

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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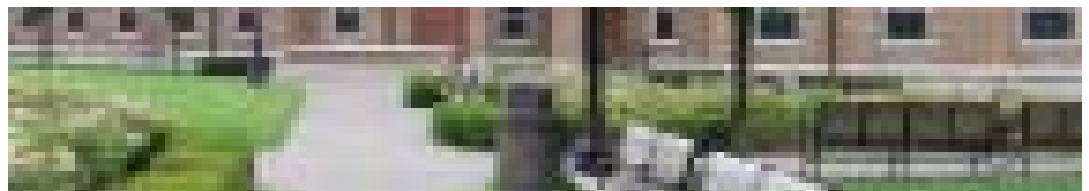
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# a letter from the president

## matt lamsma

**Matt Lamsma, Gonzaga University  
NWACUHO President**

I recently “guest lectured” in a leadership class at Gonzaga University. The class was studying Kouzes and Posner’s *Leadership Challenge* and I was asked to lead them on the topic of “Modeling the Way.” As I reread this section of the book I synthesized their points to a three step process:

- 1) Solidify your personal values
- 2) Ensure that your values lead your actions
- 3) As a leader live by the credo of “do as I do”

While I am obviously simplifying the authors’ research, I found myself reflecting on how this truly applies to where the NWACUHO Organization finds itself as we begin the 08-09 academic year. We spent much of last year *solidifying our values* in the creation of our core purposes (Do you remember them? If not, they are Promoting Best Practices, Providing Professional Development Opportunities, Encourage the Collaborative Sharing of Ideas, and Examine Future Trends.). We are now working to *ensure that these values are leading our actions*. You will see evidence of this throughout this issue of the Soundings, and in how the Executive and Host Committee are planning for the upcoming conference in Anchor-

age. Finally, it is my belief that the Executive Committee is asking everyone in the region to *do as we do*. Please nominate worthy individuals and programs for recognition, attend local drive in conference opportunities, be in communication with your state or provincial representatives with ideas you have, run for one of the Executive positions that will be available in February, and make plans NOW to travel to Anchorage in February for our annual conference.

The Executive Committee has been working hard all summer and is geared up for the push to Anchorage. I am honored to work with such a committed team of professionals. Know that they are truly working to implement the vision and purpose of NWACUHO throughout the region and serve you and the housing profession on a continual basis.

Enjoy this copy of the Soundings. If you have any questions or comments or ideas for NWACUHO, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## another one bites the dust

**Emily K. Boling, University of Alaska Anchorage  
Soundings Editor**

The time has come for me to transition my role as newsletter editor over into the capable hands of Brian Stroup from Oregon State University. Brian has been very active in the NWACUHO region over the past few years by attending conferences and submitting articles for publication in the Soundings.

I hope that you enjoy the conference that is ahead of you. The 2009 An-

chorage Host committee has worked hard to put together a fantastic conference in the beautiful downtown Hilton. If you are extending your stay in Anchorage, there are many places to see and activities to participate in during this last week of February.

It has been an honor for me to serve as your newsletter editor for the past two years. I have enjoyed meeting new profes-

sionals in the region and encouraging new writers to venture into the world of professional publication.

I am honored that I will be able to continue to serve the NWACUHO region in the role of president-elect to the board. I hope to continue to serve students and professionals in the region with an ethic of care and compassion.

# state and provincial updates

## ALASKA

Michael Votava  
University of Alaska Anchorage

### Alaska Pacific University

It's been quite a winter up here in the great white north. Our month long block classes have just arrived back on campus from far-away places such as the Galapagos Islands, Borneo, and Argentina. Some of our students have stayed a little closer to home with our Alaska based courses such as Dog Mushing 101 or Winter Wilderness Expedition. With the return of our students, our home campus has a new abundance of energy and excitement. The Residence Life Department is gearing up for an exciting NWACUHO conference right here in Anchorage. We are very excited for everyone to visit our wonderful city. At the same time we are preparing for our RA selection process, quality of life surveys, and the regular tasks associated with the spring.

Plans are underway to build a new student center here on APU's campus and we are looking forward to being involved in the design process. One of our goals is to have students involved in the building process which will be exciting. On the programming front, APU is hosting the third annual gaming convention and this year we are teaming up with UAA to have competitions between the two student bodies. In March, we are hosting a program entitled "Ladies Night" which is an event focused on women's health and wellness and will in-

clude a clothing drive for the local women's shelter. It's going to be amazing.

### University of Alaska Anchorage

UAA has undergone several significant staffing changes during the last semester. Director of Residence Life Dawn Dooley has been promoted to be UAA's Associate Dean of Students, a new position created to oversee Student Judicial Services, Residence Life, and the Student Union and Commuter Student Services.

Michael Votava served as Associate Director of Residence Life through September 2008 when he transitioned to a new position at UAA as the Assistant Director of Student Judicial Services. UAA is excited to welcome Emily Boling from Oregon State University to be UAA's new Associate Director of Residence Life. Welcome Emily!

UAA has been busy working with Alaska Pacific University, the University of Alaska Southeast, and Tim Tullis to plan a fantastic 2009 conference in Anchorage. We are excited to welcome you to one of the most beautiful places on earth.

This fall, UAA has begun several academic initiatives. Alcohol violations in UAA's Residential Community have fallen to an eight year low. Likewise, other behavioral and mental health issues are significantly below average. On February 8, UAA Resi-

dence Life transferred over to using a new judicial database called JAMS, short for Judicial Affairs Management System.

### University of Alaska Southeast

UAS has initiated a 5-year student apartment remodel rotation that will take units offline each semester to allow Facilities Services in for upkeep, repainting, carpet replacement, etc. The project began this semester and the initial 5-year rotation includes full replacement of all cabinetry and counter tops. The Housing Department is also planning to purchase new living room furniture and draperies to accompany the physical upgrades.

Enrollment at UAS dropped unexpectedly between the Fall and Spring Semesters, which unfortunately affected Student Housing as well. Numbers are down 11% from where we started in the Fall semester. This is also attributed to the permanent loss of 4 beds in off-site small housing unit and a higher number of evictions in the fall resulting from judicial cases involving marijuana use on campus than in years past.

Staffing was increased moderately with the addition of a full-time temporary Administrative Assistant and the extension of the Residence Hall Coordinator's appointment from an 11-month to a 12-month contract beginning next year.

# state and provincial updates

## ALBERTA

Tim Siemens  
Red Deer College

### Lakeland College

Lakeland is currently underway on a 9 million dollar renovation to our 25 year old traditional dorm buildings on the Vermilion campus. To date 3 of the 9 chalet style buildings are completed with the next one start-

ing at the end of April. Students are loving the fact that there are no more 80's carpet on the hallway walls and in fact no carpet left in the building, we have gone with a strip floor vinyl plank system.

Dorm wars on the Vermilion Campus are fast and furious this semester, Omnikin Ball soccer, capture the flag, water polo, sledding and a chili cook-off are getting everyone out for some fun. Ladies and Men's nights have been planned for February and

March. Everyone will get some well deserved pampering before finals.

RA hiring is underway with all hires to be expected in place by the first part of March.

Randy Fines and Judy Eyben will be in attendance at the annual NWACUHO conference in Alaska. Randy attended this conference in 1998 and is very excited to see his favorite Keynote again in 2009, Libby Riddles, and to soak up some of that awesome Alaskan hospitality.

### **University of Calgary**

Hello from Calgary! We're all recovering from the shock of realizing that it's already February. We're very excited to be offering our first two living learning communities for the 2009-2010 academic year. One will be known as Global Village and will be housed in our new hotel and residence building. This will house international and Canadian students with the following learning outcomes in mind:

- increased cultural awareness
- increased global and local awareness
- growth in multicultural leadership

The second community will be based on the university's Scholar's Advantage program, which recognizes outstanding academic achievement by high school students. This first year community will be focused on curricular and co-curricular support and achievement.

The planned upgrades on our traditional style, first year residence towers are moving forward. Plans for new colour schemes, carpeting, furniture and accents are being created and looked over by staff and students. We're really looking forward to these ongoing changes! Best wishes to all!

### **SAIT**

First semester SAIT Residence was faced with many changes. Having just opened a new building in May, preparing for 700 more students than previous years and 10 additional Community Assistants quickly became a challenge to overcome. In September we saw immediate changes in our programming and community atmosphere. Attendance was up by 70% at most programs! With the addition of a new games room, residents have had more opportunity to interact and meet fellow residents freely. In December SAIT said goodbye to Carmen Hintz, formally the AGM of Residence Life. Carmen decided it was time to head back to the books, you can find her at Medicine Hat College! Dave Loney has since joined our team as a Residence Life Coordinator. Dave is a welcome addition to our Res Life team, leaving Mount Royal College as a CA.

Looking ahead, SAIT will be hosting World Skills 2009 in late August and early September. It's an Olympic style competition for trade students around the world. Approximately 1100 competitors will call SAIT Residence home for nearly ten days. Our students have had their school start date pushed back by one week, in order to accommodate SAIT as competitor's village. All of our professional staff here is looking forward to another successful semester and busy summer!

### **Mount Royal College**

Mount Royal Residence has had a smooth start to the 2009 year. The college's venture to gain recognition from AUCC (Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada) is well underway as we have just completed our site visit. Mount Royal College should know by October of this year as to whether or not

we've gained internationally recognized degrees. For many years Mount Royal has been working towards becoming a University and recognition from AUCC will play a major role in the Colleges move forward. Finally, Mount Royal Residence would like to welcome Sugi Usman to our Residence Facilities team!

### **University of Alberta**

The University of Alberta had a great first semester. Our new staff, Brianna Murphy, Kelli Hewins, and Brett Phillips smoothly transitioned into their communities and are enjoying their time in Edmonton. The residence halls have had amazing amounts of programming both in amount and quality, particularly our more structured orientation programs which we will be assessing and improving again for next year.

With oversight from Michal Guzowski, we are currently preparing for our student staff hiring processes and are very excited, our information sessions were attended by nearly a hundred students each, there will be many great students to interview, connect with, and get involved in our communities as staff or in other student leader positions. Chelsey Brokop will also be leading a group of students to El Salvador for a Community Service Learning project with Habitat for Humanity.

Residence Services has faced continuing challenges with pests but are refining our practices, communication and overall ability to manage these incidents as part of our day to day operations. We are proceeding to planning stages on a new graduate student residence and an aboriginal student residence which will be placed in the East Campus Village area. All in all it has been a busy and exciting as

usual in Residence Life!

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

January brought the annual Rocky Road Ice Cream Fantasy; a fundraiser held in support of the Camrose and District Boys and Girls Club and the Camrose Food Bank. We had over 300 community members come out, play games, eat ice cream and enjoy our theme of Out of This World! An annual event held at the end of January, Rocky Road brings RAs, residents and members of the community together in support of local charities.

It's hard to believe that we're almost halfway through the winter semester at the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta! While our students are gearing up for mid-terms, the Residence Life Department is excited to announce our senior student staff for the 2009-2010 year: Amanda Chytracek, Gordon Naylor and Erika Heiberg. We're also getting ready for RA hiring, and to hire our Extra-Curricular Community Service Learning Coordinator; a new student staff position hired for the first time in 2008, that we're excited to continue.

Elsewhere on campus, the building of the library and student forum is still on-going, and renovations of one of our residence halls is about to commence! All of the construction on campus makes for a lot of mud, but it's exciting to see the progress as the buildings come along!

### **Red Deer College**

Projects to improve Red Deer College are underway thanks to funding announced in early in the 2009 semester. Doug Sharp, Campus Manager at Red Deer College, has started working on upgrading ventilation systems in the welding and heavy tech-

nician shops. It will cost around \$1 million to do both and he expects the project will be finished this summer.

As well this summer RDC will also replace two boilers in the Arts Centre at a cost of \$100,000 and the high voltage electrical system throughout the college at a cost of around \$500,000. The Arts Centre roof will be replaced next spring and summer for around \$1 million or more. The funding was announced by the provincial government in September as part of \$155 million for colleges and universities around the province.

This past December, Red Deer College's Board of Governors announced that President Ron Woodward will be retiring in 2009. After 10 years leading RDC, Ron Woodward will step down as President and CEO. "Ron has been a strong leader for RDC and we are sad to see him leave but wish him well in his retirement. He has helped us to become Canada's leading comprehensive college serving the educational needs of our region," said Herb Der, Board of Governors Chair.

Ron was installed as RDC's 9th President in a ceremony held

on October 21, 1998. At that time, RDC had about 3,500 credit students. Today, we serve more than 6,500 credit students and 13,500 continuing education students. Our facilities have expanded and programming has diversified to keep pace with the changing needs of industry and our students. "It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as president of this great college," said Ron Woodward. "I have enjoyed my role and the opportunities it provided me to connect with the central Alberta community, and our staff and faculty. Most importantly, I've enjoyed the opportunity to work with our talented students and watch them as they have gone on to lead successful careers and successful lives."

Currently Residence operations, alongside a local engineering company, are beginning preliminary planning on the creation of a new entrance into Red Deer College that would run through an existing Residence building. The College is in need of another entrance, but as you can imagine this poses some complications in terms of re-locating the existing Residence building and conscientiously

converting green-space into a major roadway. The current talks are heading in the direction of uprooting the Residence building (a 4 unit rowhouse style building), splitting it in 2 and moving one section to sit adjacent to the proposed entrance and the other section to be moved across campus. This will prove an interesting undertaking that is scheduled to begin May 1, 2009.

On a final note from Alberta, I would like to thank everyone for these past 2 years on the board. It truly was a great experience, and I hope to return to it in the near future. That being said I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Natasha Lopeke from Mount Royal College as the incoming Alberta representative. I am very excited by Natasha's addition to the executive board. We will all benefit from Natasha's enthusiasm and care for this region.

#### **RLPA**

The Residence Life Professional Association (RLPA) recently reconvened (Nov. 13&14, 2008) at the University of Saskatchewan

for the annual fall business meeting. During the meeting portion of the 2 day gathering important items to note were: elections for 2 positions on the executive committee took place. Natasha Lopeke of Mount Royal College was elected as the new NWACUHO Alberta Representative and Angela Smith of Mount Royal College was elected as the RLPA Conference Chair Elect. The attendees engaged in a professional development seminar on the second day. Dr. Vera Pezer (UofS Chancellor) talked about the role of the Residence in the undergraduate student experience. This year's fall business meeting was a great success, and many thanks go out to the executive committee and to Sylvia, Mark, Eric and Ahmed for hosting. The Spring AGM of the RLPA will be held in Edmonton at the University of Alberta, March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> 2009.

# state and provincial updates

# OREGON

**Shelly Clark**  
Oregon State University  
**OIT**

Erin Foley has accepted the position of Vice President for Student Affairs effective February 1st. She will continue to serve as the Dean of Students.

Ground breaking began on a new geothermal well. We are hoping to be completely off the grid when the well work is completed. To learn more about this amazing project, please follow this link: <http://geoheat.oit.edu/>

[oit/oit\\_geothermal\\_projects.pdf](#)

Construction is continuing on the OIT Sustainable Village residential housing project. We are still hoping for a fall 2009 opening-more to come as the construction continues.

#### **Linfield**

The 2008-2009 academic year started off on a great note with Linfield's second highest

enrollment of first year students and the second largest number of students living in the residence halls. With 62 RAs (25 returnees and 37 new RAs) living in the halls and apartments, community building at Linfield has reached stellar heights this year among its 1,700 students.

At the annual Northwest Association of Student Affairs Professionals conference two Linfield Student Affairs employees left

with high honors. Jeff Mackay, dean of students and director of residence life, was elected as the NWASAP's President for the 2009-2011 term. Delane Hein, area director of judicial affairs, was also recognized with the Otis McCreery Award. The award is given to a student affairs professional for their heartfelt contributions and commitment to their respective campus.

### **Pacific University**

Pacific University's Department of Housing & Residence Life continues to be on the move. This year, enrollment eclipsed the 3,000-student mark for the first time in school history and we welcomed 904 students to our residence halls!

We were excited to have five new Residence Directors join the team this summer. Kate Becker joins us working as the Resident Director of the First-Year Experience hall at OSU, where she also completed a Masters of Science in Counseling. Alayna Goins recently completed her Master of Education

in College Student Affairs at Azusa Pacific University, where she also previously received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Heather Haskell hails from sunny Southern California where she received both her undergrad and graduate degrees (College Student Affairs) at Azusa Pacific University. Lindsey Mullens joins us from the Student Life department, after having the opportunity to work with several areas of the department, including student conduct, Housing & Residence Life, the Office of Parent Support, and New Student Orientation. Noreen Siddiqui comes to us having just finished her Master of Education degree at Iowa State University.

On September 9, the University held a dedication and open house for our newest residence hall—a 61,520 square-foot four-story 157 bed “green” facility. Gilbert Hall is undergoing its LEED Certification and we are confident that it will be awarded a Gold LEED status. This amazing structure represents the spirit of both the man whose name

it bears and the community and University it serves. A.C. Gilbert Hall is a testament to the dedication of this University and community to continue the tradition of providing opportunities for others to succeed. From the speakers guests heard of both the sustainable living commitment this hall makes and of the impressive and inspiring legacy of the hall's namesake and alum, A.C. Gilbert—a man who truly exemplifies what it means to be a compassionate member of a community, an engaged member of a university, and a dynamic member of society. While celebrating the successful opening of Gilbert Hall, we are thrilled to commence planning for our next residence hall, which is slated to open in Fall of 2010.

Finally, the Department of Housing & Residence Life was honored with the Staff Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution of a Team at the end of last academic year. This was the first honor awarded to a team within the division and we were very grateful to receive it.

# state and provincial updates

# WASHINGTON

Jill Yashinsky  
Gonzaga University

### **Western Washington University**

Martin L. Reed is the new associate director of University Residences for facilities at Western Washington University. Martin took over Western's residential facilities portfolio in September 2008. Previously Martin worked at the Berkeley Student Cooperative and UC Irvine's housing program.

### **Edmonds Community College**

This school year is a historic one for Edmonds Community College, as we will see the construction of a brand new student housing facility being built on campus. Named Rainier Place, this facility will boast state of the art amenities for students: including free Wi-Fi Internet connection, television hookups, a large student lounge/game room, a computer bar and an expansion of the RA team as well. Rainier Place is built with the students in mind, as it will offer single studios, 2-bedroom studios, 2-bedroom apartments and 4-bedroom apartments, with a total of 181 beds.

Groundbreaking was October 9th with completion scheduled for Summer 2009. A national search for a live-in professional, Coordinator of Residential Education (CRE), will begin in February 2009. This position will tend to the traditional jobs of hall director; supervision of RAs, campus-wide programming and overall management of the residential life program in the building. For more information on the CRE position at Edmonds Community College, please visit the college website at <http://www.edcc.edu/hr/> or e-mail Luke Botzheim at [luke.botzheim@edcc.edu](mailto:luke.botzheim@edcc.edu)

### **Gonzaga University**

Spokane felt winter's fury just before break, with the final day of exams being cancelled due to record snowfalls of 24 inches in a day's time. Students had many troubles getting home, but the University responded well, serving what would have been the President's Christmas party dinner for faculty and staff to stranded students. Prime

rib and shrimp never looked so good! After surviving and digging out from record snowfalls in December and January, staff and students at GU are happy to be able to see sidewalks and even some brown grass again!

January has brought the beginning of both RA and RD recruitment and interview processes. Interview teams will be traveling to both the Placement Exchange and Oshkosh Placement Exchange to recruit for the estimated 3-5 Residence Director openings GU will have this year. Please contact Matt Lamsma or Jill Yashinsky if you or someone you know might be interested in these positions.

Residence Life is also proud of the expansion of both its ManTalk and WomanTalk programs. The ManTalk program is a facilitated discussion group that educates, supports, and challenges college men's attitudes, beliefs, and lives. Currently, in only its second year, ManTalk is facilitated in four residence halls and serves ap-

proximately 75-100 men each week. Survey feedback collected from participants, facilitators, and faculty/staff provided definitive evidence on the program's strengths and overall success.

WomanTalk developed just a year ago in only one hall, and has expanded to three more halls this spring. This program uses the same facilitated discussion process to allow college women an opportunity to reflect on their experiences, goals, beliefs, and futures. Spring semester will bring expansion and transition plans for these programs, as we hope both can be expanded in the upcoming year.

Construction also continues on our new 320 bed living learning facility, to be opened in August of this year. The building is taking shape quite nicely, with exterior brick work being done. We are crossing our fingers and praying for an on-time completion!

#### **Washington State University**

Greetings from the Palouse! Building seems to be the theme at WSU and has impacted our department in many positive ways. Our construction of a new residence hall is moving along and expected to be completed before Fall 2009. The 230-bed Olympia Avenue project is LEED Silver rated and will offer several innovative "green" features. Additionally, we are refurbishing Stephenson North and McEachern halls this summer.

Programmatically, we are "building" up our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program by moving it from Gannon-Goldsworthy hall to the Stephenson Complex. With 300 more bed spaces to accommodate students interested in the program, we continue to work with faculty and departments to meet their growing needs.

Our RA selection process continues to build upon the successful foundation from the past. We've received over 300 applicants for 120 positions, 150 of which are registered for the leadership class. With a healthy pool of returning staff, we anticipate continuing the trend of employing talented staff for next year.

Finally, we have 6 exiting Residential Education Directors with 3-4 years of professional experience who are "building" the field of Student Affairs. Sara Agostinelli, Jesse Andrews, Brandon Brackett, Bryon Burleigh, Kyle Cance, and Kate Gannon are on the job hunt so don't be surprised to see them at NASPA or maybe their resumes come across your desks.

#### **Green River Update**

Things are going well at the Campus Corner Apartments (CCA) at GRCC! The new Resident Council has been formed. Assistant Director of Community Development, Tiff Hayes, has assembled a great team including an Executive Board and Building Representatives. This group will plan events and propose improvements for the community. We are excited about the potential of this group especially since this is the first CCA Resident Council!

The staff held the Winter Quarter Resident Appreciation Week in February. Residents enjoyed trivia contests, arts and crafts, giveaways, and snacks throughout the week. Each quarter, we set aside a time to thank residents for choosing to live with us. The Resident Assistants continue to plan excellent community events including a Game-a-thon weekend (video games & sporting events) and a Girls Night In. They look forward to a change in weather so more events can be held outdoors.

Debbie Daniels, Director, and Lauren Pigott, Assistant Director, look forward to attending the NASPA conference and helping out during The Placement Exchange. Also, their program proposals were accepted for the ACUHO-I conference later this year. They are excited about the opportunity to share with other housing professionals.

#### **Central Washington University**

CWU Residential Life program has several themes the have surfaced this year. Two of which we want to highlight: Celebration & Building  
Celebration

January marked the 5th annual Academic Excellence Reception for all residential students with a 3.75+ GPA. We had record numbers of students and families that attended the reception, that included our Provost and our new CWU President who spoke to students congratulating them for their academic success. President Gaudino is an avid supporter of the residential experience and has shown his support in many ways such as his attendance at the reception and at the Winter qtr. Orientation program.

Two of our professional staff within the department have been recognized campus wide as employees of the month. This award was given to Elaine Ames, Operations & Marketing Manager and Becky Huss, Program Coordinator which was presented to them by our CWU President. They are now eligible to receive the employee of the year award. Yeah!

NRHH and RHA have hit record goals for OTW and OTMs. The momentum of programming and leadership is outstanding. We are very proud of our residential students.

The Student Staff RA Selection process yielded the highest amount of candidates applying for the Manager position. We are excited to have such a record number of candidates interested in our student staff residential life positions.

At CWU within the University Housing department we also have several departments and programs: Wellness, Parent/Family programs and New Student Programs. The Wellness Center directed by Gail Farmer is beginning to determine through assessment practices the outcomes of the Alcohol Wise program that was developed last fall for all first year students. We are excited to report at our next NWACUHO Soundings the outcomes of the findings.

The most prevalent initiative from the Wellness center that is sweeping our students and parents is the access and custom program called Health 101 <http://issue.sh101digital.com/showmag.php?mid=wtsghd#/page2/> This site and program has allowed for direct filming of CWU programs to be highlighted and marketed using technology differently than we have in the past. Take a look!

#### **Building**

Our dreams are coming true in front of our eyes. The new residence hall that has been designed and planned for over two years is now on its way to open September 2009. We are working to purchase furniture and planning for the coffee shop that will grace the entrance of one of the buildings. We have two academic LLCs that are moving over to the new buildings: Aviation and UC Music students. The next step is to 'name' the building before we open :)