

NWACUHO 2009

**THE NATURE
OF OUR WORK**



February 22-24, 2009

New to the Region Conference Guide

2009 NWACUHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE
February 22 – 24
Anchorage, Alaska

WELCOME

Greetings!

On behalf of the Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers, we want to welcome you to the 2009 NWACUHO Conference! We hope this conference will give you a great opportunity to network with others in the region while also allowing you to grow your skills and share resources with others.

We are excited to be hosting this year's event and look forward to providing a valuable and fun-filled professional development experience in Anchorage, Alaska. Our theme, "*The Nature of Our Work*" is descriptive of both the work we collectively engage in as a profession as well as the unique attributes that are hallmark of the Pacific Northwest.

This brochure was developed to help prepare you for our annual conference. Just as new freshman find the college campus daunting, you may find entering into this new experience just a bit intimidating. We assure you that the NWACUHO region is one of the most welcoming and friendly in the nation! Feel free to contact either of us if you have questions or concerns about what to expect in Alaska! All questions are welcome!

We can't wait to meet you!

Sincerely,

Jill Yashinsky
Washington Representative
yashinsky@gonzaga.edu

Tim Siemens
Alberta Representative
tim.siemens@rdc.ab.ca

NWACUHO New Professionals Committee Chairs

CONFERENCE SUSTAINABILITY

As an association NWACUHO is hoping to make the 2009 Annual Conference as **green** as possible. NWACUHO believes that environmental stewardship and the reduction of our negative impact is an important part of our region's values, as well as our role as members of the higher education community. Housing professionals have enormous potential to make an impact on the future of sustainability within our profession; whether it's by our own personal choices, on the campuses where we work or live or as a regional association. Please join us in doing our part to make our conference as **green** as possible.

TRAVEL PLANS AND HOUSING

Please make sure to contact the Hilton Anchorage to book your room. Links to the Hilton's website are available at www.nwacuho.org. You are also welcome to come early or stay late at the Hilton for a special price of \$89/night. Feel free to come up for the preconference activities!

If flying, you will want to make sure that you fly into the Anchorage International Airport. If you are coming in from Canada, please make sure to bring your passport. Please be aware of individual airport luggage policies, as costs have recently increased for these. NWACUHO has also worked with Alaska Airlines to get a 10% discount for any flight from any US or Canadian city to Anchorage between February 19-27. To get this discount, enter code ECCMA0971 into the discount code on www.alaskaair.com. This discount does not apply to "hot deals" tickets.

Upon landing, you will need to find your own means of transportation from the airport to the hotel. Here are some of your options:

Taxicabs are available at both Terminals of the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

Aurora Cab (907) 771-7777

Checker Cab (907) 276-1234

Yellow Cab (907) 222-2222

The cost of a taxi ride from the airport to downtown is approximately \$17.00 to \$22.00 (as of June 2008) and the ride takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

The Ted Stevens International Airport has numerous rental car companies with competitive rates. Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National, and Thrifty all have car rental agents in the airport. Most economy-sized cars can be rented for \$19.99 (plus rental car taxes and fees) per day. Weekly rates are available with most companies. Check the rental car company websites for the most up-to-date information and competitive fares. If you are driving, please follow the instructions below:

Leave the airport on West International Airport Road
Merge onto Minnesota Road and head toward Downtown
Minnesota will turn into L Street when you enter downtown
Turn right on 5th Avenue
Turn left on I Street
Turn left on 3rd Avenue
End at the Hilton Hotel (300 3rd Avenue)

PRECONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Our friends up at the University of Alaska Anchorage and Ben Hahn, from Alaska Pacific University, have been working hard to put together some fantastic preconference activities! We would love if you could come up early and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Your options are listed below. Please be sure to sign up on the NWACUHO website before you arrive at the

conference. If you have questions about any of these Pre-conference activities, write Pre-conference Coordinator Ben Hahn at bhahn@alaskapacific.edu or call 907-564-8299.

Costs for each trip are listed next to each adventure. Attendees are responsible for their own food, drinks, souvenirs, and incidentals. Costs of the trip will be collected the day of the event, and in some instances, can be paid directly to local businesses.

Saturday, February 21, 2008

UAA Hockey Night

6:30 pm - 9 pm - \$6

www.goseawolves.com

Hop in the van and join us at the Sullivan Arena for College Hockey Night as we watch the UAA Seawolves take on North Dakota. Hockey fans don't want to miss this. Wet and dry side available. Bring extra cash for snacks and drinks. Transportation is provided.

Anchorage Brewery Tour

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm - Free

Join us as we visit the famous breweries of Anchorage, Alaska, including Moose's Tooth, the Snow Goose, Midnight Sun, and more. Buy your own beer and we'll provide the transportation and a local guide.

Sunday, February 22, 2008

Downtown Anchorage Walkabout

10:00 am – 12:00 pm - Free

Put on your walking shoes, bundle up and join some locals as we take a tour of the downtown Anchorage Area. Art Galleries, unique cafes, gift shops, beautiful views and a bit of history. All of this within walking distance of the conference hotel.

Alaska Zoo Trip

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm - \$10

www.alaskazoo.org

Take a trip to the Alaska Zoo for viewings of polar bear, wolves, harbor seals, owls, black bears, musk ox and many more. New to the zoo this season are two Amur tigers, a new baby musk ox, and a one year old Bactrian camel. Transportation is provided.

Beginning Cross Country Skiing

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm - \$15

If you're looking for some exciting exercise, join our expert local guides for an awesome cross country skiing workout on our own U-med district ski trail system, right here in town. Never gone cross country skiing before? No worries, we'll teach you the basics and take it slow. We'll drive you up to UAA/APU get you strapped up for some skis and poles and go out on some beginner trails. Transportation is free.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (DRAFT)

Below is a draft of the 2009 annual conference schedule based on previous conferences. This schedule is subject to change, so please reference the schedule you receive at check in for exact times and locations of events.

Sunday, February 22

Pre-conference Activities	10 am- 3pm
Registration Opens	1:00 (hotel lobby)
New to NWACUHO Welcome	4:30 pm
Welcome Reception w/ Exhibitors	5:30pm
Opening Event	6:15 pm
Committee Roundtables	8 pm
Introduction to the Case Study	8:30 pm
Hospitality Suite Open	8:30 pm

Monday, February 23

Breakfast Served	8 am
Keynote Address	9 am
Interest (Program) Session I	10 am
Exhibitor Break	11 am
Interest Session II	11:30 am
Lunch	12:30 pm
Gear Exchange	1:00 pm
Interest Session III	1:30 pm
Town Hall Meeting	2:40 pm
Exhibitor Break	3:40 pm
Interest Session IV (Case study)	4:00 pm
Night on the Town	6:00 pm
New Professionals Dinner	6:00 pm
Hospitality Suite Open	9 pm

Tuesday, February 24

Breakfast Served	8 am
Keynote Address	9 am
Exhibitor Break and Prize Giveaway	10:30 am
Interest Session V	11:00 am
Lunch and Business Meeting	12:15 pm
Interest Session VI	2:00 pm
State/Provincial Roundtables	3:15 pm
Reception	6 pm
Closing Banquet	6:30 pm
Hospitality Suite Open	8:30 pm

WHAT TO PACK

Conference apparel is business casual until the final closing banquet on Tuesday night, where attendees typically like to dress up a little more. If you are planning on participating in the Gear Exchange on Monday afternoon, you will want to bring a piece of apparel or something else with your school's logo on it to trade. Bring your business cards! The conference is a great time to make new friends.

The Hilton has free wireless internet in the lobby for all guests, should you chose to bring a computer. Rooms already contain hairdryers, so no need to bring those! An indoor pool, sauna, and hot tub are in the hotel, along with a state of the art work out center. The average temperature in Anchorage in February is around 25 degrees Fahrenheit or -3 degrees Celsius, so bring warm clothes if you plan on venturing outside of the hotel!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of professional development opportunities at the conference if you choose to get involved in them!

FORMAL OPPORTUNITIES

New professionals who have been in the field one to three years are invited to participate in the Case Study Competition. During this competition, you will be paired with people from other institutions to work through a problem. On Tuesday, you will present in front of a panel of senior housing officers. Winners are announced at Tuesday night's banquet. More information about how to get involved in the competition will be announced at the conference.

A scholarship is also offered for New Professionals. This scholarship can fund a significant portion of your travel and hotel at the conference. Please check out www.nwacuho.org and click on Awards & Scholarships.

- Finally, presenting and attending programs at the conference are great ways to continue your professional development. Proposals to present a program are due January 8, 2009. More details are available on the NWACUHO website. Make sure to attend as many programs as you can during the conference! These are great places to network with others, share resources, and learn something new.

INFORMAL OPPORTUNITIES

Conferences can be great places to network, but incredibly intimidating the first time. Here are a few tips to help you put yourself out there and truly gain everything the conference has to offer:

- At NWACUHO conference, nametags have ribbons attached to them that say things like "New Professional" or "Presenter." Think of those ribbons as post it notes of conversation tips. Ask other new professionals what their experiences have been like. Most of the time, they have gone through some of the same road bumps of being a new professional and like, you, this may be their first or second professional conference. Ask

presenters what they are presenting about, why they found that topic interesting, etc. Encourage people to talk about themselves! We all love to do it.

- Though it is human nature to stay in our comfort zones and talk to people we already know, sit at tables with people you do not know, at least for one day of the conference. If you do not feel comfortable on your own, take one colleague with you. Meals are a great time to chat with people in a less formal environment. There are also enough people at tables to carry the conversation until you are comfortable enough to jump in.
- Attend the New Professionals events. Everyone in this room is in the same boat you are. Find a couple of other new professionals and chat with them. Make plans to meet up again at one of the exhibitor breaks to talk about how you are feeling as the conference goes on.
- Conferences are a time when business cards fly! After you meet someone and get their card, write some notes about the conversation you had and any other interesting things about them on the back of their card. This gives you a great starting place after the conference for e-mail correspondence about topics or issues, while also integrating the personal element. The conference attendee list is another great place to make similar notes. Do not be afraid to e-mail these people after the conference to ask them more about their areas of expertise or to get advice on how to handle a particular challenge.
- Volunteer! NWACUHO always needs volunteers to help at the conference. Not only will you find a sense of purpose in helping with a successful conference, but you will also have many opportunities to get to know others more quickly! If you are interested in volunteering at the conference, please contact Samantha Callister (anskc4@uaa.alaska.edu) or Sonja Olson at (solson@alaskapacific.edu).

We are excited to meet you at the New to the Region Welcome on Sunday, February 22, 2009, in Anchorage, Alaska! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions before then!