



Life- Line

“WE ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR STUDENTS’ LIVING EXPERIENCE”

MARCH 2011

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 1

Pay it forward!

Kathleen Gardner Commission for Housing a Residence Life Chair

With Baltimore right around the corner, I often catch myself reminiscing about Conventions past. I fondly remember my first ACPA Annual Convention as a graduate student; in absolute awe of the program and opportunities...and catching glimpses of Dr. George Kuh and other great minds of our profession in the hallway. But I also worried a bit about financing the Convention as most graduate students do. Right before the Opening Session, my mentor pulled me aside and handed me an envelope. Inside I found a card with some kind words about my potential to contribute to the profession and to the lives of students... and \$20. My mentor explained that I should use the money to pay for a nice meal, something that graduate students typically can't afford at the convention. But I had to promise to do the same thing for a new professional once I received my first full-time position. I have fulfilled my promise each year since graduate school and each time I pay it forward, I explain the tradition and responsibility that goes along with the money and words of encouragement. I often wonder how many new professionals' lives have been touched as a result of my mentor's desire to pay it forward. How many out there have received similar envelopes?

Paying it forward is not about money; it's about investing in our profession, our colleagues and in the lives of our students. So I invite you to connect with the Commission while at Convention to explore how we can continue to pay it forward as Housing professionals. To be more intentional, more connected, more engaged, more inclusive, more purposeful, and more committed. The lives that we touch as student affairs professionals will touch another life and that in turn another. Let's pay it forward together; together we can do great things.

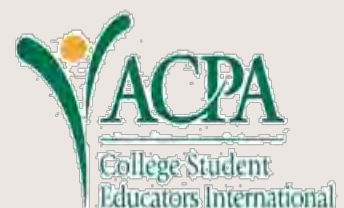


INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
<i>50 Years and Counting</i>	2
<i>with Susan Komives</i>	
<i>50 Years and Counting</i>	3
<i>with Jerome Holland</i>	
<i>OCM Social Invitation</i>	4
<i>Commission Sponsored Programs</i>	5
<i>Commission Sponsored Events</i>	6
<i>Be More in B'More</i>	7
<i>Commission Overview</i>	10
<i>Join the Listserv</i>	10

Happy 50th
Anniversary
Commission
for Housing
and Residence
Life!



Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or feedback at kagardn@siue.edu or (618) 650-4251. Best wishes for a successful conference season !



50 Years and Counting: A Look Back at the CHRL with Susan Komives ***Submitted by: Morgan Murray***

In preparation for this year's 50th Anniversary of the Commission for Housing and Residence Life, members of the Commission decided to take a look back to explore where we've been and where we're going through the eyes of a previous Commission Chair and the newly elected Chair, Jerome Holland.

To get a sense of where we've been, I had the pleasure of spending some time speaking with Susan Komives about her experience with the Commission. Komives currently serves as a faculty member with the College Student Personnel program in the Department of Counseling and Personnel Services at the University of Maryland at College Park. She has been on the faculty at the University of Maryland since 1987, a role she took on after spending 18 years of practice in the field of Student Affairs. Komives began her career in Housing and Residence Life in 1969 as an Area Coordinator at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. In that year, fresh out of her graduate program at Florida State University, her department received a flier for a Drive-In workshop for student affairs professionals in Atlanta, GA. Because it was not far to travel and there were a lot of big name speakers, she and 4-5 of her colleagues made the trip to the workshop. To help set the scene, Komives explained that this was a very exciting time in student affairs. One of the big name speakers at the time was Arthur W. Chickering, who had just introduced his vectors to the world of student affairs and student development theory. The hot topics of the conference were "inter-visitation" and co-ed housing, topics that brought out some laughter on the other end of the phone, but as she went on to explain, visitation policies and gender were a big deal in this time. She mentioned that before the wide acceptance and use of birth control, and before the Women's Movement took on steam, these matters of gender and our students created a great deal of buzz amongst practitioners.

It is also important to note that the chair for the Drive-In workshop that year was Phyllis Mable, who is currently the Executive Director of the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education. At the time, Mable was the Director of Housing at Virginia Commonwealth University and served as the Chair of the Commission from 1970 to 1972. Mable is important to note because she is in large part responsible for Komives' involvement with the Commission. Komives discussed that one of the major changes in the organization is the structural differences with the Commission. At the time, all of ACPA's Commissions were between 15 and 20 people that served a term in office. There was no open membership and no elections. They were self-perpetuating organizations where group members were appointed into roles. The Commission did work to get a mix of those from various regions and from various levels in their careers, from new professionals to Chief Housing Officers. That year, there was an opening needing to be filled on the directorate body, and Mable asked Komives if she would like to be the New Professional Chair for the Southeast. Komives jumped at the chance to be involved, gladly accepted the role, and attended her first ACPA Convention in the Spring of 1970. She has not missed an ACPA Convention in 41 years!

Komives left the University of Tennessee in 1973, where she had been promoted to Assistant Director and Acting Director. She went on to a position as the Associate Dean of Students at Denison University from 1973 to 1978. After joining in 1970, Komives remained active in the Commission. She served as the Vice Chair for Task Forces/Special Projects from 1972 to 1974, and then became the Chair of the Commission from 1974 to 1976. When asked about what she felt were her greatest contributions through her involvement in the Commission, she mentioned a few things.

(continued on Page 8)

50 Years and Counting: A Look Ahead for the CHRL with Jerome Holland ***Submitted by: Laura Arroyo***

To truly make strides within our field, you must look not only at where you have been, but also where you are heading. Therefore, in building on the previous article, and in preparation for this year's 50th Anniversary of the Commission for Housing and Residence Life, I had the distinct pleasure to sit down and interview our new Chair Elect of CHRL, Jerome A. Holland Jr. The following is a brief look at Jerome, where he hopes to lead our commission, and the areas in which he will place particular emphasis on within the next year.

Jerome Holland currently works as the Residential Life Coordinator within the Office of Residential Life at Sonoma State University. Within his position, Jerome has worked to build and nurture community within a traditional first year, apartment and suite residential area. He has worked extensively within the university community to build thoughtful and educational programming; a few of which include the MOSAIC Living Community, Healthy Living, Adventure Living, and Wellness Connection Collaboration. Jerome also serves as a first year academic advisor for over 440 students, and has served as faculty within the university academia. With over 6+ years of experience within Higher Education, Jerome looks to the next steps within his career, and it is with much excitement that he takes on the role of Chair Elect for the Housing and Residence Life Commission.

Q: In the time that you have been involved with ACPA, how have you seen the CHRL and ACPA change?

A: "The HRL Commission has changed its focus from being a generalist group focusing on all that is Housing & Residence Life to being more focused on important current issues that all residential students, staff, and professionals in HRL benefit from knowing more about. Further, our website and communications have become more efficient and user friendly over the course of my four years serving the commission."

Q: What do you hope to achieve within your new position of Chair Elect?

A: "As incoming Chair Elect, I hope to really focus on what we are good at; which is getting young professionals and seasoned professionals connected and involved. HRL Commission is wonderful at giving HRL professionals a space to grow in their knowledge, learn about what is going on outside of their bubble, and effectively connect with others. As Chair Elect, I would personally like to create a HRL mentoring program with new professionals and seasoned professionals."

"I also recognize that we are great at rewarding excellence in our areas of expertise through our awards and recognition ceremony, but I really want to increase our participation in these endeavors by taking our awards nominations and recognition online."

"I am also hoping to create an ACPA & HRL event/ fundraiser that will enable us to raise money such as, "ACPA Got Talent" or etc. With those funds we could sponsor new professionals and others scholarships to attend the convention and/or fund some of our members professional development opportunities."

(Continued on Page 6)

Check out this site for fun things to do in Charm city!
www.baltimore.org
 You will find links to public transportation, calendar of events, maps, restaurant guides and more!



Join **OCM** at the Commission for
Housing and Residence Life Awards Program & Social

Monday, March 28

9:30 pm

Pratt Street Ale House

Upstairs

206 West Pratt St

(across from the

Baltimore Convention Center)



**on campus
marketing**

We look forward to seeing you!

Can't get enough information about the Commission for Housing and Residential Life?

Besides our website on ACPA's homepage, we would love for you to be a part of our [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#) pages.

Check out our discussion boards, photos and information about the Commission. Feel free to post up interesting articles, fun events or information about your campus, and discuss important Housing and Residential Life questions and concerns on our page. We're here to help you connect with the Commission and with each other! If you have suggestions for other ideas to help you connect, please do not hesitate to contact me or to post your ideas on the pages!

-Kelli Raker, Marketing Coordinator

kelli.raker@gmail.com

Commission for Housing and Residential Life Sponsored Programs:

- **Enhancing the Student Learning Experience: Be More Educated in Baltimore**
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 315
Monday, March 28 12:00 PM -1:00 PM
Driven by divisional learning goals, the Office of Residence Life has moved from the role of programmers who hope that their students will learn something to educators who have a coordinated, curricular approach to their work with student staff, first-year students, and beyond. Using the essential elements of a residential curriculum
- **Examining the Effectiveness of Inclusivity Training on Student Staff**
Hilton Baltimore, Key 1
Monday, March 28 3:00 PM -4:00 PM
In a collegiate setting where openness to diversity is integral to student development, creating inclusive communities remains a significant aspect of our work as student affairs professionals. This session focuses on the effectiveness of training sessions in changing the preconceived perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes of residence life student staff. This session will also address how residential programs and campus communities as a whole may become more inclusive as a result of the tools and information provided during this session.
- **Homesickness Stops Students From “Being More”**
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 323
Tuesday, March 29 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Homesickness is both a research and a practice issue for anyone concerned with first-year students. Home sick students are less likely to get involved, perform worse in classes, and are less likely to be retained. But did you know that there are two types of homesickness? This presentation will describe not only our research related to the two types of homesickness but it will also discuss practical experiences related to working with homesick students.
- **Advanced Institute: Part 1: Rationale for Curricular Approaches to Residential Education**
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 325
Monday, March 28 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
This is the first session of a two-session institute. Residence life staff members are well versed in the rich opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. However, typical efforts to foster that learning through program models often fall short in design, staff buy-in, student learning, and measurable outcomes. This session will critique a programming approach, make the case for intentional and purposeful residential education through a curricular approach, and discuss the essential elements of a curricular approach.
- **Advanced Institute Part 2: Examples of Curricular Approaches to Residential Education**
Baltimore Convention Center, Room 350
Tuesday, March 29 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
This is the second session of a two-session institute. Residence life staff members who are interested in being more intentional and purposeful in their efforts to foster learning beyond the classroom may be seeking to implement a curricular approach. This session will share two very different examples of curricular approaches including learning outcomes, educational strategies, developmental sequencing, and assessment. This session will offer participants concrete examples from two distinct institutional examples.

50 Years and Counting: A Look Ahead at the CHRL (continued)

Q: What issues do you see effecting Housing and Residence Life professionals today?

A: Managing issues of student mental illness

Burnout among live- on/in staff due to being understaffed and overworked

Assessment- How are we effective at meeting institutional goals in the residence halls?

Job Searching- What do I do after living on for so long?

Transitioning out of Residence Life? Is that a possibility?

Work/Life Balance

Discovering ones passion in the work we do

Q: Advice?

A: “Many have tried to work in Housing & Residence Life. **Tried** is the most important word. I think my advice to any professional would be find your passion, work on it, plant it, nourish it, live by it, breathe it, revisit it, cherish it, and I guarantee... it will make room for you.”

Commission for Housing and Residential Life Convention Events:

- The NACURH/ACPA Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT) Winning Program
Baltimore Convention Center - Room 345
Monday, March 28 5:45 PM - 6:45 PM
The NACURH/ACPA Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT) is presented to a NACURH member school each year that has developed an outstanding leadership training program. The award promotes outstanding leadership programs developed and presented by students, for students. This program provides an excellent opportunity to adopt student leadership programs that have been proven to be developmentally successful.
- Convention Showcase
Baltimore Convention Center - Exhibit Hall (lower level)
Monday, March 28 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- Commission for Housing and Residential Life Social
Pratt Street Ale House (across from the Convention Center)
Monday, March 28 9:30 PM
Please join us in celebrating the Commission’s 50th Anniversary and the winners of this year’s Commission awards. This social is presented in partnership with On Campus Marketing (OCM).
- Commission for Housing and Residential Life Open Meeting
Hilton Baltimore - Carroll AB
Tuesday, March 29 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM
Looking to get involved with the Commission? Stop by to hear updates from our Directorate Body Meeting and out plans for the year.



Be More in B'More

B'More Organized!

ACPA is excited to announce the launch of a new online Convention Itinerary Builder! This new tool will allow you to search and browse all of the 2011 Convention events and programs so that you can be fully prepared to make the most of your convention experience. To begin creating your own, custom itinerary, we invite you to visit http://convention.myacpa.org/program/itinerary_builder.php.

B'More Giving of Your Time and Energy!

Volunteers will make the 2011 ACPA Convention the best one yet! From C3 and conference registration to special events and hospitality, we need hundreds of volunteers to support the wonderful convention programs and activities. Consider signing up for an hour or two. Volunteering at ACPA is always a terrific networking opportunity, and your support helps minimize the overall convention costs. All volunteer opportunities can be found here ([ACPA VOLUNTEERS](#)). Simply create a log-in name and choose an opportunity that fits your schedule and interests. Questions? Email the volunteer coordinator (justin@jhu.edu).

B'More Involved!

Explore Baltimore Dinner Groups: If you're arriving to Baltimore on/before Saturday, March 26th or are in the area and want to participate, you're invited to join your ACPA colleagues for dinner on the town! If you're interested in getting together with other ACPA members and exploring some of the Baltimore Inner Harbor's restaurants, meet in the Hilton Hotel Lobby between 5:00-5:15pm on Saturday, March 26th. There will be several different dinner groups going to different locations, so you will be able to pick your own cuisine and price point.

Participate in the Convention Showcase: Convention Showcase will take place on Monday, March 28th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Baltimore Convention Center Exhibit Hall (lower level). The Convention Showcase provides you the opportunity to connect with [Commissions](#), [Standing Committees](#), [State and International Divisions](#), and Task Forces to highlight their contributions to ACPA and the field, while also highlighting opportunities for member involvement. The Showcase theme, **FREE TO B'MORE!**, reflects our desire to create a festive (and free!) environment for exploring your myriad of opportunities for involvement across our association – feel FREE to explore, connect, learn, and engage! To learn more about Showcase, click [here](#) to read more about the 2011 Convention Special Events.

Looking for Something to Do Before Convention? The Commission for Student Conduct and Legal Issues and the Commission for Academic Affairs Administrators are partnering to present a one-day pre-Convention workshop on Friday, March 25. The title is "Academic Affairs and Student Conduct: Making the Most of the Student Experience." The workshop will be held at the Loyola University Timonium Campus, and Gary Pavela is the keynote speaker. The cost is \$99 for ACPA members. For more information, visit <http://www.myacpa.org/pd/landscape/>. We are hoping that a number of local professionals will take advantage of this opportunity and also hope to attract professionals who are already in the

Are you a member?

Are you a member of your state division of ACPA? Becoming a member is a great way to network locally and in a tough economy is a cheap way to stay connected to trends and get professional development close to home!

50 Years and Counting: A Look Back at the CHRL (continued)

As Vice Chair, some of the Special Projects she took on were creating monographs on Resident Advisors (RAs) and para-professional training and pursuing Residential Education as a career path. She also chaired a study on RA training looking specifically at the emergence of RA courses, which were becoming another new and innovative trend amongst practitioners. This research was presented at the convention that year in a session that got over 200 in attendance. Komives highlights that the Commission did a lot of work at advancing RA training and the development of RA courses.

In 1976, Komives became the Vice President for all of the ACPA Commissions, a role that she served in until 1978 (when she also became the Vice President and Dean of Student Life at Stephens College), as she then became a Member-At-Large on the Executive Council (1978-1981), and then the Chair of ACPA's National Membership (1981-1982). It was at this time that the structure of the ACPA Commissions began to shift to allow for open membership of anyone that desired more involvement. The question then became how to get members involved in the Commission. In 1979, the Commission hosted a "Commission Carnival", which has since become the Convention Showcase that we know today. The Carnival provided a great opportunity for Commission members to get the word out, increase involvement, and to meet the needs of a broader audience in a fun and engaging way. Over 100 people signed up on lists at the Carnival to get more involved, which was a huge change from the 20 members that made up the Commission just a few years prior. This also ushered in some of the first newsletters and mailing lists to be created to keep members informed. Komives remembered how difficult and expensive it became to keep up with the mailings and remarked on how the use of the internet and email in the 1990s changed the game for the Commissions, allowing members to have instant information and communication at their fingertips.

In 1985, Komives became the Vice President for Student Development at the University of Tampa, where she remained until 1987 when she joined the faculty at the University of Maryland.

(continued on Page 9)

“The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.”
-Robert M. Hutchins

50 Years and Counting: A Look Back at the CHRL (continued)

As a current member of the Commission for Housing and Residence Life, it was a great experience to be able to take a look back at how far the group has come, in large part to those original chairs like Susan Komives. As we wrapped up our time together, we began to chat about some of the issues and advice she has for the organization in the next 50 years. In addition to how the structure has shifted in the last 50 years, Komives also shared with me that the other big difference is how the issues have changed. As mentioned earlier, co-ed housing and visitation policies were major issues in the '70s. Today, she mentioned issues like working with transgender students and differences in policy of practice. When she served on the Commission, diversity was another topic that was gaining more attention, but this existed mostly in looking at gender issues and issues involving African-American/Black students. Other issues she advised us to pay more attention to:

- Assessment and establishment of specific learning outcomes- Komives felt strongly that all student affairs professionals should know that they are educating, and that the residence halls are learning environments. This "should be intentional, should be assessed and measured."
- LGBTQ issues- Komives discussed the amazing opportunities housing professionals have to lead their campuses in matters of LGBTQ issues, particularly in working with transgender students.
- Living-Learning Communities (LLCs)- She stressed the importance of meaningful and transformative experiential learning that can take place in the residence halls.

Komives also gave current members some advice in moving forward with the Commission:

- Doing a needs assessment of members to make sure that the services and issues we focus on are relevant to our members
- Focus more on strategic planning
- Ensuring that there is good transition of leadership amongst directorate body members
- Doing more with publications and getting more people involved in publishing
- Research- doing more research, having a research award for members, and potentially funding research that we'd like to see done as a Commission
- Get involved in policy setting- She mentioned again transgender students, and how the Commission could lead ACPA in creating a guiding document on how to handle working with transgender students and ensuring that students and professionals are aware of their rights. She urges us to "take a stand when we see a need."
- Get members involved, especially those outside of the directorate body

As a final thought, Komives spoke very fondly of her experiences with the Commission. Komives talked about the wonderful opportunity that the Commission gives new and mid-level professionals to contribute to the field, build a strong professional reputation, gain amazing connections and friendships, get more involved in ACPA, and have the chance to take on leadership and to have "serious and meaningful involvement." As we continue on in the next 50 years as a Commission, I hope that we heed to the advice of Susan Komives and use her leadership as an example.





Life-Line

“WE ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR STUDENTS’ LIVING EXPERIENCE”



For information about this edition of *Life-Line* or for information about future submissions, please contact:

Megan Rowe
mmrowe@loyola.edu

Contributors for this Issue:
Kathleen Gardner
Laura Arroyo
Morgan Murray

Some of the content of *Life-Line* was pulled from the ACPA and HRL Commission Web site at www.myacpa.org.

To subscribe to the Commission for Housing and Residential Life listserv, please use the following directions:

- Visit <https://members.myacpa.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/person/Listserv.html>.
- Log in with your ACPA username and password
- Find the line for “Commission for Housing and Residential Life,” verify your email address and select an option from the drop-down menu (subscribe single or subscribe digest).
- Select “Submit Changes.”

Commission for Housing and Residential Life Overview

HISTORY

For three decades, the HRL Commission has made numerous and outstanding contributions to ACPA, to the residence life profession and to millions of students who have lived, studied and matured in American residential colleges and universities.

For the past several years, the HRL Commission has been especially productive in five important professional areas: information dissemination, membership involvement, recognition of achievement, liaison relationships and leadership.

PURPOSE

Residence halls are one of the primary settings for student learning at colleges and universities. The Commission for Housing and Residential Life is one of the largest of

ACPA’s commissions and actively involves its members in meeting seven major objectives:

1. To provide leadership with ACPA and the profession in general for student learning in college residence halls.
2. To identify issues of special concern and advise colleagues regarding these concerns through the support of research efforts, survey information, reports, position papers and task force investigations.
3. To communicate innovative ideas, special issues, problem resolution and research information with a broad base of individuals throughout the country who are involved in residence education.
4. To maintain a working relationship with other professional organizations, student associations and other commissions, divisions and agencies within ACPA that maintain similar or overlapping objectives.
5. To cultivate professional development experiences through sponsoring and implementing convention programs and regional workshops.
6. To assist in developing a set of professional standards for staff working in residence halls.
7. To develop a plan and a process for evaluating the work and leadership of the commission.

Get Involved!

There are three primary ways in which you can get involved!

1. Check the Housing and Residential Life Commission box on your ACPA membership application. By doing this, you’ll become a member and receive *Life-Line*, the commission newsletter. This publication will keep you updated on the activities of the commission. If you didn’t do this on your original membership application, you can log into the ACPA site to update your membership information and join the commission.
2. Serve as a member of the directorate body. Visit the commission Web site for more information.
3. Volunteer to assist with the commission’s many services and resources, including: awards (review submissions), sponsored convention programs (evaluate program proposals), newsletter (submit an article for *Life-Line*), convention showcase (assist in the planning of the showcase for the annual convention), and business meetings (attend the annual business meeting and have your voice heard).