



The Bark | April 10, 2023

Guest Columnist: Benjamin C. Meoz

Hello Lewis & Clark Students!

This is Benjamin Meoz, Assistant Dean for Campus Life and Director of Campus Living. The end of the year is nearly upon us, with graduation and summer now less than a month away! And so, I'm writing to you in the spirit of both looking ahead to the end while also reflecting on what this year has been like for you.

Whether you live on-campus or not you've for sure had something to eat or drink thanks to our partners in Bon Appétit. This year saw numerous changes to the dining program, with [many of the updates appreciated](#) even as other changes came with [the loss of some fan favorite elements](#). What you may not know is that this spring semester saw the commission of a Dining Experience Committee (DEC). The committee includes students, staff, and faculty representatives from CAS, law, and grad. Belle Tucker BA '26 explains why the DEC is an important step for the institution:

"There are so many perspectives when it comes to dining on campus because not everyone eats the same food, has the same food schedule, safe foods, etc. so having more involvement and more perspectives on the dining hall creates a more inclusive and effective space . . . Overall, I think the establishment of the Dining Experience Committee provides hope that there will be changes made to the dining hall food, but again, no change can be made if students aren't voicing their concerns and if the dining hall [Bon Appétit] isn't listening to students. I think the Bon Appétit management and the student body have to work collaboratively in order to solve food issues here on campus and I think the Dining Experience Committee is a first step."

We will reconvene the DEC in fall 2023, and will collaborate with ASB to find CAS student committee members. Be on the lookout for that!

For those of you living on campus, a few updates:

- You need to vacate your on-campus room by noon on Friday, May 5 ([unless you are an approved late stay](#) or will be transitioning into [summer housing](#)).
- The Spring Resident Survey closes this Sunday. [Take it for a chance to win free on-campus summer storage for you and a friend](#), and let us know about how your year on campus has gone!
- 2023–24 room selection is just around the corner, taking place the last week in April. Check out our guides on [roommate group building](#) and [room selection](#)!
- [Stewart-Odell's renovation](#) continues forward on schedule (opening right at the beginning of September) and we are excited for how it is all coming together. You'll be seeing more exterior change over the next few weeks as new windows are installed.

Thank you for your engagement on campus this year. You created a vibrant community with so much going on. And for those of you looking to come back to campus next year, we are already planning for your return and can't wait to welcome you back.

Sincerely,

Ben

Benjamin C. Meoz
Assistant Dean for Campus Life
Director of Campus Living
Lewis & Clark College