



the official nwacuho newsletter

# the soundings

northwest association of college and university housing officers





# NWACUHO soundings

## soundings editorial board

The editorial board is comprised of volunteer members throughout the NWACUHO region. Duties include assisting in the development of an editorial schedule, submission of interest articles, and soliciting articles and feedback from the members of the association. If you are interested in being a member of the editorial board, please contact your state or provincial representative or the newsletter editor.

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Please send all submissions (articles, letters to the association, updates from around the region, and announcements) to:

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\*\*Please attach articles using MS word document or type the submission into an email.

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# matt lamsma

## a letter from the president

**Matt Lamsma**  
NWACUHO President  
Associate Director, Gonzaga University

I have recently been reading the book “Blink” by Malcolm Gladwell. The author discusses the idea of initial reactions or first glances and how they impact decisions, patterns of thought or actions. Even though one of my staff members has recently informed me that he never reads the “intro” or “welcome” at the front of a newsletter or other publication, I figure that this is my chance to make a first impression for the Spring Soundings and the 2008-2009 NWACUHO Executive Committee. So, here’s hoping that your impressions are positive.

### **From the Past...**

The Red Lion in Vancouver proved to be a great venue for our annual conference last February. For those of you who were unable to attend, we missed you. The three days were truly a wonderful time of connecting with colleagues, being challenged by keynotes, learning in breakout sessions, and finding a renewed sense of professional purpose before heading back to our individual campuses. In the following pages you will find reflections and memories from some of the nearly 200 participants.

One of the initiatives that was introduced in Vancouver are the newly outlined NWACUHO Core Purposes. In brief, they are:

- 1) Promote Best Practices
- 2) Professional Development
- 3) Collaborative Sharing of Ideas
- 4) Future Trends

The Executive Committee will be taking the notes from discussions about at our Town Hall Meeting to our May meeting and talking about how to implement these Core Purposes.

### **Coming Soon...**

At the end of May the Executive Committee will be gathering at the University of British Columbia for our Spring Meetings. Our agenda includes wrapping up the 2008 Conference, hearing an update about the 2009 Anchorage, discussing our Core Purposes, continuing the conversation about the legal and liability aspects of the Organization, and talking about some future Drive-In Conference

opportunities. If you have something specific that you would like for us to cover, please contact one of the Executive Committee members and let them know. We are very cognizant that we are here to work for you.

In mid June many of us will be in Orlando for the ACUHO-I Annual Conference and Exposition. Richard DeShields and I will be meeting with the other regional presidents and presidents-elect for a meeting prior to the conference. Last year in Seattle this meeting was valuable as Dan Larson and I connected with other regions and learned more about how they operate and the challenges that they face. I expect this year will be the same. We are also co-hosting a reception with the AIMHO region. If you are going to be in Orlando, I look forward to seeing you there.

At 10:15 am a few weeks ago I officially expended my last bit of energy for the 2007-2008 academic year. Unfortunately there were still three weeks left in the semester. The fun thing however was that I also instantaneously became excited for next year. A part of that excitement has to do with NWACUHO. I am honored to serve as your president and work alongside a very experienced, energetic, and committed Executive Committee. I know that you will see good things from your organization this year.

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# when job two doesn't go as you hoped for

## ADVICE COLUMN

*There are intentional holes in this story for the sake of anonymity.*

I am a big proponent of trying to take every experience and use it as a learning tool – something that has not always come easy, but is needed in order to become a happier professional. Because of that philosophy, I think and hope that this article is beneficial to at least one other person. Because we are a small region, I hope that you will understand my desire to write this anonymously. In all of my “infinite professionalism,” I will choose my words carefully and hope that the institution to which I refer will appreciate and understand my withholding their name.

In the recent past I conducted my second job search. In this search, I cast a very large net in location, institutional type, and job type. The job that I had my heart set on the most, sadly, did not pan out (everything really does happen for a reason). I received a couple of other offers and choose an institution that I remain very happy with. The position allowed me to intensely work with an amazing student body and staff – as I was informed and experienced during my on-campus visit. I was anticipating some adjustment from my first job, which for the most part, was a positive experience, but nothing could have prepared me for what the 2007-2008 academic year had in store.

I initially started to struggle with my colleagues over the summer. Most of the conflicts focused less on personality – initially – and more on stylistic differences. I have more than resigned myself to the fact that I operate differently than some of them, and besides, we only need to work together. Then my student staff arrived. Like almost all of our staffs, there was a mixture of returners with “newbies.” I had paid attention and tried very hard, in my time before my staff arrived, to be aware of the polished process of my new institution.

When it came time for me to simply insert a little bit of my own flare into things, it was as if we had all been driving individual cars that literally exploded into a fiery crash – and yes there were fatalities. One student staff member decided that they would rather not be on staff then work with me, and even went so far as to attempt to sabotage my process to replace them. I would have these types of accidents with my staff weekly throughout the first semester, and sporadically as I write this (with no other fatalities – as someone was brought back to life by the powers that be above me – long story).

Most of these accidents were due to stylistic differences between me and my student staff, both the new and the seasoned ones. My student staff expected me to open my personal life to them in the way my colleagues had to their staffs, and were not receptive to my administrative preferences. Nonetheless, I would push myself out of my comfort zone on numerous occasions, all in an attempt to meet my student staff somewhere in the middle, but they wanted me to give more and I struggled to do so. Is it fair and expected that I make all of the concessions and they make none? I simply wasn't sure. Not only that, but I was beginning to question my ability as a professional.

I had had a fairly successful tenure at my first job, and here I was in job two and having probably more issues in less than a year that I had had my entire time in job one. I questioned in what ways I was inadequate and what I had done that was so wrong. I had conducted a detailed and meticulous job search (just ask anyone who knows me), but was it possible that I had made the wrong decision? I have sought out my supervisor when these accidents happened, if for nothing else, to keep them in the loop as to what was going on. Initially, I was not asked, by my supervisor, to leave this institution

that I actually enjoy, but recently, it has been mentioned I might want to consider other options. I have only told a select group of people exactly how things have been, again, partly due to that pesky philosophy of trying to make the most of this experience.

So I sat at the NWACUHO annual conference making some notes in the hopes that someone else, who may be going through something similar, will know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. A colleague of mine said a while ago, “There are things in life that you can control and things in life that you cannot. There is no need in focusing your energy on the things you cannot control.” I cannot control how my student staff takes or reacts to something. I can neither control how they view me at this point in time, nor can I control if they think I should have my job. What I can control is my attitude, my approach to situations, my responses to things, and how I deal with the learning experience that I currently find myself in.

To you who may be going through something similar, I offer you some words:

\*Breathe – even during the worst possible day, that is the one thing that will keep you alive

\*When people ask how things are going, focus on the positive. Every job has its negatives, but focusing on those negatives won't make you a happy or a better person or professional

\*No matter how bad it gets, it is still not okay to bad mouth your institution, supervisor, or colleagues – that doesn't mean you keep it in, but always be careful about what you say, to whom, and where.

\*Lastly, when you reflect on the negative or bad of the job, use it and see it for what it really is – a learning experience in its finest.

Good luck to you and take care.

# it is as simple as five fingers

## KEYS TO SUCCESS WITH STUDENT STAFF

Shane McKee  
Gonzaga University

No person can be part of a great team if they do not know what their own values, beliefs, and morals are. And no team can be a high functioning and productive group unless all members of the group agree on, believe in, and hold each other true to same core values and principles.

So what are the core values of your team? How do you remember them and use them with your team? I asked myself these same questions when I looked back at the staffs' that I have managed in the past and wondered how we did it. Truth be told we did not really do it very well or effectively.

Then during this years RD Training I learned one of the most amazing value-based teambuilding exercises ever. What was it? The 5-finger contract. Seems easy and simple, right? Well, it is. And it works. So I implemented the 5-finger contract with my RA staff this year and have had amazing results. First, I had each RA define their own values and principles. Then, as a team, we discussed and collaborated on developing the five most important values of our staff. It took some time, dialogue, and brainstorming but what we came up with was worth it. Our 5-finger contract consisted of the following values: 1) professionalism, 2) respect, 3) positive attitude, 4) honest communication, and 5) support. And here is why we chose each value.

*1. Professionalism* – In our minds the value of professionalism encompassed several things, including: being on time to meetings, being on-task and focused while in presentations and meetings, being prepared well in advance for meetings, one-on-ones, and programs, and understanding that we are representations of our department at all times.

*2. Respect* – You cannot expect to get respect unless you give it. RA's need to be respectful of each other, their residents, their superiors, and all other organizations and departments across campus.

*3. Positive Attitude*– The RA job gets tough and it is easy to become negative so we made it a point to keep ourselves positive as well as each other. A negative attitude can be like a virus within in a staff, bringing everyone down and we did not want to see that on our own staff. So we, as a staff, have strived to see the positive in every experience

*4. Honest Communication* – As a staff we wanted to get away from the “Us vs. Them” mentality that can occur between RA's and their RD. We figured the best way to solve problems, be a cohesive unit, and be as successful as possible was to be honest with one another. We have had our fair share of heated discussions, debates, and trials and tribulations. But it has been worth it because of the level of

communication that has occurred amongst our staff.

*5. Support* – The RA job is stressful, hard, and time consuming and sometimes all someone needs to make it through the day is a little support. So we make it a priority to ask for support from each other and provide whenever necessary.

As a staff we have used our 5-finger contract in a variety of ways throughout the year in order to reiterate what we stand for and to keep each other true to themselves and the staff. Below are some of the ways we have used the 5-finger contract throughout the year:

*1. Raise a Value Finger* – For example, at the beginning of staff meetings I start the meeting by raising my thumb signifying professionalism. Immediately the staff know to put their “game faces” on as we are about to get down to business. Anytime a staff member gets negative when talking about a situation they are corrected by another staff member by raising middle finger (in the correct manner) suggesting to them to maintain a positive attitude

*2. “Fingers” during Staff Meetings* – At the end of our staff meetings I allow time for staff members to give out “fingers” to other staff members. For example, Luke gave Ashley a support finger because she took duty for him the night before he had a big test.

*3. Weekly RA MVP that Best Exemplified a “Finger” for the Week* – We recognize an RA of the Week each week during our staff meetings and we try to base this recognition on one of our five values. So I gave the RA MVP trophy to Amanda during a week that was horrendous on her because of midterms, roommate conflicts, and incidents but through it all she remained positive.

Just as the title of the article states...It's as simple as five fingers. The 5-finger contract has worked amazingly with my staff this year and is something that I will implement with my staffs' in the future. And I think the 5-finger contract is something that you can install within your own staff, regardless of whether it is RA's, RD's, or Department Heads.



The Collegiate Readership Program, managed by USA TODAY, provides students with access to a daily assortment of newspapers on campus.

USA TODAY and a combination of local, regional and/or national newspapers (chosen for distribution by your college or university) are delivered each weekday morning to displays conveniently located in the lobbies of residence halls and other campus locations. Students then select one or more of the papers daily for their reading enjoyment.

The goals of the program are to encourage a lifelong newspaper readership habit and to increase students' knowledge of local, national and international events.



# tina fuchs receives the EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

**Maria Bonifacio**

**University of Alaska Anchorage**  
Tina Fuchs wears many hats at Western Oregon University. Not only is she the Dean of Students, but she also holds another important position, Director of Residence Life. Holding two very powerful and influential positions, one might think that she would not associate herself or even have the time for her staff – professional or student, as well as the students of Western Oregon. But thinking this, you would be totally wrong. There are many times you could find her at a program, helping out or just supporting the students and staff. Just this past week at Western Oregon University, the NACURH delegation held a pie in your face fundraiser, in which Tina participated.

Personally, I cannot speak enough about the impact she has had on me. She continues to be a mentor to me, even though I am thousands of miles away in Alaska. Every time that I visit Oregon, I have to stop by and have a chat with Fuchs. She is always interested in what is going on with me in Alaska and how my life at the University of Alaska Anchorage is going!

I know that I am not the only one that thinks so highly of Tina Fuchs, just talking to a few who have been directly impacted by her, you can see how truly dedicated and caring she really is.

**Alicia Steinbeck, former Resident Assistant at Western Oregon University:**

“Where should I start when talking about Tina Fuchs? I guess I could start by saying that she is probably one of the coolest people I have ever met.

When you think Dean of Students, you would usually think a very uptight not so fun person, but that could not be more opposite of who Tina is. She is so down to earth and I feel that I could go into her office and talk to her about anything. She is also a very caring person. She really wants to know how you are doing and she honestly cares when something is wrong. Even though her actual job does not interact with the RA staff as much as an AC, she still takes time to get to know everyone on staff. All in all Tina is a really fun and interesting person to talk to, and if you haven’t had the opportunity to meet her yet, you are really missing out!”

**Patrick Moser, Asst. Director, Facilities & Operations at Western Oregon University**

“Tina is one of the most dedicated professionals I know. She truly cares about the student success and strives to create an environment in the residence halls where students can thrive. As a supervisor she is caring, supportive and works harder than any department head I know. She has personally been an inspiration and mentor to me and I have learned much of what I know about housing and residence life from her. I wholeheartedly believe she will be the best supervisor I will ever have and I hope to be as successful in my career as she has been.”

**Noah Cheek, current Resident Assistant at Western Oregon University:**

“Tina has a presence. You know when she walks into the room and when she leaves. I don’t know how she does it, but

she has this moxie about her that automatically makes you trust her. She makes you want to work for her, and not just get the job done, but get it done the best that you can with a smile on your face. I have often believed that she must have a magic wand sitting in her office because of how quickly things get done when she says she’ll take care of them. She must be waving it around back there just moving this campus right along. Which then makes me wonder how if she can take care of everything with the quick flick of the wrist, how she is so busy all the time! I love calling OUR, asking to set up an appointment with Tina, and I get the response ‘good luck.’

One word that comes to mind when I think of Tina is ‘genuine.’ She’s not afraid to tell you exactly what she thinks or feels about something, which I greatly appreciate. As I weigh the options of continuing Residential Life for the future, Tina is someone that I would like to emulate.”

**Justin “Nitty” Collins, Hall Director, Truman State University and former Resident Assistant at Western Oregon University:**

“I worked with Tina for four years during my time at WOU, and over those four years I got to know Tina on more than a professional level... and this is what I have come to realize. Tina is a strong and caring woman whose interactions and compassion for her students is AMAZING! You will never find a Dean of Students with as much passion as she has while still finding time to be an

outstanding second-base (wo)man on the faculty intramural softball team, but more importantly finding time to wash and dry my whites! That’s right folks, Tina did my laundry! The best part is that I have adopted her folding style! Tina has had an impact in my life and is someone I look up to! I wish all of you could have the experience of working with Tina like I have. I heart you Tina!”

**Amanda Rodino, Coordinator of Leadership and Programs, Western Oregon University:**

“One of my favorite Tina memories occurred as I was walking through our main office late one Friday afternoon and came across her sitting in the hallway, putting together a vacuum cleaner. Although I was new to WOU at the time, I was not new to the field and couldn’t imagine that a director would be doing something so mundane. I share this as an example of Tina’s outstanding leadership style. She is truly an administrator that will do whatever is needed, and Tina sets a wonderfully supportive tone for those around her. I truly appreciate the mentorship Tina has provided me.”

As you can see, Tina Fuchs has made an impact in the lives of many at Western Oregon University and beyond. She is like a good disease, Tina-itis, those who come in contact with her are exposed to something that they just can’t explain, there is no cure and it has spread all over the nation! Have you caught it yet?

# meet carlie wiens from uvic

## NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD 2008

More than a month has passed since my trek to Vancouver, WA, for my first ever conference. I recall fondly my nerves about traveling by myself, meeting new people, etc. It was almost like showing up for that first RA training. I knew that the people there would have a like mind and would be just as geeky as I am about reslife in general. I knew there would be people excited about doing rounds and judicial follow up, though I am in a minority there. I also knew that I would get some great ideas for programming and events, which is undoubtedly my weak point. What I didn't know was, as it turns out, a whole hell of a lot! The sheer knowledge assembled in that small space was overwhelming!

The people I met at the conference have tapped into that knowledge and are using it in innovative and inspiring ways. It was refreshing and reassuring to see others dealing with similar situations, in totally

different parts of the continent. Who would have thought that Alaska (you know who you are) and Victoria would have the same problems?? Who would have thought that I would find the perfect solution to the imminent intra-staff drama? (Thank you Mr. Galloway, love the 72 hour rule.)

What's the biggest thing I got out of the conference? Well, actually, some perspective. A realization that what we do really is important, a renewed belief that I will have actually had an impact on at least one student staff member, and hope that at least one resident did learn something in a behaviour meeting.

Oh sure, it can be thankless, and tiring, and there will be times you would like nothing more than to pull your hair out instead of answer that on call phone. But at the end of the day there is no where else that you will have such a rewarding, special and fulfilling experience as in reslife.

So now what is left to learn? My goal list for my second year as a Housing Professional:

\*Remember that I was a new RA once too

\*Vomit won't hurt me

\*When praise is deserved you can never go wrong by over doing it just a little

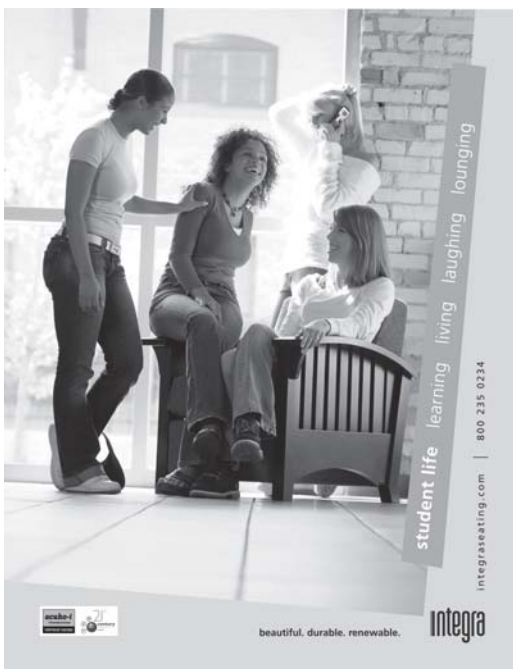
\*Will discover the secret to harnessing unflinching and superhuman motivation that exists in RAs, specifically at 3am during a fire alarm and flood the night before they have an exam

\*Don't generalize

\*Do personalize

\*Have success in what I do and if it is not apparent in the moment, find it!

Good luck with your years to come in this profession and I look forward to the next opportunity to learn from this amazing group of people. Thank you!



### Connection Corner "Together we are stronger"

Residence Leadership Counsel and Residence Hall Associations strengthen our communities and promote healthy growth amongst our residents.

*Question: How does your staff actively support RLC and RHA at your institution? Do you require your Resident Advisors/Assistants to participate in RLC/RHA activities and/or meetings? What are your requirements?*

Your feedback may be incorporated into a presentation for the 2009 NWACUHO conference and is much appreciated. Please email your responses to Jenni Betschart at [fnjlb4@uaf.edu](mailto:fnjlb4@uaf.edu).

**Brandi Lindberg-Lund**  
Central Washington University

As I sat at the “Lunch and Business Meeting” at the NW-ACUHO conference on February 26<sup>th</sup>, an interesting discussion was ignited. The keynote speaker that morning, David Hobbs of Portland State University, had inspired us all to think about being more environmentally conscious. It was during the Business Meeting that the idea of buying carbon credits was brought up. If conference attendees bought these carbon offsets, it would help us as an organization to lessen the impact that our attending conferences has on the environment. This suggestion is a great one, its intention is purely good, and yet it has ironic implications.

Our colleague Sharon Goodman, Director of Residential and Dining Services at The Evergreen State College, engaged in a discussion with me about this issue. She was part of the inspiration for writing this piece and credit goes to her for her critical thinking on this issue. We began to discuss the fact that while well-intentioned, buying carbon offsets is allowing the more affluent to possibly “buy their way out of” their responsibility to the environment. At this point in my opinion piece, I want to reiterate that it is simply that- an opinion, and an opportunity for dialogue and discussion.

The ability to “buy one’s way out of” social responsibility has been around for centuries. From the times of papal indulgences, to today’s product [RED] campaign which sells clothing and items with a portion of the proceeds going to help with efforts to end AIDS/HIV in Africa, money has been the easy way to fulfill social responsibility. Quicker and less painful than donating time, spending money on items that give part of their proceeds to charity has become a huge part of our society. I’m not saying that philanthropy is inherently bad, generous donors have helped deliver many discoveries and possibilities to the world. What I am saying is that this consumerist frame of mind encourages us to spend money on items, possibly that we don’t even need, in order to help charities

and causes. But what does this mean for the less monetarily comfortable, who can’t simply buy their way into this phenomenon?

Sitting in the crowd at NWACUHO as the thankful recipient of the Vennie Gore scholarship, the issue of affluence was really brought home to me. When I originally contemplated being able to attend the conference, without even thinking about adding a carbon offset to the cost, I was unfortunately planning on not attending. The generosity of the scholarship allowed me to attend the conference and for that reason, during the conference the keynote address from Donna Beegle about poverty really struck a chord. Almost ironically, a co-worker of mine purchased Donna’s book and offered to let me read it at a later time. I could not really afford to buy the book, but rather to borrow it. It is with this reminder that not all can afford to buy their way to a greener world that I charge you with a challenge.

My challenge to those of you reading this article is to think creatively about how to change the world. Think about ways in which our students, those who pay our salaries, can be part of a green movement without opening their already empty pockets. Volunteer; give of your time and your person. Don’t just give money. Volunteerism really builds character. Just as we encourage our student staff to program creatively, without having to use tons of money, let us challenge ourselves to be more creative with our social responsibilities. Let’s carpool, turn off our computers at night, unplug our cell phone chargers when not in use, and bring a reusable mug to work instead of using paper throw away cups. If we can make these small changes in our daily lives, and yes during conference season, we may not need to purchase carbon offsets.

Check out the Fall ‘08 Soundings for an article about the 2008 NWACUHO Lifetime Achievement Award Winner!





# cyndi spear receives the

## DAVID B. STEPHEN AWARD

Michael Votava  
University of Alaska Anchorage

The prestigious David B. Stephen Award recognizes a member of NWACUHO who, over their years of service, has provided outstanding contributions to our association. David B. Stephen served this organization as President, Newsletter Editor, initiator of the Northwest Training Institute, and in many other capacities during his tenure in the Northwest. Through this award, we wish to honor those who have contributed to NWACUHO with the same kind of spirit. I am so happy that Cyndi Spear won the 2008 NWACUHO David B. Stephen award.

Cyndi has provided exemplary service to NWACUHO. Cyndi served two terms as Alaska State Representative. One of Cyndi's presentations at NWACUHO won Best of the Northwest. Cyndi served one term as NWACUHO President in 1998. During Cyndi's presidency, she also hosted the NWACUHO conference in Anchorage in 1998.

During 1998 when Cyndi was NWACUHO President and chairing a NWACUHO conference in Anchorage, she also opened three new residence halls and the University Commons at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). She was Director of Housing and Residence Life as UAA transitioned from 300 to 1000 beds. During this time, she helped UAA build the necessary infrastructure to triple the Housing operation.

I first met Cyndi as an ACUHO-I intern during the summer of 2000. Cyndi started a summer intern program at UAA where 5 graduate interns from across the nation could spend the summer together learning and growing in Alaska and running UAA's Conference Services and Residence Life programs. When graduate

schools ended in May, Cyndi continued graduate students' education over the summer. Cyndi's intern program started off with a weekend retreat. Then, Cyndi offered professional development throughout the summer via readings and meetings with senior student affairs professionals.

Cyndi's ACUHO-I internship program is still present in 2008. Over 50 interns have come through the program. The quality of Cyndi's program was apparent. Eight of the 50 interns have returned to work at UAA, among them our current Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Many other interns inquire on a regular basis if any job openings are available.

In 2000, Cyndi was promoted to become UAA's Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Campus Services. Since 2000 she was responsible for building UAA's new library, biomedical research building, new parking garage, and University Center. Cyndi also developed plans for the new \$87 million dollar science center currently under construction.

Cyndi left UAA in 2006 to move to Portland, Oregon, where she now helps run a business called Campus Marketing Specialists that fills 300-400 orders a week at colleges and universities. Orders range from T-shirts for RA programs to mugs for housing and residence life departments. Why Portland? Cyndi wanted to raise her two children in a warmer climate and be closer to family and friends. Before Cyndi left UAA, she was awarded the 2006 UAA Staff Award for Excellence by the UAA Alumni Association – the highest award a staff member can receive.

# meet cait o'brien from osu

## NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD 2008

As I approach the end of my undergraduate career, it seems appropriate that I take a moment to reflect upon my experiences. Throughout my time at Oregon State University, it has become increasingly clear to me that my passion lies with student affairs work. My journey began working in OSU's Student Involvement office for three years, followed by summer work in New Student Programs. Through these experiences I had the wonderful opportunity to get involved with leadership development, conference coordination, and cultural programming.

In my fifth and final year, I have taken on a new position as Late Night Activities Coordinator. This position involves many 'firsts' for me, as it is my first time working within the department of University Housing and Dining Services, my first live-on position, and my first experience supervising staff members. I have always been a bit of a generalist, and working within residence life has allowed me to explore many of my interests all at once.

The regional conference served as a remarkable introduction to the limitless opportunities and amazing people within our region. The conference broadened my perspective of what it means to be a

new professional and gave me renewed energy for the work that I am currently doing. One of my favorite aspects of this conference was the opportunity to converse with members of this community at mealtimes, social gatherings, and during sessions. I especially enjoyed hearing the paths that different people have taken to lead them to where they are today. After all, my own path is quite nontraditional.

I feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity to attend this conference as a result of receiving the New Professional Award. The days that I spent in Vancouver, surrounded by the energy and enthusiasm of professionals from all over the region helped to solidify my belief that student affairs, and more specifically residence life is the place for me. I believe in the work that we do, and I believe that coming together at least once a year helps us to become better professionals and better people. I know that I have benefited from the wisdom and support of those around me. The encouragement that I have received as a new professional from those at my institution and within the region has been instrumental to my success. I am honored to be a member of this community.

# the closeted student affairs professional

Michael K. Seraphin  
Willamette University

Hello. My name is Micheal K. Seraphin, and I...am...a Republican. Wow, I cannot believe that I just wrote that, it feels kind of liberating to know that my colleagues within the NWACUHO Region will now know this about me, but I honestly wonder how some will react to it. Some of my close colleagues have known for a while, and some of you reading this might know this already based on some of our conversations. I felt the timing was right to tell you all for a number of reasons. It is an election year, and I love politics and talking about politics – I felt it was important for you to know that so that if you want to avoid talking to me about politics, you had that option. I was also a little tired of feeling that just because I work in Student Affairs, I had to keep my political affiliation a secret or hide it.

For a long time, I have struggled with the perception among professionals and students alike, that everyone in Student Affairs is a more liberal in their thinking. Please, let me be clear – I am not a far right Republican (not that there is anything wrong with that), but I tend to stay to the

right side of the middle of the road. Frequently I have had friends ask how I can be a Republican and work in Student Affairs, particularly in Residence Life. I have also had Residence Life professionals who think that being a Republican and working in Residence Life are two things that are not compatible.

When I left Chicago for the great Northwest, some of my closest confidants joked that they hoped I would “see the light” and start voting Democratic. They sometimes ask if I am still voting Republican, to which I give a resounding “yes.” I don’t have a problem being a Republican because I feel that our Republican students need someone who can agree with them on some issues, or have a conversation with them in a different way than they perceive those who are more liberal in academia might. But going back to my struggle comes with whether we, as Student Affairs Professionals are becoming tolerant to the point of intolerance?

And know this is by no means an attempt to group everyone who is to the left

of where I am, together, but I have to say there are times when my political beliefs have come under fire by my colleagues and the students I have worked with. They have ignored my thoughts or given them less credibility/validity simply because they didn’t agree with them, sometimes thinking that “the Republican” is speaking now. I know that being a Republican can sometimes be a “dangerous” thing on college campuses, however, it is just as important for those of us who are Republicans to have a voice and seat at the table as it for the other groups who want to be there and heard. I don’t condone all things done by College Republican groups, nor do I believe that those who are Democrats always support what the College Dems do.

This is just a commentary that will hopefully get people thinking and opens the doors for other Republicans in Residence Life and other realms of Student Affairs to know that they are not alone and it’s okay for them to be who they are.

## a culinary journey through culture

Brian Stroup  
Oregon State University

At Oregon State University students and faculty have traveled to the deep south and Latin America – and all without ever leaving campus. Over the past year, the staff and students of University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS), in collaboration with many OSU campus offices, have been working to create even more inclusive environments including those from traditionally underrepresented communities. As UHDS was creating their Diversity Initiative, increasing awareness of other cultures was an action item that everyone decided to address. In the dining centers, this has led to a focus on developing culturally relevant cuisine with the culmination of two major cultural dinner nights.

In February of 2008, Soul Food Café took place which celebrated Black History Month. The dining center was transformed into a Southern-style celebration full of Cajun-style home cooking and tributes to African American heroes. Pictures honoring these heroes decorated the walls while a live jazz band played throughout the night. The food was exquisite and included crawfish, jambalaya, and fried mac and cheese. As attendees ate they could read poetry that adorned the tables from famous African American poets.

In April of 2008, Sabor Latino was held, this time to celebrate the Latino culture and to recognize the ideals and life of Caesar

Chavez. Stuffed pork loin with chile peppers, chile rellanos, beef tacos, chicken tinga and Camarones de Veracruzana were only a few of the delicious items on the menu. Mariachi music was performed by a local band which was followed by some acoustic guitar and a piñata breaking.

Turnout for both of these events was both impressive and encouraging. Hundreds of resident and non-resident students and faculty attended both events showing not only an interest but a desire to learn more about other cultures. Participants enjoyed the combination of food and ambiance and felt that it was a comfortable way to explore another culture.

Where will the students and staff at Oregon State “travel” to next? There has been talk of an International Cultural Food Night during International Education Week in November where each of the continents will be represented with their own unique flavor. No more specifics have been determined at this time but a few things are certain: there will be good conversation, a welcoming environment and delicious food for all to enjoy.

If you are interested in learning more about putting on a cultural food night at your campus, please contact Eric Hansen at [eric.hansen@oregonstate.edu](mailto:eric.hansen@oregonstate.edu).

## a humorous look into the lives of students

Shane McKee  
Gonzaga University

With the semester winding down and everyone swamped in paperwork I thought I would lighten it up a little bit. Working in Residence Life provides us with so many great stories...Some interesting, some humorous, and others are just plain bizarre. So I thought I would put together some of the best stories from my own experiences and the experiences of some of my colleagues across the country. (*DISCLAIMER: Students in these scenarios are real and serious educational conversations occurred as a result of the actions described. Please enjoy, smile, and laugh because it is needed in our profession.*)

At a state institution in Oregon, a resident assistant came across some of her residents being loud in the lounge last night. Upon talking with them, she found out that one of them had put hand sanitizer all over his testicles and lit them on fire. His reasons were that he had not done anything manly for a few months and that it was also his friend's birthday.

A private institution in Washington had a wild animal week. One RD had to deal with a rooster being kept in an apartment. Why did the residents have the rooster? It was a birthday present for one of their friends. Another RD had to work with two student athletes who were raising baby pit-bulls in the rooms. The RD's found out about the dogs because the student rooms were covered in feces.

At a large state college in Texas a housing professional worked with a group of residents that cooked a chicken in the dryer. It just so happened that the dryer was done just about the same time the chicken was...

One summer at a private institution in Washington, a group of campers put a shopping cart up into a tree. They campers had

managed to put the shopping cart about 20 feet off of the ground. Plant services to come over with a specialized truck to remove the shopping cart.

At a Texas institution an RD had a student who decided to steal books from an off campus bookstore and resell them. This is a serious crime, so the FBI and UPD came rolling up to the hall to arrest the student. The student however, refused to answer the door...because he was high at the time, and didn't want them to find his marijuana. This student was also planning on going into the military after graduation.

At a Washington university, an Associate Director got an angry phone call from a parent wanting a good reason why his son got such severe sanctions for only drinking a beer on his balcony. What the student forgot to tell his father was that he was actually peeing off the balcony while drinking the beer. Oops!

At a state institution in Missouri, a pair of RA's knocked on a resident's door because the students were being loud and the RA's suspected the students were consuming alcohol. After knocking, there was a bunch of noise and then the resident's opened the door and all ran out naked. Meanwhile the RA's weren't sure what was going on or how to correctly and properly identify the 7 naked men that were running around doing cartwheels in the hallway.

At a small public school in Texas, an RA woke up to realize that his lounge had been destroyed. All the couches, chairs, and pool table were ripped to shreds. How was the culprit found? He was the only resident that had an authentic samurai sword in his room. Needless to say, the sword had to be confiscated as it clearly violated the policy, which only allowed blades that were two inches in length or shorter.

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# drugs, pedicure

advising an immersion

Nicole Sakraida  
Gonzaga University

I sat on the hard tile floor and looked up at Robert. His bright red feet were covered with sores from walking in damp socks and shoes. I soaked, rubbed and massaged his feet (yes, with gloves!) and talked to him about his life. A 70-year old war veteran, Robert was only one of the homeless men I came to know during my experience advising an alternative spring break program at Gonzaga University (GU). I listened to his story of war, death, alcoholism, and homelessness, and I felt helpless. I could not change his life; I could only sit, listen, and give this man a pedicure.

**The Mission** - I, along with my co-advisor Katie Herzog, advised a live-in experience for eight college students in a predominately male homeless community. Our student group, comprised of six women and two men, met prior to departure at weekly mission meetings and on two social occasions for dinner. The students ranged from traditional freshmen to seniors with varied life experiences. Approximately half of the students are leaders on campus, and two had significant experience working with the homeless population or participating in other immersions prior to our service trip.

Together, we spent a week in Portland, Oregon and worked at two different organizations for the homeless population. The goal of this immersion was to examine students' roles in regard to community, social justice, spirituality, and simplicity. As a result, I learned about student needs, my role as an advisor, and my role as a professional in Student Affairs.

**Ask Questions and Define your Role** - Advisors must feel ready and be prepared to guide students. Only after advising this

immersion did I realize how vital it is to ask questions even if goes against of the program culture. Questions such as "What is my role as an advisor?," "What is expected of me?," "What is my liability for students?," and "What do I need to know about this site to be a successful advisor?" are all questions I wished I had pursued more in depth before the trip began (ACPA, 2005). It is also imperative that clear roles for students and advisors are outlined and set in place for crisis management and response. In a debrief session with advisors and student coordinators, we discussed the importance for advisors to guide, support and keep students safe during these types of experiences. I reminded the group, "Advisors are not there to be students, but rather to help students through this experience in whatever capacity they need." Supporting students was more challenging because the roles were not clearly established prior to departure.

**Orient and Prepare** - Katie and I, along with the students, only received the basic knowledge of our site including a packing list, the names of organizations where we would sleep, eat and work, and pillar talks on the mission of the immersion. I felt the lack of orientation frustrating but I was cautioned by others to be flexible: schedules, maps (even as the driver), and lack of preparation was part of the "experience" and challenge. However, after blindly leading a group of students to this specific site, I became acutely aware of how misguided I was to follow this advice. Institutions are responsible for preparing advisors to foresee potential concerns including "safety precautions, gender

dynamics, and the emotion when working with the homeless. Without detailed knowledge of the site, foreseeing concerns is impossible.

It is the responsibility to prepare students for various situations by providing practical site-specific information, educating students about coping techniques, and encouraging them to explore differences with the community (Thebodo, et al., 2005). "to prepare specific groups to reside in specific target areas for specific purposes" are crucial to the success of the immersion (Bhawuk, 1990, p. 3). Preparing students about mental illness and the role of advisors in play in poverty, violence, and homelessness would have increased student growth. Some students are not comprehending the complexity of the immersion before and during the program. Others may have different behavioral expectations, cultural differences, and knowledge of the community encounters prior to departure.

**Evaluate Student Experiences** - It is the responsibility for advisors to ensure that organization members to be prepared, are mentally and socially ready for the experience. Referring to the three-fold developmental model, "support and challenge [from] the internal process of maturation or beneficial environment" (Evans et al., 2005).

Students' pasts and experiences vary; some students do not have the maturity to



# es, and target cultures

## on experience

ional toll on students  
homeless” (Herzog).  
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**Readiness** - There is a  
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and developmental  
ents simply may not  
cope with certain

experiences such as cross-culture  
immersions. On various occasions Katie and  
I privately spoke with a particular student  
who was not ready to work with the  
homeless or prepared for such an in-depth  
immersion. She was unable to fully  
understand the impact she made on the  
culture and her peers, the risk she put herself  
and others in, and the intricacies of the  
homeless community.

**Social Responsibility, Gender and  
Sexuality** - It is the duty of advisors, as well  
as the institution’s responsibility, to ensure  
that we contribute to rather than harm the  
community we serve. I have yet to resolve  
whether sending a group of students to  
build relationships in co-dependent  
communities for one intense week is socially  
responsible. Katie and I also worried about  
the potentially harmful effect of placing so  
many young women, both naively and  
intentionally flirtatious, in an all-male  
environment. As difficult this notion was  
for us to accept, we were forced to  
distinguish between the behavior of men  
and women. The females were not only a  
distraction to the homeless workers but  
contributed to the serious safety concern  
on the streets. We watched a student use  
her sexuality to gain attention from the men  
at the homeless shelter. “Science tells us  
that sexual attractiveness plays a significant  
role in the emotional and social lives of  
young women” (Stepp, 2007, p.5).

Choice of attire, interactions, and  
flirtations were signs of some students’ low  
self-esteem, insecurity, self-awareness, and  
lack of understanding of the community we  
served. In discussion, a male student subtly  
pointed out, “Do you see any of the men

giving me [...] high fives or asking for my  
phone number?” Some female participants  
verbalized difficulty in creating and  
maintaining appropriate boundaries with  
men in our nightly debrief sessions. One  
student wished she had been given a “tool  
box” of skills in order to remain safe, retreat  
from uncomfortable situations, and help her  
say “no” without being impolite. Katie  
noticed the “tension that emerged from the  
gray area between treating the homeless with  
compassion and yet maintaining one’s  
personal safety” (Herzog, 2008). We had to  
be aware of how gender differences  
impacted our experience and acknowledge  
them.

**Challenge Students** – Student affairs  
professionals must challenge students to  
develop programs, lead peers, and  
participate in alternative and extra-curricular  
programs. Experiences such as alternative  
spring breaks intentionally put students  
outside their comfort zones and encourage  
them to re-examine their own paradigms. Our  
first three days in Portland were interesting,  
educational and seemed safe to us, the  
outsiders. The clients and residents at the  
food kitchen and shelter ate their meals  
without apparent conflict. We, students and  
advisors alike, began to learn the stories of  
the people we worked with and served, and  
partook in some very honest conversations.  
These discussions educated us on our  
misperceptions of homelessness and the  
intricacies of the culture.

I later learned the naïve security we felt  
at the beginning of the immersion was  
misguided. It took three 13-hour workdays

*continued on page 14*



All photos on pages 12-14 are courtesy of Nicole Sakraida. The cover photo of this issue of the Soundings is also courtesy of Nicole Sakraida.



*drugs, pedicures, and target cultures continued from page 13*

and nine meals shared with the homeless to finally see the community as “insiders” and the once safe environment seemed to drastically change. We witnessed the harsh reality of what it was like to live on the streets and students’ initial reaction of awe and amazement wore off. We noticed more black eyes as the days passed. Students began to distinguish who was drugged, intoxicated, beaten down, sexually abused, and who suffered from a mental illness. The group, many for their first time, observed drug deals and recognized the people we served light up, smoke crack, and use other illegal substances only feet away from them.

At times, members of our group were yelled at and their actions and perceptions confronted. I was even grabbed by a member of the community out of desperation. I was pleased to witness students’ understandings of the homeless community deepen and to watch their initial reactions of excitement and enthusiasm grow to awareness and empathy. Yet I feared that students risked regressing to “less adaptive modes of behavior”, would choose to ignore the overall reality of poverty and

homelessness, and would desist to contribute to social justice issues and future immersion experiences (Evans et al, 1998, p. 26). There is a fine line between helping students grow and develop through challenge and simply pushing students too far and too fast by placing students in what is a perceived dangerous setting.

**Our Professional Challenge** - The opportunity to collaborate with other departments across campus and to advise student clubs, organizations, and service trips is a great benefit of working in Residence Life and Housing. Katie and I were able to help students explore their own frustrations, challenges, hopes, and joys of the experience in nightly reflections. I saw a transformation in students as they progressed through the week and I was proud to witness students’ insight and ability to treat this target population with compassion. I now understand more about student behavior and reaction, real student issues, and I have identified problem areas that I am able to focus on back at GU. I have also begun to collaborate with other departments to explore student readiness and boundary setting,

and participate in conversations of social justice and community service. Shannon Ellis writes, “Your [student affairs professionals] ability to understand the demographics, attitudes, trends, and pending changes, and to make predictions for the campus makes you an invaluable asset to the institution” (2002, p. 144).

Advising this experience profoundly moved me on a personal level. I admit that as I reflected on the liability and responsibility I had in this immersion, I struggled to re-enter the GU community. I faltered with some ethical and student developmental concerns of the overall experience, while I simultaneously attempted to gain a new understanding of how my own paradigms were altered. Despite some of these frustrations, guiding this group through this experience renewed my excitement to work with college students and to help them grow. So, I ask myself, “Was it all worth it?” Three weeks ago my answer differed, but now my response is “Absolutely!”

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# nwacuho annual business meeting minutes - february 26, 2008

Open Meeting at 12:45pm

## I. Officer Report Highlights:

- Created a new conference management system for the executive committee to plan the regional conferences with assistance from a local host institution; this also creates a new budget model
- Created on line registration for affiliation and conference registration
- Two new items on the budget: Scholarships and General Liability Insurance
- Budget increases for executive board due to extra day meeting; carry over from previous year's conference
- The executive committee will review our fiscal year dates and potentially create proposal for the membership to vote on at next year's annual conference
- New Corporate Membership Program for our corporate partners/vendors—we had 7 members in the first year and continue assessing services for these partners
- New logo that was voted on by the membership will be incorporated onto the website
- 185 members attending the conference
- Solicited members to assist with the website (contact Josh Gana)
- The Membership Directory will move from a paper copy strictly to a PDF version on the NWACUHO Website
- Recognition of Shane McKee, Brian Stroupe, and Jill Yashinsky for writing newsletter articles for the SOUNDINGS
- Alaska will have a state drive-in conference during the month of August
- Next Year's conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska
- Recognized Western Oregon University for serving as host institution
- Welcome Ray Gasser as the AIMHO Visit and discussed our Presidential exchange with the AIMHO region

\*\*conference theme deals with issues of sustainability; the group indicated by a 27-0-1 straw poll vote in favor of pursuing carbon offsetting for our future meetings

## II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- *New Professional* — Recognition of HOLSAG for sponsoring the New Professional Dinner
- *Student Leadership* — Advisor training session hosted in Oregon for Advisor Resource Training

## III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Approval of the 2007 NWACUHO Business Meeting Minutes
- Acclimation called by Oregon State University; no dissent

## IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- *Budget Questions for 2008 budget*
  - Cash Balance Question—why so high?
  - Conference Budget not cleared yet; we do have \$50,000 in a fund to help scholarships; Recommendation to look at scholarships for new professionals and students to be able to attend the conference
- Regional Drive In—In the May meeting, we will be making adjustments to funding sources (it was lowered as a ballpark figure); not being completely utilized in the past
  - *MOTION: Move to approve the 2008 budget by University of Oregon*
  - *SECOND: University of Washington*
  - *ACCLIMATION: Oregon State University, no dissent*
  - *MOTION PASSES*
- *By Laws*

- *Amend Article III, Section 6 by adding the words, "sexual orientation" to read: "Membership in the Association and its committees is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, gender or gender expression, age, religion, national origin, physical, and/or mental abilities."*
- *MOTION: Move to approve Western Oregon University*
- *SECOND: Central Washington University*
- *MOTION PASSES: 30-0-0*

## PACURH:

- Recognition of outstanding regional student leadership for this year's student group:
  - Director—Marley Blonskey (University of Washington)
  - ADAF—Emily Duyck (Gonzaga University)
  - ADNRRH—Brandon Knox (University of Washington)
  - Technology Coordinator—Adam Bernot (Western Oregon University)
  - Presidential Resource Coordinator—Daniel Calise (Southern Oregon Univ.)
  - Northern Regional Communications Coordinator—Anne Falle (Oregon State Univ.)
  - Regional Advisor: Richard DeShields (Central Washington University)
- 2008 No-Frills Host Institution: Southern Oregon University
- Recognition of newly elected board also has many representatives from NWACUHO:
  - Director—Melissa Williams (Oregon State University)
  - ADAF—Adam Bernot (Western Oregon University)
  - ADNRRH—Brad Forkner (Pacific University)
  - Presidential Resource Coordinator—Michael Mann (Oregon State University)
  - Northern Regional Communications Coordinator—Jennifer Gill (Univ. of British Columbia)
  - Regional Advisor—Richard DeShields (Central Washington University)
- 2008 PACURH Regional Conference Host: Oregon State University
- 2009 No Frills Host Institution: University of Washington

## RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICERS

- Dave Ruble, Washington State Representative
- timi tullis, Past-President
- Evan Hilchey, British Columbia Provincial Representative (reappointed)
- Richard DeShields, Secretary (will be the new President-Elect)

## VII. RECOGNITION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Jill Yashinsky, Washington State Representative
- Kyle Cance, Secretary

## VIII. REMINDERS:

- Next Year's Conference in Alaska
- Washington will host the following year; speak with executive committee or Western Oregon University if interested in knowing responsibilities of host institution and the conference management system that is used by the Executive Committee

## IX. ADJOURNMENT:

- *Motion: Move to adjourn by Central Washington University*
- *Second: Western Oregon University*
- *Acclimation: University of Washington; no dissent*
- *MOTION PASSES*

# a satirical look at raising children on campus

Emily K. Boling  
Newsletter Editor

I have lived in a residence hall for almost 12 years. I have worked in various capacities in residential education for 11 of these years. When the time came for my husband and I to start a family, we did not even think of moving out of the hall, as it seemed so natural to raise kids in a residential setting. We are currently raising two children, James and Sam, while living on campus. This story originally appeared on May 1, 2008, on my family website: <http://thebolingsblog.blogspot.com>.

## Raising Kids in A Residence Hall

James is now officially 3-years-old. We had his official family party last night, and he was really excited to open all of his pink presents at his pink-themed party. All of the presents that we got him revolved around some type of sport — baseball, golf, basketball, etc. Sam was really excited about all of these gifts because he LOVES sports. Once the baseball bat was opened (or helmet as James calls it) Sam grabbed it and a ball and went crazy. Later on in the evening, after bath time, James set up his new golf bag and was driving balls down the hallway into our bedroom. He would shout out, “I’m gonna whack it!” and hit the ball as hard as he could into our bedroom (which was “the hole”). After he would hit the ball I would say “Good job Tiger.” If I forgot the Tiger, he would correct me because he was practicing his Tiger Woods moves. (James is nowhere near the golfer that Tiger Woods is, but with a little practice I think his new Fischer-Price Golf set will put him on the road to success.)

Tonight, we had a pink cupcake party for all of James’ residence hall friends. Students and staff came over to have cupcakes and

hang out with us. Two of the professional staff members that I work with (Willie and Scott) were super excited about the t-ball set and golf clubs and encouraged the whacking of balls down the hallway. (I think they may have even put a few minor holes in the walls that were not there before. And yes, these are college administrators we are talking about.)

My friend Willie was very impressed with James and Sam’s toy collection. He played with the t-ball set, the golf clubs, the basketball hoop, the Hot Wheels collection, the Leap Frog Laptop, and the Fischer-Price medical bag. At one point, he taught Sam the proper way to shoot up heroin with the medical bag. Apparently you just need the stethoscope, the shot, and the thingy that looks into your ears.

Willie gave Sam a very extensive lesson in heating up “the juice” and injecting it into just the right spot. He even recommended that Sam may want to use his foot as the injection site as not to get any pesky questions from his day-care providers. Sam listened to his lecture and then put the thermometer part of the kit into his mouth and shook his head in a no motion.

While he may now know the proper way to shoot up heroin (according to Willie), he at least knows to Say No to Drugs. After the whole heroin lesson, Willie got distracted by the Hot Wheels and smashed a bunch of cars together with James.

I think Willie will be coming over to our house more often to play with the kids and to teach them valuable lessons about living life on “the street.”

## congrats!

Congratulations to the 2008 NWACUHO Case Study Competition winners! Heather Holton, Central Oregon Community College; Jenni Betschart, University of Alaska Fairbanks; and Kelly Ammendolia, University of Puget Sound. Photo courtesy of timi tullis.



# state and provincial updates

# ALASKA

Michael Votava  
University of Alaska Anchorage

## Alaska Pacific University

Spring has gone by quickly here at Alaska Pacific University! We completed our Resident Assistant & Peer Advocate staff selection process in March, and we will have a mixture of both new & returning staff members for the 2008-09 school year. We have also recently completed our Room Selection & Sign-up for the coming school year, and 55% of our current campus residents have elected to return to live on-campus for the coming year.

APU will be undergoing a major renovation project this summer of five duplex houses in the University Village housing area. The renovation plans include the addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> full bathroom to each level of the house, as well as 1- 2 additional bedrooms per floor. The renovation will allow for the addition of 20 additional bed spaces for older and returning students for the fall.

Earlier this spring, Director of Housing, Meg Gregory, announced her planned departure from APU and Alaska in the summer due to relocation with her family south to Texas. At that time, APU conducted a search for a new Director, and we are happy to announce that our current Assistant Director, Ben Hahn, was selected to take over as the new Director of Campus Life starting in June. Ben has had a very successful first-year at APU and was honored at our spring Honors Assembly as "Advisor of the Year" by ASAPU. With Ben's promotion, we are also now in the final stages of our search for a new Assistant Director for Residence Programs & Activities.

## University of Alaska Anchorage

UAA is currently searching for a Residence Coordinator to replace Jeremy Davis who is moving to start a new job in sunny California. We will miss Jeremy and his outstanding contributions

to the department, particularly with regards to sustainability and his work with our Aviation living-learning community.

UAA is preparing for summer conference season. University Housing is used to house over 4000 guests during the summer. This summer, two apartment buildings will be off-line while new fire sprinkler systems are installed.

In July, the new residential field built last summer should be settled, filled with grass, and ready for use. University Housing and Residence Life plan to dedicate the field this fall during UAA's annual Welcome Week.

## University of Alaska Southeast

UAS has seen a rise in summer student housing, up 40%. UAS is up 10% in new student applications from where we were last year. We anticipate the opening of 2 Residence Coordinator live-in positions for fall— one has Summer Conference Services as an ancillary and the other has Student Wellness and Peer Education. We have reapplied for the State Behavioral Health Grant to fund the residential-based wellness program to keep the coordinator and three Peer Advocates in housing.

Juneau is in a state of emergency with an energy crisis; an avalanche took out major power lines from our hydro power plant. The entire community must be powered by diesel generators for the next 2-3 months, and the cost to consumers is expected to raise to 500%. UAS foresees this to cost an additional \$400,000 to the university in the next 3 months. The entire community of Juneau is working to conserve energy and has already reduced usage by 20% in the last week. Hopefully housing will not have to make up this cost by raising rental rates for the 2009 fiscal year.

# state and provincial updates

# ALBERTA

Tim Siemens  
Red Deer College

## Mount Royal College

This summer, the final phase of our East Renovation project will begin. Students have been enjoying the new spaces and furniture - we are looking forward to the completion. In regards to the University Transition at MRC, we are happy to announce that Mount Royal will be offering 5 new degrees this year. Those degrees include, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Communications, Bachelor of Arts - Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Business Administration. Though this is a busy time for our campus, the new transition is uplifting for both staff and students. This May we would like to welcome Brandon Smith from Trent University, he will be starting his career as our newest Residence Life Coordinator; we are thrilled to have him as a part of the team.

As 2007-2008 school year draws to a close we would like to thank the entire Residence Services Staff who each helped make this year a huge success! Thank You!

## Red Deer College

On March 6<sup>th</sup> Red Deer College students got a taste of what it would be like if an armed intruder stormed the campus. The college was temporarily locked down as part of a drill so that college security, the RCMP and the city could rehearse responding to a firearms threat at our institution. At about 3:30 p.m., an announcement came over the school's loud speakers and VOIP phone system telling everyone inside to lock themselves in the nearest room, dim the lights and move away from the door. It took about seven minutes for the college to be completely locked down. About a dozen  
*continued on page 18*



members of the RCMP Emergency Response Team were called in, swept the buildings and “arrested” three “suspects” hiding in the school. Red Deer Transit also shuttled mock evacuees to a nearby recreational facility where, if this were a true emergency, a command post would be set up giving the public a place to go for information.

Red Deer College was excited to celebrate “Green Month” this past April. The activities allowed for everyone to feel a bit like spring was in the air, and the added bonus was that the environmentally-focused events helped to raise staff and student awareness about being more environmentally friendly in their day-to-day activities. An Alternative Transportation Challenge was to encourage staff and students to find creative ways of getting to the College instead of driving themselves. This friendly competition between all College departments meant that anyone who carpooled, walked, road a bike, or took transit could enter into a draw for some great prizes. While most of the events were held during the first two weeks of April to coincide with students finishing winter semester classes, the idea for “Green Month” came from discussions of wanting to recognize World Earth Day (celebrated April 22). Red Deer College was pleased to work with the City of Red Deer to help promote the Green Deer Campaign from April 21 to May 4. This Campaign encouraged individuals, businesses, organizations, and associations to assist in garbage clean up of Red Deer following the winter months. The College was also working with Rethink Red Deer, an informal group of central Alberta citizens who have organized to help influence the future of our community, to promote an Open House mid-April that showcases a ‘green’ home near the city.

Working in the spirit of “Green Month” the Students Association and Residence teamed up to participate in Project Porchlight. Executives of the Students Association went door to door within the Residences and handed out an energy efficient CFL (compact fluorescent light bulb) to replace an existing light bulb in their unit. These light bulbs save 75-80% of energy of existing light bulbs. For more information on Project Porchlight please visit <http://www.projectporchlight.com/>.

### RLPA

The Residence Life Professional Association (RLPA) recently reconvened (March 13&14) at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta for its Spring Annual General Meeting. The attendees engaged in 2 professional development seminars. Randy Maus from the University of Calgary talked about the recent Mumps outbreak in Alberta and how the University of Calgary handled the situation at their institution. The second seminar was presented by Dr. Paula Marentette of the Augustana Campus and focused on Augustana’s work regarding annual themes. During the meeting portion of the 2 day gathering important items to note were: elections for 3 positions on the executive committee took place. Connie Chaplin of the University of Lethbridge was elected as the

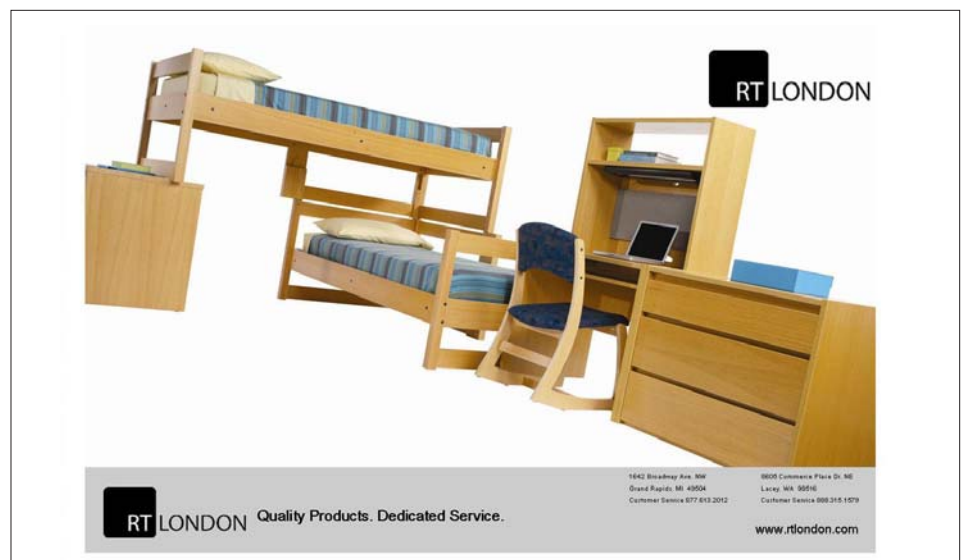
new RLPA Secretary. Glenice Grover of Red Deer College was re-elected as the RLPA Treasurer, and Dima Utgoff of the University of Alberta was elected as the RLPA President Elect. Congratulations Connie, Glenice and Dima. 2 awards were also presented at this years meeting. The Josie Lamothe Memorial Award for Outstanding Service went to Dima Utgoff of the University of Alberta, and the New Professional award went to Tim Siemens of Red Deer College. This year’s Spring AGM was a great success, and many thanks go out to the executive committee and to Janet, Rob and Mark for hosting. Future RLPA meeting are as follows: Fall Business Meeting at the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, Sask.) in November of 2008; Spring AGM in Calgary, Alberta at SAIT Polytechnic in March 2009.

### SAIT

SAIT has seen many changes over the past academic year and as we continue to look forward; have many changes yet to come. One of the biggest and most desired projects has been the brand new Residence. “The Tower” was set for completion in August of 2007, however, due to delays and set backs; we have not been able to move students into the much needed apartments. What has been a trying year for both staff and students is now looking up as we are all seeing the light at the end of the tunnel!

The Residence Management and Facilities Team have recently begun the move of offices as we will be splitting ourselves between the two buildings. Moving our residents out and moving ourselves into a new building will prove to be a challenge but the end result is too beneficial to start panicking now! May 5th will be the official move-in date for new students, they as much as we are looking forward to the new space and of course: “Being the first to sleep in a new bed”. The Tower will also bring some much needed conference space for the school and lounging space for our students. This has been quite the journey and one we will be happy to see come to a close. Only to open another chapter as we all settle in!

Along with the construction of the new building SAIT Residence has seen a lot of staffing changes and promotions and



all for the good! With the new Residence right around the corner the need for a second Assistant General Manager was becoming imminent. Carmen Hintz, who holds the first AGM position, continues to run the Residence Life portion. Chelsea Howard who was recently the Leasing and Conference Manager has recently accepted the position for AGM and will continue with Leasing and Conferencing. We recently hired Erika Zult to assist Chelsea and Stephanie Woods who will be the new Resident Director, a brand new and much needed position in the Residence as our numbers jump from 456 to 1176!!

Residence Life has really been pushed to be the center of attention this past year. The focus on programming to deal with Residents' needs and wants has been a huge focus and has seen tremendous results. We have implemented a game rental system this year and are expanding that every day. Two consoles, games, DDR, Guitar Hero and of course Rockband are hard to keep away from the residents and have been a huge success. Recently the Residence Life Team has been working out a recycling program and including the school with it as well. SAIT's Student Association is very interested and Carmen (AGM) has been in many talks with them regarding what can be done and how to do it in the Residence and around Campus. It has received a lot of buzz with the Campus Newspapers which is a great tool to get something started!

With all of the change we have faced and all of the changes upcoming, we are looking forward to another fantastic year full of the laughter and smiles that we've seen this year. We can definitely say that it takes more than a building not opening for an entire year, and then the building opening at the same time our students are moving out to take this Canadian Campus Communities team down!

#### **University of Alberta**

It's been an active year for Residence Services at the University of Alberta – though that's probably true of all residence operations nowadays. We restructured our Residence Life system to include one individual to oversee all future-oriented and day-to-day operations within Residence Life and introduced two new positions, solely with a future-oriented focus. This change has enabled us to plan for the future and effectively address day-to-day Residence Life operations.

Future planning has definitely been a focus this year. We have begun development on a "Residence Services Accommodation and Program Study" to guide our planning as we work to support the University of Alberta's "Dare to Deliver" Academic Plan. We are also in the process of reviewing the Residence Community Standards and discipline processes; developing enhanced training and support for both paraprofessional and professional staff; and enhancing partnerships with Faculties, namely through cohort initiatives.

We have been working with the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences to establish a cohort floor for September 2008 in Kelsey or Henday Hall, and will be enhancing the science cohort floor in Mackenzie Hall with the Faculty of Science. Programs in both cohorts will be designed to enhance student engagement through floor-specific academic sessions, interaction with faculty members, and residence office hours for Faculty advisors.

In terms of housing, our situation reflects the current market in Edmonton. Our applications are up substantially over last year and we are full for September 2008.

Overall, though the year had its speed bumps (or "learning moments" as we like to call them in Residence Life), it was a great academic year and we are looking forward to the next.

#### **University of Alberta, Augustana Campus**

Greetings from the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta! Things are all a-buzz on our campus as we gear up for hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Alberta Services for Student Conference, May 12-15. The keynote speakers for our conference are Dr. Will Keim and Dr. Peggy Patterson, and in light of it being the 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference we are anticipating big numbers of people and a very successful conference! For more information please go to: [http://www.augustana.ca/student\\_life/studentservices/assc2008/](http://www.augustana.ca/student_life/studentservices/assc2008/)

We are also excited to introduce a new student leadership position for residence life on our campus. We have created a community service-learning coordinator position to create and introduce community service-learning opportunities for our residence students.

The rest of the summer will be spent amidst construction of a new library and planning for a new performing arts centre, as well as gearing up for the 2008-2009 school year.

#### **University of Calgary**

At the University of Calgary, change is our motto. Keeping with that motto, our department has once again restructured. Our colleagues in the Office of the Student Experience have recently transferred to a new portfolio for the university focused on academic support and student success. The new area in which they report will be making exciting changes to advising on campus, university orientation, leadership programs, and focus on developing a new learning resource centre that will enhance learning support for students. As the OSE shifts over, we've also had three other areas of campus join our department. The first is the Campus Card operation, and we're already seeing benefits of this in how we refund meal plans. The second area is the food contract for the campus. We are now the campus coordinator of the Chartwells' contract.

Finally, the conference and special events areas on campus have been consolidated in our portfolio. This will allow the university to provide a more seamless and one-stop shopping service when it comes to conferences and special events. In addition, our conference team has also gained responsibility for campus bookings. All in all, we have increased our department by ten team members and look forward to seeing how these most recent changes can help us continue to innovate our service to students. In conjunction with our organizational changes, we also continue with the physical changes to our program. We are preparing to pour the fifth floor of our new hotel and residence, and we have added an additional floor to the design, which has enabled us to increase the student housing in the building to 125. It's still one year out from completion, but we look forward to opening in the fall of 2009. Additionally, we have gained the Olympic Volunteer Centre, which is a key conference facility on campus. Finally, we've recently received approval from the Board of Governors to develop plans for constructing a new 600 bed residence hall.

# state and provincial updates

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

Evan Hilchey  
University of British Columbia

This past academic year has been a busy one in the province of British Columbia (BC). The following is an overview of all the wonderful and exciting things that institutions have been up to this past year.

## Accomplishments of the year/what are you most proud of:

### **Malaspina University-College**

At Malaspina University-College, the department has collaborated with Nursing faculty by supervising a third year student in Summer 2007 (created a Healthy Living Resource Guide for residents) and a group of nine first year students from Jan-Apr 2008 (created a Nutrition guide for common area kitchens, including focus on food safety); this relationship is expected to continue each year.

### **Simon Fraser University**

At Simon Fraser University, there have been a number of significant accomplishments. For the first time since doubling their capacity four years ago, the residences are full. Looking at the application numbers for next fall, it appears that this will once again be the case. In Residence Life, they introduced portfolios as a professional development tool for student staff through their ongoing training. With several well developed portfolios being presented during returning staff interviews, as well as staff heading off to life after university sharing their portfolios, they are pleased with the outcomes of this new model for ongoing training.

They also introduced a full Residence Orientation program for the spring and summer semesters for the first time to complement those offered on campus; although much smaller than the fall program, these sessions were invaluable to the largely international population entering during these semesters. Finally, preparations are underway to offer the first Living Learning Communities in the fall. There will be three academic communities as well as an Environmental Sustainability section, reaching over 80 students.

### **University of British Columbia-Vancouver**

At the University of British Columbia-Vancouver, the second tower (part of phase II) of Marine Drive Residence opened in time for move-in and the renovation plans for Totem Park Commonsblock was completed in term two.

On the student development side of things, the student staff professional development model, Building Blocks, was re-modeled to provide topical and timely training to Residence Life Staff while increasing autonomy for Residence Advisors. The Programming Resource Centre (PRC) Intern, Emily Webb, completed an analysis of this model to determine its effectiveness in achieving the goals and objectives identified, and determined that by giving Residence

Advisors the freedom to choose their own professional development plan their feels of autonomy in the position have grown, and attendance at workshops put on by campus partners has grown. We are pleased with these results and look to addressing the identified areas of growth to further improve our model.

Also this past year, we fine-tuned our Community Building Model to incorporate both the UBC mission and key student development concepts. It is founded on the belief that individual growth is best fostered within the context of relationships – both peer and mentor, and that relationships are best fostered within a community setting. This summer, one of our Summer Project Interns will complete and analyses of this model to determine if the goals and objectives are being met; we look forward to reviewing these results.

### **University College of the Fraser Valley**

At the University College of the Fraser Valley, Baker House opened at the end of August 2007. Despite many obstacles, they were able to run a residence. They are most proud of how they handled the issues that came up and the relationships we built with ever single students. The “new-ness” will continue for a while. They also developed and delivered a residence 101 credit bearing course.

### **University of Victoria**

At the University of Victoria, they are in the middle of a quite major change to their staffing. They have redesigned their student position (what most would typically call an RA) and split it into 2 separate roles. One is the “Community Leader” which is the peer helper, programmer and presence in the residence halls. The other is a “Community Monitor” who does not necessarily live on campus and who works primarily with our community standards to ensure safety and security. They have found over the years that the skills set required for the RA job is so broad and that not all students who want to be leaders aspire to do all parts of the job. Their hope is that this will enable the Community Leaders to focus on building community and connecting with students, while creating a relatively efficient group who can work with our community standards.

Due to the re-structuring, they also have a new full time continuing position – Coordinator, Residence Community Standards. This position will work with many of our higher level judicial concerns and with our Community Monitors.

Finally in 2008 they plan to start a first “First Year Class” in residence. The curriculum will include learning skills, life skills and opportunity to connect in small groups.

Check out the Fall '08 Soundings for an exciting new advice column called “Ask Shevan.” New professionals can email their questions to [shevan@nw-acuho.org](mailto:shevan@nw-acuho.org) and Shevan will answer them in the Fall '08 issue.



# state and provincial updates

# OREGON

Shelly Clark  
Oregon State University

## University of Oregon

Greetings from the great state of Oregon! Spring has officially sprung in Eugene, Oregon. We had a few gorgeous days in early April and are looking forward to those May flowers that all these April showers promise. The end of the academic year always brings a new level of excitement and activity to the UO campus. This year is no exception. It's an exciting time filled with professional search committees and student elections. A time filled with track meets and RA selection. I am excited to share some of the new things happening in the land of green and yellow.

Track Town USA is getting ready to host the Olympic Track and Field Trials in June. This summer, for the fourth time, the Olympic Trials will take place just across the street from most of UO's residence halls at the University's Hayward Field. Athletes from across the country will compete in 21 different events for the chance to represent the U.S. at the 2008 Summer Olympics, which will take place in Beijing next August.

Many of our professional searches are just getting started, but one search process at the UO recently came to a close. It is with great pleasure that I announce the hiring of Kevin Hatfield as the Assistant Director of Academic Initiatives for Residence Life. Kevin has worked for the department for a few years, but the recently completed search has given him a title change.

The Housing Department for the University of Oregon has completed a search for a new night time Facilities Manager naming Nicholas Stanley as the new manager. The position was designed to give more management over site to the workers that traditionally work independently. Nicholas will be working a shift from 12:30am to 9:15am and covers the weekend in an effort to build up coverage during this activity-filled time. Nicholas brings his experience from multiple years of service as a custodial manager at a Vancouver WA hospital. Nicholas joined Bonnie Damewood and David Rodgers to fill out the custodial management team beginning in late March.

And finally spring also saw the start of another transition within University Housing at the University of Oregon. After years of dedicated service as Director of University Housing, Assistant Vice President Mike Eyster will be leaving his position as Director of University Housing to step into a two-year appointment to lead the University Health Center. We are truthfully thankful for all of Mike Eyster's wonderful work with University Housing and he will be missed. Allen Gidley will remain in his interim role while we complete a search for a new director.

## Oregon State University

Great things are happening at Oregon State University! Some of the highlights are that Megan Full, formerly Operations Assistant with University Housing and Dining Services, is transitioning into a new role as Dining Marketing Project Manager.

The Assignments & Room Management office is reporting broad success of a new application and assignments process which

allows incoming new students to select their own specific room starting in March. Returning student applications for 2008 – 2009 are up over 10% as a result of a departmental initiative to increase occupancy.

OSU's Dining Operations has successfully hosted two "Journey through Culture and Cuisine." The first event titled "Soul food Café" occurred in February, and was a huge hit. It drew in over 1000 students, staff and faculty and built upon existing efforts to recognize Black History Month. The event was complete with menu, art, and jazz.

At the end of April the Dining Centers followed up with an event entitled "Sabor Latino." (Latin Flavors) Much like the first event, the Dining Centers were packed. In addition to delicious Latin food, there was art, history, and music.

Finally, OSU would like to recognize Cait O'Brien as the first undergraduate student to be named a "Women of Achievement" in the 23 year history of the awards. Aside from her paid employment with University Housing & Dining Services, O'Brien has completed the 40-hour CARDV volunteer training, has been a member of Every1 (sexual assault peer education team), has acted in the Vagina Monologues, has worked as a Team Liberation facilitator, has helped to plan Sexual Assault Awareness Week, served on the Student Conduct Committee, the President's Commission on the Status of Women, the Women's Leadership Initiative, and last year was selected OSU Student Employee of the Year and was among the 25 Most Influential Undergraduates at OSU.

## Western Oregon University

A huge THANK YOU to Western Oregon University for serving as our "local host" for the annual NWACUHO conference. The regional executive board would not have been able to host the conference without their support. THANK YOU WOU!

Additionally, WOU should be recognized as the state leader for submitting and receiving "OTM's" ("OTM's" stand for "Of The Month.") In January, they were the regional winner for three "OTM's" with one successfully moving onto being selected as a National Winner. (Congratulations to Beau Backman for writing the Green Week nominee!) In February WOU also submitted another three regional winning OTM's. One of the submissions was also selected as a National Winner! (Congratulations to Russell Jones, the National Student of the Month!) Finally, WOU also had two successful regional OTM's for the month of March.

## Student Leadership Notes

On a final note, I would also like to highlight the impressive shift in student leadership within Oregon that has occurred recently. In a few short years there were no Regional Board of Director members of PACURH in Oregon. (PACURH is the Pacific Affiliation of College and University Residence Halls.) In February at the annual No Frills Conference at Southern Oregon University many Oregon Student Leaders were recognized and elected into office!

# state and provincial updates

# WASHINGTON

Jill Yashinsky  
Gonzaga University

## Central Washington University

Central played host to three prominent world speakers this year including Salman Rushdie (The Role of the Writer in the 21st Century), Cornel West (“Does Race Still Matter”) and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Wangari Maathai. University Housing & New Student Programs worked as critical co-sponsor with various supporting departments, academic areas and community agencies to these World renowned speakers. The remarkable impact on our community has been evident by the dialog and the discussion with our student body. Each speaker also spent time with a Living Learning Community.

Several graduating seniors have been accepted to Graduate School in Higher Ed. We are pleased to announce the following former RAs that are going into the field of Higher Education. Katie Underwood has accepted an Assistantship in housing at the University of Arizona Anna Boyer has accepted an Assistantship at UNLV. Danielle Howard has accepted an Assistantship at the UNLV. Current RHC staff member Seth Miller has accepted an Assistantship in Housing and Research at the University of Tennessee. Current RHC staff member Brandi Lindburg-Lund accepted a Hall Coordinator position at the University of Puget Sound. We wish them all the best as they embark on their journey in Higher Education. We are proud to call them Wildcats!

The Student Village South Construction project is underway. This project will sure to be a hallmark of CWU. More to come with photos in the next newsletter.

Our President (President McIntyre ) and Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management (Dr. Tullos) joins the Academic Social Norms Campaign ‘Go To Class’. These posters are coveted on campus. This ends our 8 part poster series for the year. Hundreds of stake signs, corrgan stake signs, posters and banners were up all year unveiling several student leaders, administrators and faculty with the tag line of ‘Go To Class’.

## Eastern Washington University

Many changes have occurred at EWU since our last update. Most notably, after approximately 20 years of service, Linda Ishiguro retired from her position as Director of Residential Life. A big thank you goes out to her for long hours and tireless dedication in her career here at Eastern Washington University.

Assistant Director Steve Bertram will now be the primary contact for EWU Residential Life at [sbertram@ewu.edu](mailto:sbertram@ewu.edu). Steve has been at EWU for many years and steps easily into a more visible role. Additionally, we introduce Robert Campbell as the new Associate Dean of Students. Bob brings a breadth of higher education experience and enthusiasm to the position.

A very exciting development is the kickoff of a fresh, new EWU Residential Campus Master Plan. The chosen primary consultant is Brailsford and Dunlavey. For those who have been through this process, you can relate to the intensity of the

preparation, the information-gathering, the interviews, the focus groups, the facilities assessment, and the many hours of discussion and debate. Our excitement wards off our fatigue! If you have any questions or suggestions about our process, please direct those to Toni Taylor, Director of Housing, at [ttaylor@ewu.edu](mailto:ttaylor@ewu.edu).

In May, the new EWU University Recreation Center will open. Located in the heart of the residential corridor, this facility will serve as the primary center for student, faculty and staff recreational activities. The facility includes, a fitness space for 135 strength or cardio stations, 200-meter indoor running track, Indoor climbing wall, EWU Epic Adventures outdoor recreation, Health and Wellness offices and an ice rink—Yes, you read it right the facility includes an NHL size rink! The excitement is building and we can’t wait to take a turn on the ice. The capital project was funded jointly by students and the University, a facility of this magnitude is a great offering for future residents.

We also have been working hard on Living Learning Community program design and development. Credit also goes to several faculty members that “get it” and are not just great idea-generators but also committed to involvement. Three of our five LLCs have integral academic components that reserve classroom seats to the LLC participants. We encourage you to go online to <http://www.ewu.edu/LLC> to see descriptions of our five LLCs.

Speaking of our web site, we continue to improve and better organize the information on our site. The addition of a web designer has helped us improve our online application process and post 360 degree shots of rooms to name a couple of items.

Our annual sign up for returners went well with a noticeable change of choice in our suite-style residence, Brewster Hall. We now offer co-ed suites where individual bedrooms share the suite. While most residents begin the year with suitemates they know, they also have to agree that if a space opens up, they may receive a suitemate of the opposite gender. Many returners have initially signed up with opposite gender suitemates so our market assessment appears to have been accurate. Managing it throughout the year will be the challenge.

As we look toward 2008-2009, there is a fresh new excitement within Housing and Residential Life here at Eastern Washington University. The master plan is a big part of that because it is fully supported by EWU administration which eagerly awaits the outcome in order to take the recommended actions. We are fortunate that there are few constraints to keep us from accomplishing a very impassioned vision. Yet there is much to do in the meantime in order to continue in an attitude of gratitude as we strive to provide exceptional service and programming to our residents.

## Gonzaga University

The year is starting to wind down here at Gonzaga, with move out and graduation taking place the weekend of May 9-11. We’ve had a great year, and are fortunate to return all seven of our

Residence Directors next year, and have the privilege of adding another staff person. We are currently in the process of finishing up hiring one new Residence Director who will oversee a sophomore apartment community, including our international living community, and advise RHA.

We anticipate finishing up the building of the second half of our current building project, the Kennedy Apartments, this summer. The first half finished and opened last fall for 225 residents with the second half, which will house almost 200 additional students, expected to be finished in mid-August. Though we have much appreciated the work by our construction workers, we look forward to a completed building with little to no construction dust or noise! Our NRHH and RHA chapters have both had exceptional years! NRHH really developed and now has a chapter of over twenty strong, active members. OTM submissions have been consistent for the first time in years, and GU has been rewarded with many regional, and even a few national, OTM winners this year. RHA has continued its growth as a prominent and recognized organization on the campus, completing the year with over 30 programs. Gonzaga was also fortunate to win six regional awards at PACURH, including the Resident, NRHH Member, Executive Board Member, RA, Student, and Advisor of the year awards. Both organizations have selected fantastic executive boards for next year, and we continue to anticipate great growth and learning for these organizations. This summer will bring us the exciting opportunity to start implementation of Star Rez as our housing management program. We look forward to getting our hands dirty in this project all summer, and hope to have most of the kinks worked out by fall.

#### **Seattle Pacific**

The Residence Life staff at Seattle Pacific University has finished a busy and exciting Winter Quarter, and we're off to a great start this Spring. Last quarter, we hired next year's class of 47 Peer Advisors, six of whom are returning for their second year. We also initiated a professional staff search during the winter to fill three open positions for next fall. To date, we've hired one of the three positions, and we look forward to welcoming Jenn Reill back to SPU. Jenn graduated from SPU in 2005 after serving as a Peer Advisor in our Residence Life program, and was also active in the SPU student government. Since graduating, she's been working in Residence Life at Geneva College and also completing her Masters of Higher Education. She is enthusiastic about her return to SPU, and so are we!

Programmatically, members of our staff have helped student leaders facilitate educational programs about community service, professional communication skills, political awareness, self defense, human trafficking, and racial reconciliation. The Emerson Hall Residence Life staff hosted the second annual "Fun in the EmerSUN" event. This educational beach party in the hall lobby helped students learn how to "beat the winter blues" and combat Seasonal Affective Disorder while they also enjoyed limbo contests, beach volleyball, blended mocktails, and a foursquare competition. As we head into Spring Quarter, we look forward to helping our student leaders finish their year strong while we also begin training next year's leaders. We're also excited to finish hiring our professional staff, but we'll be sad to say goodbye to Susie Becker

(RLC), JJ Kissinger (RLC), and Sarah McMurray (ARLC) as they move on to new adventures."

#### **Seattle University**

It has been an exciting year for us as Seattle University! We have opened three new communities and enhanced the role of two existing learning communities.

While all these new communities are unique, the common theme is justice and service. The Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. Community is a unique service learning living experience for eight upper class students who engage in simple living and over 600 hours of service around Seattle. Chardin Hall is a newly renovated suite style community guided by the pillars of Community, Leadership, Spirituality, and Service. Residents have played an active role in defining these pillars, and have come together for powerful programs focusing on issues of homelessness, sustainability, and civic engagement. The Hurtado Learning Community is home to a diverse group students who share an active interest in exploring issues of social justice in the surrounding community and in our world. Designed to educate the whole person in the Jesuit tradition, the Hurtado community brings together faculty, staff, and students around an innovative program that integrates Core courses, community-based learning, and residential education.

The Millie Bown Russell Learning Community, has been newly named after a civil rights leader and the first African American graduate of Seattle University, Millie Bown Russell, who embodies Seattle University's mission to create "leaders for a just and humane world." The foundation of this learning community is a leadership model built on relationships among, social, civic, environmental and spiritual leadership. This community also gives second year students the opportunity to serve as mentors to first year students.

The Xavier Global House, with its focus on global education, houses the Department of Modern Languages & Cultures, and the Education Abroad Office within the residence hall. The Xavier Global House hosts six separate learning communities, each ordered towards providing residents with a meaningful language & cultural experience or opportunity to learn about a specific geo-political region. This year's highlight has been the Tijuana Outreach Program which allowed residents to combine a quarter of academic coursework with a week long service-learning immersion trip to Tijuana, Mexico to experience some of the complex social, political, economic, medical, and environmental issues that drive immigration trends along the U.S./Mexico border.

#### **University of Washington**

The University of Washington is currently in the midst of bringing candidates to campus to interview for the Resident Director position for next academic year. We are excited that the majority of our staff will be returning next year, and look forward to the advantages a veteran staff allows, including continuity in our programs, training, and supervision. Our Resident Director group is very interested in pursuing professional development opportunities within the region next year, as well as creating opportunities for meeting and sharing ideas with their colleagues.

We have had several staff presenting at conferences: Darcy Canseco on greening your campus, Christopher Glenn, Sarah Gremer presented on dealing with noise via our Community Living

*continued on page 24*



Workshop and Clive Pursehouse did a presentation with a colleague at another institution on networking and professional connections at NWACUHO in Vancouver, WA. Kelly Schrader presented on recruiting candidates for a job search and Clive Pursehouse did two presentations as a member of the ACPA Presidential Taskforce on Sustainability at the ACPA National convention in Atlanta in early April.

We continue to develop the Learn 2 Live initiative, which encompasses how we approach staff training, programming, conduct, and community development. What started as an initiative to proactively reduce noise issues in the buildings has turned into a comprehensive approach to foster engaged and responsible citizenship as part of the learning experience for students attending UW and living in the residence halls. Overall our efforts have been successful, specifically improving the relationship between our RAs and residents, as well as the development of the Community Living Workshop conduct sanction, but we still have considerable work to do. Managing the unintended consequences and continual assessment of our efforts will be essential as we move forward.

We look forward to closing the residence halls on June 14, 2008.

#### **Washington State University**

Washington State University is beaming with our Sweet Sixteen Pride! WSU has never made it to the sweet sixteen in this tournament format before so we're very happy Cougars! As far as exciting Residence Life news goes, we'll be welcoming RED candidates to campus over the next few weeks and are busy bringing the year to a close.

This summer we'll be hosting our usual camps and conferences while also refurbishing two of our three Stephenson Towers which will be a welcomed remodel come fall opening. Also, we will be breaking ground for the construction of a new residence hall targeted to open in Fall 2009. Since spring break, we've been enjoying our newly renovated Southside Dining Center, which was the last renovation to be completed on our Dining Centers and it's AWESOME!

Leilani Stevens, Program Coordinator for Residence Life, received the President's Excellence Award and has also been promoted to a Principal Assistant for our Associate Vice President for Business and Finance. She was an amazing colleague and will be sorely missed. Congratulations to Jesse Andrews, Holly Gibson and Ben Medeiros on receiving your masters degrees in May. Way to go! For those REDs who are departing, (Holly, Ben, Carlie, and Star) good luck on your job searches and we hope this next adventure will be full of fantastic learning and fun! To all of our REDs and paraprofessionals, it's been a super year. Thank you for giving us your very best and for keeping it "*alive, awake, alert, and enthusiastic!*" Can't wait to see all of our returners next year and welcome our newcomers to our WSU Family!! Go Cougs!

#### **Western Washington University**

Plans are moving forward for the construction of our first new residence hall since Buchanan Towers was opened in 1971. Construction will break ground in summer of 2009, with completion done in time for fall 2010 Opening. The current design will add 100 suite-style beds to our system, with additional student lounge and programming space, as well as a ground floor coffee house intended to serve both the residential and surrounding off-campus community.

We are also in the midst of a very successful first year under a new curricular approach to residence education. Last summer the residence life staff collaborated with faculty and staff to develop a set of learning objectives, and the resident directors have worked hard over the last 9 months developing and implementing sets of lesson plans for their students. Preliminary assessment has been positive amongst students and staff. We still have much to do to refine the process, but based on this early evaluation we are well on our way to successfully adopting a new approach to social justice education within the residence halls.

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