectic cities in the world. According to Stanton's website www.humansofnewyork.com, he "worked for several months with this goal in mind, but somewhere along the way, [Humans of New York] began to take on a much different character." As he approached his goal, the stories only got bigger as popularity of his project exploded.

As he approached the 10,000 post mark, Stanton began adding written snippets of interviews with his subjects, and the response was beyond favorable. "People seem to really be responding to deeper stories of these people and the interactions I'm having," he said in a 2011 *New York Post* article. He regularly invites his subjects to reflect on relationships, dreams, struggles or even the smaller details of everyday life. Now a once simple online profile has morphed into the insanely popular site and Facebook profile (both titled Humans of New York), which currently has more than double the amount of likes on Facebook than number of citizens in the actual city.

These portraits are the sole focus of the vibrant blog that's captured the hearts of millions. "I just kind of hope that they provide a way for people to connect to the people that are passing them on the streets every day. In a city where people are streaming by you at all times, it's really one of the places where people live the most anonymous lives," Stanton told the *New York Post* right as his project was beginning to take off. He has been steadily gaining national kudos for his work and was named one of *Time Magazine's* "30 People Under 30 Who are Changing the World" in 2013 and an ABC News Person of the Week. He has also shared stories from around the world in collaboration with the United Nations, and was invited to photograph President Obama in the Oval Office, all because of the rapidly blossoming success of HONY.

According to Gabby Cooper of the "social content platform for millennial thought leaders," TheOdyesseyOnline.com, HONY is a must-read because "it's not until [these] conversations occur that you're able to see the true range of lifestyles from each person. Individuals from varying socio-economic backgrounds, race, religion, age, etc. are featured in HONY, which allows readers to see a side of life that they may not ordinarily get to experience." Plus, the posts are honest, relatable, refreshing and engaging. Many are able to find a "good laugh, good cry or new perspective" just by scanning them as they pop up on their newsfeeds or by visiting HONY's site.

So how exactly does Stanton get his subjects to give him these heartfelt observations that he recants on his blog and social

media page? He told CNN in a 2013 article, "My approach is something that has evolved after getting rejected dozens of times. I say as little as possible now. I don't explain the blog up front unless they ask. I just kindly ask for people's photos, and if they ask what it's for, I explain the blog to them. It's easy to over-explain yourself, and it's not really about the words you say - it's about the energy you give off." He also says that it took him a long time to learn that the right way to explain yourself is rather irrelevant – it's more about "how calm you are and how genuine you are."

As his site now racks up hundreds of thousands of views and likes per post, Stanton has shifted his focus slightly away from NYC to a more global view. Since people often commented on how his images softened or humanized feelings, emotions and plights of New Yorkers, "I thought what would it be like to apply that effect to a place that is feared," Stanton said before taking a trip to Iran in 2012. Since then, he's traveled the world, sharing poignant stories of those in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and many more locations. Many of the stories he shares are composed of "unique and singular tragedies" that melt together to highlight a particular plight of the community.

On January 19, 2015, Stanton interviewed a young boy about his teacher, earning thousands of Facebook comments, likes and shares in mere minutes. Many wondered who his teacher was, what school he attended and how they could help. The day after the post went viral, Stanton met with the little boy's teacher at public middle school Mott Hall Bridges Academy and started an Indiegogo campaign to raise \$100,000 to send a class of kids from Mott Hall to Harvard for a visit each year for three years. "Many of her scholars have very limited mobility," Stanton wrote. "Some of them are very much 'stuck' in their neighborhood. And many have never left the city." Stanton posted the fundraiser to his Facebook page and the school's administration thought the Harvard trips would counter the sense of limited opportunity. In a little over a month, Stanton's campaign raised \$1.4 million, enough to pay for more than 10 years of Harvard trips and 10 years of summer programming.

How is HONY viewed now after five years of portraits? "In the age of the aesthetic consumerism of visual culture online, HONY stands as a warm beacon of humanity, gently reminding us that every image is not a disposable artifact to be used as social currency but a heart that beats in the blink of the shutter, one that will continue to beat with its private turbulence of daily triumphs and tribulations even as we move away from the screen or the page to resume our own lives," states writer Maria Popova in an article on BrainPickings.com. Interested in supporting Stanton's work? Of course, you can follow HONY on Facebook or check out his website. You can also pick up his three books, *Humans of New York*, *Humans of New York Stories* and *Little Humans* on Amazon right now.

Programming Idea:

Host your own Humans of Your Campus bulletin board and interview different residents throughout your building for a local take on a global trend.

[Get to Know Other RAs]



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Alison Michelle Decker
CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

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info@reslife.com for
more information!

WHERE YOU LIVE: Justin Potter

YOUR MAJOR: Business Marketing/Mathematics

STUDENTS LIVING ON YOUR FLOOR: 15

FAVORITE MOVIE: My favorite movie ever has got to be *The Lion King*. I used to watch it everyday after school when I was younger.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING AN RA: My favorite thing about being an RA is knowing that I have the chance to impact these incoming freshmen girls to the best of my ability and that whatever mark I leave on them, they will carry with them throughout the next four years on campus.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING MOVIES INTO YOUR RA PROGRAMMING EVENTS? So many colleges focus on everyone talking and getting to know each other at the beginning of the year. Yet as a freshmen, what do you say when you don't know what to talk about? Showing movies at the beginning of the year allows students to always have something to talk about, such as "Hey, what did you think about that movie in the Learning Commons last night?" Integrating movies into programming events brings students out of their shells and shows them that college isn't as scary as it seems.

DESCRIBE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM WHERE YOU USED MOVIES TO ENHANCE PROGRAM CONTENT.

I live in an all girls dorm, so the main event I hope to kick off this year is to have a pajama fashion show, where the winner will get to sit in the most comfortable seat in the room for the rest of the night. This is a good prize because after the fashion show, we will all watch a movie together to hopefully create a bonding and memorable experience for everyone.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER

FOR FUTURE RAs? My RA told me last year that the hardest part about being an RA is to not let your friendships get in the way of doing the right thing. Sometimes friends can take advantage of you since you are the RA. However, just because you are the RA doesn't mean they get to do whatever they want.

BEING AN RA MEANS: You are no longer who you were last year. You are now a role model to every resident in your hall. They will come to you for advice, a shoulder to cry on, to vent or even to hang out. Being an RA means that you can't always be the nice guy, but in the end, you'll be respected. Being an RA also means that you are in charge of finding those with similar interests and building a community upon those similarities. Being an RA means to just be there.

MOVIES THAT CONNECT

Cultural differences, issues of race, gender politics, religious variations and more are all topics that feed into diversity. These same issues are also present in many popular Hollywood movies, giving you a platform to discuss these subjects with your residents. Celebrate and explore the diversity of your floor with movies like these.



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DEAR WHITE PEOPLE

Sam is a student at a prestigious and predominately white school. Her sharp-witted radio show *Dear White People* and self-published book *Ebony and Ivy* have caused a stir among administration and the student body. When a club comes up with a blackface themed party in response to Sam's radio show, a confrontation begins and students start swinging.



© Lions Gate Entertainment, Inc.

CRASH

Telling the story of several LA citizens in one film, viewers get to know the struggles of a black detective who is estranged from his mom, a racist police officer who rubs his idealistic partner the wrong way, a Persian-immigrant father who doesn't trust anyone else and a hardworking Hispanic family man who works as a locksmith. A lesson in misconception and ignorance, this movie helps explore prejudices and biases.



© Universal Studios

DO THE RIGHT THING

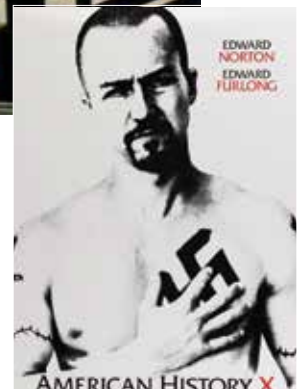
Mookie is a young black man living in Brooklyn and working as a pizza delivery guy for a restaurant owned by Italian-American Sal. As the heat and tensions begin to rise between these two different groups, a dispute over a boom box causes the death of one of the neighborhood's black citizens. This incident leads to Mookie making a judgement call concerning whose side to stand on – his employer's or his friends'.



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AMERICAN HISTORY X

Alternating between black and white scenes to show the past and color scenes to show what's happening in present day, this film captures the first 24 hours after white zealot turned loner Derek is let out of prison. His younger brother Danny seems to be going down the same path that landed him in jail, but Derek tries to use his experiences to help reshape his little brother's ideas about the world around him.



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