



Greetings from the Chair

Hi everyone. Don't look now, but the end of the summer is upon us. If your summer was anything like mine, then it passed by almost without being noticed. Now it is time for our student staff members to return to campus, followed closely by the residents. I am sure you are all putting the final polishing touches on staff training while preparing to reopen your halls for the fall semester. As for me, I just returned from Davidson College in North Carolina where I attended ACPA's Summer Leadership Meeting. Here is a brief glimpse of some of the things that I learned at the meeting that will impact the upcoming year.

The ACPA 2009 convention team presented us with updates about what we can expect in metro D.C. next year. The convention hotel is newly opened and is settled on the banks of the Potomac River. The theme for the convention is The Power to Imagine, The Courage to Act. Our commission will be able to sponsor five programs and one roundtable discussion during the convention. Please encourage your colleagues to consider submitting a program for sponsorship by our commission. Any programs that are not selected for sponsorship by our commission will be automatically forwarded on for consideration as a general program. The commission is looking to sponsor programs that support our 2008-2009 focus areas: academic partnerships, physical and emotional safety and security, and current trends and issues in staffing and training.

There are several new and exciting projects coming out of ACPA. President Patty Perillo has created an initiative titled ACPA Believes. It will be a space on the Web site where individuals will be encouraged to post their personal belief statement to share with others. She will be starting this soon with her very own "I Believe" statement, so check the Web site regularly to participate and learn more about others within ACPA.

Executive Director Greg Roberts shared information concerning the state of the association to bring us up to speed on the inner workings of the international office. The professional competencies were presented and will be available on the Web site in the near future. We also discussed the strategic priorities of ACPA.

All in all, the leadership weekend was very informative and motivating. It helped me remember that what we do as a commission is extremely important to both the association and to our constituents working in housing and residential life across the nation. I appreciate all the work you put into your schools and your staff members each and every day and applaud you on your efforts. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or thoughts at adrian_gage@yahoo.com. Enjoy the rest of your summer and the preparations for a wonderful new academic year.

Sincerely,

Adrian Gage

Adrian Gage
Chair, Commission for Housing and Residential Life
Associate Director of Residence Life and Housing
Worcester State College



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Commission for Housing and Residential Life Committee Updates

Educational Strategies Committee

The Educational Strategies Committee of our commission's directorate body continues to expand its opportunities for housing and residence life practitioners to engage in projects and professional development experiences. Our committee's basic charge is to identify major areas of professional focus within housing and residence life and provide educational services and resources on each area throughout the year to the larger commission members.

For 2008-2009 year, we have identified three areas of focus, described in greater depth below. Future newsletters will provide valuable information and resources in these areas and sponsored programs in each area for the 2009 convention are strongly encouraged. We welcome feedback, questions, submissions or other forms of participation from any commission member, and the contact information for our committee members is below. If you would like to shape how we think about our work in any of the three areas we have identified, please reach out and let one of us know.

Additionally, a major, multi-year national project has also been launched by our commission to gather first-person stories of housing and residence life professionals collaborating with faculty. More information on this project and information on how to participate is included in this newsletter.

Collaborative Academic Partnerships

This focus area is a continuation from the 2007-2008 academic year. Despite an ever-expanding recognition of the need for greater collaboration between housing and residence life professionals and faculty and academic affairs administrators, many campuses struggle to realize such partnerships in the most effective and robust forms. Throughout the coming year, our committee will examine various examples of collaborative academic partnerships from various angles, consider ways and contexts in which such partnerships succeed or fail, and offer advice for commission members seeking to improve, expand or develop academic partnerships based upon our own experiences, research and various other sources.

Membership Services Committee

At the ACPA 2008 Convention, the Membership Services Committee met to set their agenda for the year. Similar to last year, each issue of *Life-Line* will highlight one of the three focus areas for the commission: academic partnerships, current trends in staffing, and physical and emotional safety. Each newsletter will also include commission-related business. It is hoped the recipients will forward the *Life-Line* issue to their campus colleagues.

Work has begun to update the commission Web site. Additions include, but are not limited to: a profile of each directorate body member, upload of the directorate body manual, inclusion of recent pictures, addition of resources, and modifications to our front page in order to outline the commission's focus areas.

Current Trends and Issues in Staffing and Development

As our campus communities continue to change in response to emerging challenges and larger societal and environmental factors, the roles and responsibilities of housing and residence life professionals and paraprofessionals simultaneously evolve. In this area, we plan to examine current and emerging trends in the functional responsibilities of housing and residence life staff, changing skills sets and competencies in the field, new models of staffing, and the training and development issues, opportunities and practices that accompany these changes.

Physical and Emotional Safety and Security on Campus

The responsibilities of housing and residence life professionals in ensuring the physical and emotional well-being of campus communities and citizens cannot be understated. Topics we plan to consider in this area include: crisis planning, training and response; media and public relations components of safety and security on campus; the role of housing and residence life in facilitating mental health counseling, policies and practices; issues of parental involvement in student safety and well-being; and, the long-term impact of campus tragedies (student deaths, floods, fires, etc.) on the physical and cultural aspects of safety and security in the residence halls.

Committee Chair: Evan Baum, ebaum@gmu.edu
Collaborative Academic Strategies Sub-Committee: Gudrun Haider, haiderg@muohio.edu; Sean Gehrke, gehrkesj@whitman.edu; Dena Kniess, dkniess@exchange.clemson.edu; Veronica Wilson, vwilson@usfca.edu; and Trent Pinto, pintotra@yahoo.com (temporary)
Staffing and Development Sub-Committee: Franklyn Taylor, franklyn.taylor@nau.edu; and Jon Todd, jtodd@gw.housing.umass.edu
Campus Safety and Security Sub-Committee: Camilla Roberts, chjones@ksu.edu; Greg Thompson, gregory-r-thompson@uiowa.edu; and Darcy Smith, dsmith@wheelock.edu

The current awards offered by the commission are in process of being reviewed and the awards submission and selection processes are planned to be streamlined.

Finally, the committee will be working hard to present a consistent image of the commission. As such, this committee will be responsible for marketing materials for all commission activities.

For more information about the Membership Services Committee, please contact Carla Dennis, Vice Chair, at cadennis@uga.edu. Other committee members include: Rebecca Mosely, Cat Sanders, Aaron Koepke, Bonnie Maitland, Ashley Sieman, Jack Saxon, Jerome Holland, Sean Gehke and Veronica Wilson.

Call for Directorate Body Member Nominations

The Commission for Housing and Residential Life is currently seeking nominations for our next “class” of directorate body members. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for membership. Serving on the board is a tangible way to give back to our profession and to work closely with fun and knowledgeable colleagues from across the country on important housing issues and projects.

The criteria for election of **directorate body members** are as follows:

- Director body members must be members of ACPA and of the Commission for Housing and Residential Life.
- An individual cannot be a member of one of ACPA’s other commissions while serving on the Commission for Housing and Residential Life.
- Directorate body members must be currently or formerly employed in a full-time position in housing/residence life; graduate students with no full-time experience are not eligible.

If elected, **directorate body members** are expected to:

- Serve a three-year term of office, commencing with the ACPA convention following their election.
- Chair at least one committee or task during their term of office.
- Attend all ACPA conferences during their term.

There are eight election categories for directorate body members. Candidates may run as a representative of one of the six regions: New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southern, Midwest, Plains and Western. Or, nominees may run in the New Professional category (three or fewer years of professional experience) or as a Seasoned Professional (eight or more years of professional experience).

Please consider nominating a colleague for a position. You may nominate more than one person – we only ask that you make your nominees aware you have submitted their name. We also encourage you to nominate yourself. The number of nominations for a directorate body position may be significant in the process when there are more than three people nominated for a particular category or region. In this situation, the three candidates who received the highest number of nominations would appear on the ballot. Therefore, don’t hesitate to nominate someone even if you know that they have already been nominated. For more information on the election process or the commission’s committees and annual projects, please visit www.myacpa.org/comm/housing/.

Nominations should include the following information:

- The nominee’s name, institution, title/position, phone numbers, mailing address and email address. Please also indicate whether the nominee falls into the new professional or seasoned professional category.
- The nominator’s name, phone number, mailing address and email address.

Nominations are due no later than Friday, October 15, 2008

Directorate body member nominations should be sent electronically to:

Josh De War
Director of Residence Life
Ripon College
dewarj@ripon.edu

2007-2008 Commission Award Recipients

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Miranda Ambuske
University of Illinois Chicago

Outstanding Graduate Student

Lindsey Nixon
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Outstanding New Professional

Jason McKean
University of Illinois Chicago

Outstanding Experienced Professional (4-9 years)

Carolyn Golz
University of Illinois Chicago

Excellence in Sustainability

Yvonne Macon
UCSD

S.A.L.T. Award

“Seasoned Leaders: One Pinch at a Time”
Florida State University



Call for Submissions: Multi-Year National Project on Academic Partnerships

ACPA's Commission for Housing and Residential Life directorate body openly invites current or former housing professionals to make an important contribution to a multi-year national commission project on collaborative academic partnerships.

Though a plethora of research exists documenting many aspects of academic culture and faculty life, there is little written research regarding the experiences of student personnel staff working with faculty across organizationally divergent cultures. There is much to learn from the lived experiences of practitioners who have had experiences working collaboratively with faculty and academic administrators. However an easily accessible platform for capturing and disseminating this information does not exist. This project aims to address this need.

We are seeking contributors who would be willing to document a personal experience from a specific interaction/project with a faculty member or academic affairs administrator, written in narrative form, no longer than 2,500 words in total length. The contributions are intended to read more like a journal or diary entry instead of a scholarly essay, and would offer authors the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to an under-explored area of student affairs literature. Submissions are welcomed from all experiential levels of current and former professionals in housing and residential life, with a deadline of October 1, 2008.

For more information and to make your contribution, please contact director body Committee Chair for Educational Strategies Evan Baum at ebaum@gmu.edu or Vice President for Education and Outreach Amy Franklin-Craft at frankl96@msu.edu.

Program Announcement from the Commission for Housing and Residential Life

As the fall begins, please take time to reflect on things you might have learned over the past year or special projects you might have worked on over the summer. Is there something that others would benefit by knowing from you?? I am sure there is! It is time to submit your proposal for housing/residence life related programs for the 2009 ACPA Convention (<http://convention.myacpa.org/>), "Power to Imagine, Courage to Act," March 28 - April 1, 2009, in metro D.C.

All program proposals must be submitted by 11:50 PM EDT, Monday, September 8, 2008. Although you can submit any program for general conference presentation, consider having the Commission for Housing and Residential Life sponsor it. The commission will be sponsoring five programs and one roundtable. Having a program sponsored by the commission gives you the opportunity to target your presentation to fellow housing and residence life professionals and gives you additional recognition in the convention book and at the convention. To submit your program, go to <http://convention.myacpa.org/program/submission-process.cfm> and begin the submission process. To have your program considered for sponsorship by the commission, check the box on the program submission form and the commission will review your program. If your program is not selected for sponsorship by the commission, it will go into consideration for a general convention program. The commission is particularly interested in programs around three major areas of focus for our work:

1. Physical and Emotional Safety and Security on Campus
2. Current Trends and Issues in Staffing and Training
3. Academic Partnerships

For questions about submitting a proposal for sponsorship by the commission, contact Camilla Roberts at chjones@ksu.edu or at (785) 532-2595. We look forward to receiving your proposal!

Life-Line Topics and Article Submission

Submitting something for *Life-Line* is a great way to get your work published! *Life-Line* is published four times a year and is distributed to hundreds of members of the ACPA community. Each issue will highlight one of three topic areas the commission has selected to focus on for the year. As you can see from this issue, the summer edition *Life-Line* is intended to update its readers on commission activities since the annual convention. The fall issue of *Life-Line* will focus on current trends in staffing and training, the winter edition will include articles on physical and emotional safety and security in the residence halls and the spring issue will address academic partnerships between housing and academic units. Be thinking about the topic areas that interest you and please consider submitting a piece for *Life-Line*. Articles, original research, book reviews, critical essays and resource lists on the highlighted topics are all encouraged for submission. Submission deadlines for each issue are listed to the right. All submissions should be emailed to Bonnie Maitland at bonnie.maitland@merrimack.edu.

Submit an article for *Life-Line*!

Fall Issue: *Current Trends in Staffing*

Deadline: October 6, 2008

Winter Issue: *Physical and Emotional Safety*

Deadline: January 20, 2009

Spring Issue: *Academic Partnerships*

Deadline: March 9, 2009



The theme of the 2009 ACPA annual convention to be held in metropolitan D.C. March 28-April 1, 2009, challenges us to intentionally explore and tap into individual and collective elements:

POWER TO IMAGINE: Inspires us, sparks our creativity, renews our spirit and refocuses our commitment to our profession.

COURAGE TO ACT: With renewed energy, propels us back to our institutions with a greater sense of strength, motivation and ability to make a difference in the world.

EXPERTISE: Convention participants can build expertise that is based on the best of research in our profession.

The Power to Imagine • Courage to Act starts now! Join us at the 2009 convention in metro D.C. to explore the infinite possibilities.

Registration, housing and placement opens November 3, 2008.

Call for Programs is Now Open!

To submit a program proposal, go to <http://cdms.myacpa.org>. The deadline for program proposals is Monday, September 8, 2008. For more information on program submission, visit the convention Web site.

Central to the substance of the 2009 ACPA convention program are the ACPA professional competencies. As such, the competencies will be used in the program proposal, evaluation and selection process. ACPA members who are developing sessions and preparing proposals are urged to become familiar with the professional competencies to ensure that their sessions substantially address and incorporate one or two of them in their program proposals. Accompanying the professional competencies is a set of critical issues identified by the 2009 Convention Program Planning team. These timely and relevant issues should also be addressed in a program proposal.



Commission Directorate Body Members

Kathleen G. Kerr (Past-Chair), University of Delaware

Adrian Gage (Chair, 2008-2010), Worcester State College

Carla Dennis (2009), University of Georgia

Ryan Green (2009), Southern Oregon University

Rebecca Mosely (2009), Oberlin College

Trent Pinto (2009), Coker College

Catherine Sanders (2009), University of Texas at Austin

Jack Saxon (2009), University of California, Riverside

Jodi Schulman (2009), Rutgers University

Peter Trentacoste (2009), Northern Kentucky University

Evan Baum (2010), George Mason University

Joshua J. De War (2010), Ripon College

Amy Franklin-Craft (2010), Michigan State University

Sean Gehrke (2010), Whitman College

Gudrun Haider (2010), Miami University

Jerome A. Holland, Jr. (2010), Sonoma State University

Ashley Mouberry Sieman (2010), Marymount University

Camilla Roberts (2010), Kansas State University

Darcy Smith (2010), Wheelock College

Scott Francis (2011), George Mason University

Dena Kniess (2011), Clemson University

Aaron Koepke (2011), University of New Hampshire

Bonnie Maitland (2011), Merrimack College

Ali Martin Scoufield (2011), Southern Methodist University

Franklyn Taylor (2011), Northern Arizona University

Greg Thompson (2011), The University of Iowa

Jonathan Todd (2011), University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Veronica Wilson (2011), University of San Francisco

For additional contact information for the commission directorate body members, please visit our Web page at www.myacpa.org/comm/housing/.



LIFE-LINE



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

Join the Commission for Housing and Residential Life Listserv

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.

**WE’RE ON THE
WEB!**

VISIT US AT:

[www.myacpa.org/
comm/housing](http://www.myacpa.org/comm/housing)

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

Bonnie Maitland at bonnie.maitland@merrimack.edu.

*Contributors for this Issue:
Evan Baum
Carla Dennis
Josh De War
Adrian Gage
Camilla Roberts*

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

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).