Throughout the year, many social programs were presented to the residents of Van Zile as well as group programs which included the rest of Strong complex.

Study breaks became a Van Zile tradition, which is planned to continue for some time to come.
Study breaks provided an excellent opportunity for socialization. At the first break of the year, many residents came to share pizza and pop.

Clockwise from upper left: Jonas Stewart, Mandy Hinrikus, Chris Fletcher, Jared Bissell, Alex Garrett, Holly Dankenbring, Kevin Preuss, and William Yiu.
An annual event for the entire Strong Complex, Slip ‘n Slide is a great stress reliever and social event.

A large tarp is set up on the lawn. Greased up with detergent and oils, only a little water is needed to make a fine water slide. Shaving cream is also provided to add a little extra ‘fun’ to the event.

This semester Van Zile resident William Yiu seemed to take the majority of the shaving cream.

Pictured here are Will Yiu, Staci Feder, and several other Strong Complex residents.
In addition to water slides and shaving cream, water balloons are often seen at this event.

Making a return appearance this year with a water balloon slingshot, several Putnam residents are shown here launching balloons towards the Boyd front porch—a so-called safe-zone for those who prefer to watch the mess rather than take part in it. Out of many balloons launched, several did come close to the building. The fun was cut short, however, when a group of girls from Boyd—armed with shaving cream, of course—stormed the Putnam front porch and stole the balloons.
A complex-wide event, the Faculty Appreciation Picnic gave students a chance to honor their favorite staff and faculty members for their hard work and dedication.

Forms were delivered in each resident’s mailbox, asking them to invite the faculty of their choosing. Many of those invited were able to attend. The event was an overall success.

Pictured are several Van Zile residents, other Strong complex residents, and a few invited faculty members.
Van Zile RA Jonas Stewart was very active in politics. He organized many political events throughout the semester, including several debate watches and a result party on election night.

The 2000 presidential election proved to be anything but ordinary, and will certainly be remembered by those who attended these complex events.

Clockwise from top left: Ryan Caviglia, Kelly Farmer (Putnam), Ryan Caviglia, Vice President Al Gore (washed-out, on the projection screen), Jonas Stewart, Sarah Hicks (Boyd RA), Jonas Stewart, Angela Reese, and Kathy Denney.
Van Zile’s MA, Deah Robinson, put on a great program towards the end of the semester aimed at making us think about stereotypes and prejudice.

Several useful conversations were started, making the event a success. Pizza was served, a crowd pleaser that is very effective in attracting and retaining an audience. However, Gumby’s was slow in delivering this evening, so there was a bit of tension to start...
multicultural awareness

After the pizzas arrived, everyone relaxed a little more. The only tension remaining was the Historian snapping pictures left and right. Once hunger compelled him to stop, the conversations became even more productive, and several good points were made.
Van Zile Dining Center was host to the RA/MA Winter Gala. Food and drink were served in appreciation of the hard work that the RAs and MAs of Kansas State University do day in and day out.

The relatively new look and general layout of the Van Zile Dining Center lends itself well to such events.
Intramural activities provided an avenue for the athletic types to get out and show their stuff. Van Zile had teams in various sports, including Volleyball and Basketball. Teams played not for money but pride, and for the friendships gained through teamwork.

Pictured here is the Van Zile basketball team, playing under the alias “The Hitmen”. Leading scorer: Michael Ho. Leading fouler: Beto Barahona. All involved seemed to greatly enjoy their games, regardless of the final score.
Every year as spring approaches, the weather gets warm, the flowers begin to bloom, and graduating high school seniors are looking for their college of choice. Open House helps seniors and transfer students compare K-State to other possibilities. Across the entire university, various departments and organizations are putting their best foot forward.

Housing and Dining is no exception. Open house is a time to give tours of the halls, to inform new potential residents of their choices, and even to show existing students what their options are for the coming year.

An annual open house event is the Strong complex picnic. Lunch is served to anyone who comes by, though the target audience is current and future Strong residents. Current residents in the complex had the opportunity to help pay for the event by transferring one of their unused meals from the week towards the picnic food, which included hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies, and all the fixings.

This year’s picnic was an overwhelming success, and promises to continue as a Van Zile / Strong Complex tradition.
Like a one-two-punch, Spring Fling follows up the Open House Picnic with yet another outdoor dining opportunity. This time, however, dining cards are scanned like a regular evening dinner.

This picnic is aimed at the entire KSU Residence Hall population—even residents on the west side of campus are encouraged to attend. Derby dining center is actually closed during the event, meaning anyone on the east side who wishes to eat dinner on this Friday must be ready to take on Chinet and plastic forks.

Many people enjoyed the roasted chicken breast and fresh fruit, as well as vegetables, chips, cookies, and bottled sodas. And who could forget the whole-roasted pig?
Spring Fling

Not only do residents enjoy the food outdoors, but music as well. A hired DJ plays tunes into the evening, or until everyone leaves, whichever comes first.

Coinciding with one of the first warm days of the year, many took the opportunity to throw a frisbee or pass a football. Waterballons weren’t excluded from the fun, either.
homecoming

YEAR OF THE WILDCAT
Habitat for Humanity is a national organization that provides low- or no-cost housing to those in need. This year the Strong Complex took a group to one of Manhattan’s Habitat Houses. This particular house has been constructed mainly by Manhattan High School. It is located on Yuma street across from the police station.

While Van Zile representation was very low at this event, it was an overall success for the Strong Complex, gaining all 100 possible points for this early homecoming event.

Shown here is HGB President Kevin Preuss (left) working hard to help with a few odd jobs. Along with other Strong Complex residents, a lot of good work was done on the house despite occasional sprinkles on the relatively cool Saturday morning.

Photographer and Historian Ryan Mott later put down his camera to lend a hand as well.
Paint it Purple wasn’t all work and no play. In sorting through a pile of bricks, those that were of no use were discarded in the dumpster. Of course, it would be too easy to simply drop them in, so everyone took a turn at heaving a bad brick into the trash.

Kevin is again shown here helping pack sand into the newly laid brick sidewalk.

Then-Putnam resident AJ Bradley (bottom left) was active in organizing the event.
Spirit competitions are common for homecoming celebrations. Strong complex has traditionally done quite well in this event against the other residence halls.

Shown here is a final practice before the group trekked to Ahearn Fieldhouse for the competition.
Following the theme “Year of the Wildcat,” the Strong complex created a pagoda-like float with a “Buddha-Willie” wildcat mascot.

Many hours of “pomping” were required to finish the float. This involved applying glue to a chicken wire frame, then pushing tissue-paper squares through the holes.

The entire roof of the pagoda was pumped with red, yellow, and orange. Purple and white were used to spell out “Strong Complex” on each side of the float.

Clockwise from upper left: Kevin Preuss, Heather Henry, an unidentified Boyd resident, Michael Ho, Kathy Denney, and Jared Bissell
There are two ways in which the homecoming parade is judged; float and spirit. With nothing left to do to the float, during the parade the participants cheer and hand out fortune cookies to children along the route. A couple of handfuls of cookies were even reserved especially for judges.

Clockwise from top left:

Everyone poses for a group picture before starting out on the parade route.

Kathy Denney and Sarah Hicks get their picture taken in a pair of Shriners go-carts. Shriners make an appearance at many such parades.

Kevin Preuss gives his dog a drink of water. The weather was very warm the day of the parade, but we were fortunate that the accompanying wind did not pose a problem to the float.

Kathy, Heather, Michael and Staci prepare the fortune cookies before the parade starts.

Mike, Staci, and Kevin wait for the parade to begin. A red-raider in the background (Putnam resident Chad) is also getting a little impatient.

Staci, Heather, and Mike pose for snapshot on the lawn in front of Van Zile before heading for the parade.
Clockwise from upper-left:

A brave group of Strong complex residents don “Red Raider” costumes and bow to Buddha-Willie. These five fine souls endured many a boo throughout the parade route.

Buddha-Willie perched high above the crowd in his pompred pagoda.

Float driver and Boyd RA Sarah Hicks acknowledges the camera after turning onto Poyntz. Horn honks were used as a signal that judges flanked the route ahead; this indicated the need for extra cheering and fortune cookies.

Early in the parade route, on our way out of the Town Center parking lot. The parade led all the way back to the main campus.

A peek under Chinese Dragon-Willie shows a Strong complex resident behind the scenes. A hot job, but somebody had to do it.

Armed with handfuls of fortune cookies, Strong complex residents start out on the parade route ready to go.
Pregame homecoming festivities concluded with an evening pep rally at Memorial Stadium. Greg Sharpe, voice of the Wildcats was master of ceremonies.

Immediately after the parade, the stadium was filled with groups representing residence halls and Greek organizations. Some continued parade cheers to pass the time, while most simply complained about the wait before results would be announced.

A few skits were presented. Head coaches from men’s and women’s basketball gave speeches, as well as an assistant coach from the volleyball team. This marked many students’ first sighting of Mr. Wooldridge, the new men’s coach who took over the position after Tom Asbury was dismissed the previous spring.

Final results for Strong Complex:
Paint the ‘Ville, 1st; Parade, 2nd; Float, 3rd; Spirit Sign, 3rd; Pant the Chant, 4th; Crazy Cat Kickoff, 4th.

Overall ranking for the Strong complex was given as 4th place, a decision that drew controversy considering our first and second place awards. A recount was asked for, but the results were not changed.

Pictured from left: Bonfire, enriched by a Red Raider dummy; composite photo of fireworks; Strong complex faithful cheers as the results are announced; more fireworks photos (each rectangle is part of a photograph taken at a different time during the show); Coach Jim Wooldridge; Greg Sharpe, voice of the Wildcats
EcoRun 2001 was organized by Aj Bradley and the Van Zile hall governing board. This event marked the first of its kind in as long as anyone could remember.

Aj first brought up the idea of having a charity fund-raiser, suggesting it might incorporate part of the local scenery. Jonas Stewart, Van Zile RA and Konza fanatic suggested the prairie reserve located at the edge of Manhattan.

Many HGB members put hours of time into the project, working hard to make it succeed. Sponsors were found and a charity determined. Proceeds were to go to the Mid-Kansas Free Mammography fund, where money would help women in need receive the breast exams they require at low or no cost. Breast cancer, it seemed, had affected most everyone in one way or another and seemed a worthy cause.

Pictured here from left are Mary Van Zile (the portrait), Jonas Stewart, Ryan Cavigilia, Heather Henry, Michael Ho, Kyle Barscewski, and Aj Bradley. All are wearing the official Van Zile EcoRun 2001 t-shirt designed by Aj.
Runners and walkers met at Van Zile’s lobby to sign in and get their t-shirts. It was a windy Saturday morning, but turnout was still spectacular.

Car-pooling was encouraged, as the Konza Prairie has limited space for vehicles, and the caretakers prefer to minimize ecological impact when such an event takes place. On that same regard, entry into the race was limited to Strong complex residents only.

Runners and walkers were separated, and the runners were given a head start. After a few minutes the walkers set out. Pretty soon there was a good spread of people along the winding 2.1mi trail. Although a few who set out running ended up paced back to a walk, a very good number of them managed to negotiate even the biggest hills to finish strong.

Wind and cooler temperatures turned out to be beneficial as the cloud cover was scattered.
Streetside Records in Aggieville donated CDs from local bands to the top three finishers from both the walk group and run group.

After the race, everyone headed to Safari Jack's Watering Hole in Aggieville for a good meal. Safari's pledged to donate one-half of its profits from the end of the race to five o'clock, which was about three hours. This, combined with the registration fee of $10 from each participant, as well as donations from other sponsors resulted in a very successful fund-raising drive.

This event was so successful, in fact, that it is now planned to be an annual event. Van Zile hopes to continue a tradition of community service and resident involvement in the years to come.
Community Assistants keep the residence halls running, and Van Zile is no exception. Handling all incoming calls, checking out equipment, sorting mail, and organizing tours are just samples of what CAs do every day.

Chris Fletcher (left) passes the time during a late shift by doing homework on his laptop. At night, the hall isn’t as busy, but CAs still have important duties.

Ryan Caviglia and a Boyd resident (upper middle) at the front desk. Ryan needed a piece of tape for a sign he later affixed to the fireplace mantle.

Eric Moffet (lower middle) can be frequently found at the front desk in an attempt to help pass the time for whoever is working. Some CAs bring a friend to the later shifts to make it through the long hours or to help study.

Mandy Hinrikus assists a resident. Mandy and Chris are just two of the many familiar faces that keep the Van Zile front desk moving along.
It doesn’t take long before Sunday evenings take their toll. With all dining centers closed for Sunday dinner, students find themselves either starving or shelling out yet another five bucks to get some grub.

Since Sunday dinner is a fairly regular event (usually days of the week don’t shift around too often), it is a great opportunity to gather with fellow Van Zilians. Pictured here is just such an evening, one of the first after Winter Break, making it a special back-to-school dinner. The look of excitement on each face is a good indicator of the anxiety to return to classes.
This year marked many changes for HGB. Several vacancies were still open at the start of the year, so another election was held to fill the positions. Students moving out in the middle of the semester also created vacancies.

Weekly meetings were held Monday at 6:00pm first semester, Sunday at 7:15pm second semester.

**Fall Semester:**
- President - Kevin Preuss (later replaced by Kyle)
- Vice President - Kyle Barscewski
- Secretary - Ryan Caviglia
- Treasurer - Krysti Vanalstine
- ARH Representative - Erik Freeman
- SCC Representative - Jared Bissell
- Social - Staci Feder & Heather Henry
- Intramural - Michael Ho
- Informational - Alan Hottman
- Multicultural - Beto Barahona
- Historian - Ryan Mott
- Environmental - Amy Dix & Alex Garrett
- RA - Jonas Stewart
- RLC - Kathy Denney

**Spring Semester:**
- President - Kyle Barscewski
- Vice President - Ryan Caviglia
- Secretary - Aj Bradley
- Treasurer - Matt Mikus
- ARH Representative - vacant
- SCC Representative - vacant
- Social - Staci Feder & Heather “Hank” Henry
- Intramural - Michael Ho
- Informational - vacant
- Multicultural - abolished
- Historian - Ryan Mott
- Environmental - Amy Dix & Alex Garrett
- RA - Jonas Stewart
- RLC - Kathy Denney