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Submissions for the next *Life-Line* are due **Friday, August 14, 2009.**

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Hi everyone. Don't look now, but the summer is trying to slip away before we know it. If your summer is anything like mine, then you are waist deep in summer conferences right now. Now it is time for us to put the final polishing touches on staff training while trying to cram in the long overdue vacations.

The ACPA 2009 convention was a rousing success. We welcomed our new Directorate Body members on board and determined our Commission's focus areas for the upcoming year. We reworked our Commission structure to help us better serve our members, and we recognized all our award winners at our Commission social that was graciously sponsored by On Campus Marketing.

The ACPA 2010 team presented us with updates about what we can expect in Boston next year from March 20-24, 2010. The theme for the convention is "Innovative Ideas, Revolutionary Results." 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 to be considered as a general program. The Commission is looking to sponsor programs that support our 2009-2010 focus areas: Student Learning, Mental Health, and Professional Staff Training and Development.

All in all there are a lot of exciting things going on both in our Commission and throughout ACPA. 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

COMMISSION OVERVIEW - GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMISSION FOR HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE

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 indi-

viduals 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.

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WHY & HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMISSION

The thought of taking on additional responsibilities is not always appealing in our busy lives as housing professionals. That's why being involved with the Commission for Housing and Residential Life is so great! Your involvement with CHRL can be as minimal as reading the quarterly newsletter or as big as running for a position on the Directorate Body. Outlined here are some of the ways to consider being involved and benefits of that involvement.

Why get involved?

Professional development: Membership in CHRL comes at no additional cost to your ACPA membership!

Networking: Connect to housing colleagues through the listserv, set up conference calls to discuss current issues, and meet face-to-face at the annual Convention.

Best practices: Utilize the listserv to gain resources from other colleagues. Share information about excellent programs.

Leadership experience: Join the Directorate Body or nominate a colleague to serve as a leader for the Commission.

How can you get more involved?

Join the Commission formally. When you join ACPA or renew your membership, check the Housing and Residence Life Commission box on your membership application. You can also join by logging into the ACPA website and updating your membership information.

Ask a question to countless colleagues over the CHRL listserv. Updating a form? Creating a new program?

There's no need to reinvent the wheel when there are professionals out there who can share their expertise and resources with you.

Share your knowledge through responding to e-mails on the listserv or write an article for the Commission's quarterly newsletter, *Life-Line*.

Learn more in one of the focus areas for the year: mental health issues in residence halls, student learning in residence halls, and professional development for residence life staff.

Recruit a colleague to be more involved in the work of the Commission through sharing the newsletter.

Submit a program proposal for the annual ACPA Convention within one of our focus areas. Each year CHRL sponsors outstanding programs that advance knowledge in our focus areas.

Review program proposals for CHRL-sponsored sessions leading up to the ACPA Convention.

Nominate a colleague or program for one of the CHRL Awards, selected each winter and announced at the annual ACPA Convention.

Vote in the Directorate Body election. Make sure your voice is heard in the fall elections for the next Directorate Body class.

Check out the descriptions of our different committees for more information, dates, and who to contact. For general questions about the commission, contact Membership Outreach Coordinator *Veronica Wilson* at vwilson@usfca.edu or (415) 422-6653.

BEING ON THE DIRECTORATE BODY... *By Camilla J. Robert, Kansas State University*

The time was spring 2003 and I was on my way, as a graduate student, to my first ACPA convention. Through my time in my masters program, professional development and activity in state, regional, and national organizations was always promoted. We were also told repeatedly that opportunities were out there for us to be involved, but they would not necessarily be handed to us. I can remember being very overwhelmed during my time in Minneapolis. It was both overwhelming, but also very energizing to see so many people together with the same passion for students. As a graduate student, I felt comfortable in ACPA. That first year I tried to do what I could – volunteer. I

spent several hours in ACPA placement, helping primarily with employer and candidate mailboxes. Yes, it was partially for selfish reasons, because I knew I would have a good understanding of the placement system when I would return the next year searching for a job.

My time during the 2004 convention was spent primarily job searching, so I'll jump directly to 2005. Thankfully the institution where I got my first job was very supportive of ACPA and continued to encourage professional development through ACPA. Although I enjoyed my volunteer work with placement in particular, I wanted to understand

ACPA more. I wanted to get to know other people around the country. I wanted to truly be a part of ACPA. In the fall 2005 I was nominated for the Directorate Body...and I was not elected!! I did know a few people on the DB, and I was upset that I was not going to have the opportunity to work with them. I continued to hear about the commission from supervisors and friends and I honestly really wanted to be a part of it! When the nominations came out in the fall of 2006, I asked some of my colleagues to nominate me. I followed the guidance of my masters program to seek out professional development. I was thrilled when I

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LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED



EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES - Greetings from the Educational Strategies Committee!

As our school years wind down, the educational strategies committee is gearing up to provide commission members with the best connection to resources to aid in the important work you do in residence life and housing. The directorate body has identified three primary focus areas for educational efforts this year: **mental health issues in residence halls, student learning in residence halls, and professional development for residence life staff.** We will be working to connect with those who have expertise in these areas to provide educational resources; we will be researching new mediums to communicate with one another to increase our education within these areas, and we will be assessing your needs and the effectiveness of the resources we are providing. If you have a particular interest or expertise in one of these focus areas and would like to get involved, please contact me and we will figure out a strategy for you to contribute to the learning and education of our members.

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sean Gehrke

Educational Strategies Committee Chair

gehrkesj@whitman.edu

Educational Priorities:

- Mental Health Issues in Residence Halls
- Student Learning in Residence Halls
- Professional Development for Residence Life

CALL FOR DIRECTORATE BODY MEMBER NOMINATIONS

The Commission for Housing & 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 and residence life-related projects and issues.

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.
- One cannot be a member of one of ACPA’s other Commission’s Directorate Bodies while serving on the Directorate Body for 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-force during their term of office.
- Attend all ACPA conventions 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. Nominees may also 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 that you have submitted their name. We also encourage you to nominate yourself. The number of nominations for a Directorate Body position may only 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/

To submit a nomination, please send the following information to **Aaron Koepke**, Elections Coordinator for the Commission for Housing and Residential Life, via the address below:

- The nominee’s name, institution, title/position, phone numbers, mailing address, and e-mail address. If you wish to nominate someone for the new professional or seasoned professional category, please indicate as such when submitting the nomination.
- The nominator’s name, phone number, mailing address, and e-mail address.

Nominations are due no later than Sunday, October 4, 2009.

Nominations should be sent electronically to:
Aaron Koepke, University of New Hampshire

aaron.koepke@unh.edu AND aaronkoepke@gmail.com
(please send to both!)

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED

NOMINATING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS - THE POWER OF RECOGNITION

Submitted by Amy Franklin-Craft

During August training, it is more likely than not that Housing and Residence Life professionals around the country will discuss the importance of recognizing a job well done. We talk about “recognition on a budget,” Motivation 101,” providing on-going positive feedback and a variety of other topics designed to remind us of the importance of celebrating our accomplishments. Yet, we often overlook this practice as we move forward. This is a pervasive and ironic pattern for a profession that often stresses the importance of role modeling behaviors we would like to see in others.



I know that what I just wrote does not apply uniformly to all student affairs professionals. However, I suspect that there are a number of folks reading this and shaking their heads in agreement. For those of you who often recognize the efforts of others, I applaud you and am about to provide you with another recognition tool for your toolchest. For those of you who do not routinely think about recognizing the work of others, I hope to encourage a new practice.

In the spring of this year, you will be invited to honor colleagues for a number of Commission Awards. These will include:

- **OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT STAFF MEMBER:** This award is presented to an outstanding full-time graduate student employed in a paraprofessional staff position.
- **OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT STAFF MEMBER:** This award is presented to an outstanding undergraduate student employed in a paraprofessional staff position.
- **OUTSTANDING NEW PROFESSIONAL IN RESIDENCE LIFE:** This award is given to an individual in the first three years of professional employment who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to her/his campus and/or the housing profession.
- **OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL AWARD;** *Two categories – 4-9 years or 10 or more years:* This award is given to an individual with 4 or more years of professional em-

ployment who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to her/his campus and/or the housing profession.

- **EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD:** In the tradition of National Residence Hall Honorary’s (NRHH) Spotlight Award, this award is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to her/his campus and/or the housing profession and is not eligible for any of the other awards; therefore, the nominee cannot be a student or professional staff member. Possible nominees could be food service personnel, night security staff, administrative assistants, or custodial staff.
- **EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY:** This award is presented to an individual, department, or institution that has demonstrated outstanding contributions toward sustainability on her/his campus and/or to the housing profession.
- **OUTSTANDING INNOVATION IN HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE:** This award recognizes and honors excellence for an innovative program, project, collaboration with student affairs or academic departments, or service sponsored by a housing or residence life department. The nominated program or initiative should demonstrate improvement in the quality of life for students, the efficiency in the department and/or the effectiveness in service delivery.

As you decompress from this past year and begin planning for the fall quarter, trimester, or semester, make a note of folks or initiatives in your department who/that should be recognized. Keep a pad handy and jot down accomplishments and thoughts about the person, group, or initiative as the year ensues. When it’s time to nominate, your job will be nearly complete!

I welcome your articles regarding the importance of recognition of others, best ways to recognize (particularly for those of us on a budget!) and tips on writing strong nomination letters. If you’re interested in contributing recognition articles to the newsletter, by all means do so, and send me your thoughts and ideas! In our field, sharing is the best kind of caring. Please contact me at frankl96@msu.edu.

Go to **page 8** of this newsletter to see this year’s Award Winners.

ACPA 2010 • BOSTON • MARCH 20-24, 2010



ACPA BOSTON 2010 ANNUAL CONVENTION
INNOVATIVE IDEAS • REVOLUTIONARY RESULTS

For years, the ACPA Convention has served as the primary means for association members' professional and personal learning and growth. With unparalleled opportunities to actively engage, 2010 celebrates the opportunity to build on our present core competencies while boldly focusing on emerging trends and critical issues of the next decade.

Innovative Ideas - inspires and empowers us to imagine and to act as agents of change

Revolutionary Results - commits and challenges us to demonstrate effectiveness in support of teaching and learning

Innovative Ideas • Revolutionary Results starts now! Join the CHRL on this journey.

Go to <http://convention.myacpa.org/boston10> for more information about the convention.

What's Brewing in Boston?

Boston, a city known for its role in American Revolutionary history is also a recognized leader in progress. Boston is America's college town, with more than 250,000 students at 50 institutions of higher education.



SUBMIT YOUR PROGRAM PROPOSAL - DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

Have Your ACPA Program Sponsored By The Commission for Housing and Residential Life!

As the summer begins and we all take time to reflect on the events of the year and the opportunities ahead, please take time to reflect on how these events can be shared to help shape the development of others in the field. Is there something that others would benefit by knowing from you?? Without question! Now is the time to start thinking about submitting a proposal for housing/residence life related programs for the 2010 ACPA Convention "Innovative Ideas, Revolutionary Results" March 20 - 24, 2010, in Boston.

Information on program proposals will be coming out this summer. While you can submit any program for general conference presentation, consider applying for sponsorship from the Commission for Housing and Residential Life. 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 have your program considered for sponsorship by the commission, you will simply need to 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:

Student Learning, Mental Health Considerations for Students, Professional Development

For questions about submitting a proposal for sponsorship by the ACPA Commission for Housing and Residential Life at ACPA, please feel free to contact **Greg Thompson** at gregory-r-thompson@uiowa.edu or at (319) 335-3700. You can also look for more information on this process in the next edition of the *Life-Line*.

We look forward to seeing all of the exciting proposals!

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED



GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE-LINE - WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

We are always looking for help with our quarterly newsletter, the *Life-Line*. Whether you are a graduate student who just wrote a paper for one of your classes, a new professional who is looking for that first opportunity to get published, or a seasoned professional who would like to share their expertise - we want YOUR submission.

There are also many different types of submissions you could send our way:

- Scholarly articles addressing one of our three focus areas for this year: **mental health issues in residence halls, student learning in residence halls, and professional development for residence life staff**. Our goal is to have at least one article addressing each topic for each issue.
- Interviews with “experts” in our profession relating to our focus areas.
- Pictures from residence hall programs. (See pages 11 and 13 for pictures that were submitted for this issue.)
- Programming resources that you have utilized successfully. (Just share some information about the resource and how you utilized it). (See page 10 for our Programming Resources section.)
- Respond to our “Question” (See page 11 for responses to our current question; see page 13 for our next question.)
- Submit a question for our “Think About It... Talk About It...” section. (See page 13 for more information.)

LifeLine Deadlines

- August 14, 2009 for September edition
- November 13, 2009 for December edition
- February 12, 2010 for March edition

All submissions should be sent to HRLLifeLine@gmail.com. If you have questions about what to submit or would like one of our *Life-Line* staff members to work with you on your submission, please contact us at [HRLLife-Line@gmail.com](mailto:HRLLifeLine@gmail.com) or call Gudrun, Editor-in-Chief, at (860)230-4056. Please also let us know if you have feedback about the *Life-Line*. We are looking forward to working with you!

Being on the Directorate Body ... - continued from page 3

was elected to be in the class of 2010 and thus began my time with the Directorate Body.

As I am in my third and final year on the DB, I can now reflect back to what the DB has meant for me. I vividly remember the first orientation session that I attended – not knowing a soul! I was thankful to see familiar faces in the first DB meeting; however, I quickly realized that everyone had turned into being familiar faces. It was wonderful to begin the 2007 ACPA convention with a better knowledge of what ACPA goals, ideas, strategic plans, and focuses were. The members of the DB made a connection through a one day meeting that continued through open meetings, fun at convention showcase, and the awards ceremony. During that first year I was charged with managing the elections for the following year. This gave me the opportunity to interact with the ACPA national office and again, see behind the scenes of how ACPA operates. I was excited to get back for the 2008 convention. Friendships quickly blossomed again and many stories are still told about our DB experiences from that year. Wanting a bit more out of the DB, I

was the programming chair for our commission this past year, working with the program chair of the convention as well as with many reviewers and program presenters. Once again, I learned how much it takes for ACPA to hold a successful convention. I also realized how much people want to help as I ended up with more reviewers than I could even use. As a “veteran” DB member this past convention, I was excited to see the newly elected class of DB members and once again, friendships and connections were made. The DB allowed me to remain connected to housing even after changing jobs in 2008. The DB has also allowed me to see ACPA from another perspective and to feel like I am truly a part of ACPA and not just a spectator. It has allowed me to network with many people I otherwise may have never met and to make many new friends that I look forward to seeing at each and every convention. As nominations will come out in the fall, I encourage you each to take the step to nominate yourself or have a colleague nominate you – and remember, even if you are not elected one year, there is always the next year!

AWARD WINNERS & COMMISSION SPONSORED PROGRAMS

2008-2009 CHRL Award Winners Announced

During the national conference in March, 2009, the individuals, groups, and initiatives listed below were recognized for excellence. The letters of nomination were outstanding, and the selection process was arduous. Certainly congratulations are in order for the winners!

Outstanding Experienced Professional in Residence Life (10 or more years): Cesar Figueroa, University of California San Diego.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Staff Member in Residence Life: Siobhan May, University of Delaware.

Outstanding Experienced Professional in Residence Life (4-9 years): Laura Isdel, University of Kansas

Excellence in Service to Residence Life: Mike Nicolas, University of Delaware

Outstanding Graduate Student Staff Member in Residence Life: Jim Love, University of Delaware.

Outstanding New Professional in Residence Life: Cody Charles, University of Kansas.

Excellence in Sustainability: Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville.

S.A.L.T. Award: Inter-Residence Hall Council of New York University

Visit the commission website at <http://www.myacpa.org/comm/housing/award-winners.cfm> to review the nomination letters, resumes and program descriptions. You will no doubt be impressed!

Outstanding Innovation in Residence Life and Housing: University of Iowa's "The Path" program.

Congratulations to the 2009 Annual ACPA Convention Commission Sponsored Programs

Each year our commission sponsors a select number of programs at the annual convention. Congratulations to the presenters whose programs were selected for the 2009 Annual ACPA Convention. We hope you had the opportunity to attend some of these programs.

- **NACURH Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT)**
Presented by the Inter-Residence Hall Council of New York University
- **Re-Imagining Technology: A New way to Empower and Educate**
Presented by Licinia B Kaliher and Jimmy Howard – University of Delaware
- **Power to Revolutionize Diversity Training for Millennial Student Staff (co-Sponsor with Standing Committee for Multicultural Affairs)**
Presented by Paul Shang (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Hemlata Jhaveri (California State University-Chico), and Michael Speros (Missouri Western State University)
- **Cutting too close: Suicide and Self Injury in Residential Facilities**
Presented by Joshua DeWar, Marissa Greuel, and Ryan Dwyer – Ripon College
- **The Sexual Stories of Resident Advisors: What can we learn (co-sponsor with Commission for Wellness)**
Presented by J. Bradley Blankenship and Dayna Fischtein – Indiana University
- **Establishing Hogwarts: A New First-Year Student Residential College**
Presented by Angela Cottrell, Frank Wcislo, and Chalene Helmuth – Vanderbilt University

Please consider submitting a program for the 2010 ACPA Convention. (See p. 6 for more information.)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF: TRAINING RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

By Jessica Joanis, Assistant Director of Residence Life, Ripon College

Training for resident assistants is often a hairy and hurried time. There usually is more information to communicate to the staff than there is time to deliver it. The challenge seems to be keeping the attention of a room full of 18-22 year old students. Once you have their attention, it is important to keep them motivated throughout the year, particularly after difficult duty nights or roommate conflicts that at times make the RA position seem much more like a thankless job. Below are some ideas to keep a Residence Life staff on topic and alert during an extended training period covering many important topics and issues:

A New View: Move locations if possible, so every session does not take place in one building or area. Just the physical move will reenergize students as they anticipate the next session they are traveling towards.

Balance is the issue: Ask outside presenters like the college or university counseling staff or nurse to present their sessions towards the end of the week, so the students have a fresh face and perspective. Towards the end of the training students will be tired from the rigorous schedule and late nights trying to prepare the halls for the rest of the student body. Try to schedule sessions dealing with topics like sexual assault, suicide, and alcohol abuse in the front part of the training period so that your students are still rested and will pay better attention to those

more difficult topics.

Build that team! Use team builders to invigorate the staff during particularly long days or days filled with a lot of information. Instead of starting the day with an ice breaker or a team builder, save those for in between two sessions or after meals when students might be more interested in taking a nap then attending a training session. Mix up your student staff so they are sure to work with different students for each activity, in order to bond the residence life staff as a whole.

Take a break! Pepper in plenty of break time for the student staff to visit with one another, grab a soda, or just to settle into their rooms. Thirty minutes here and there will recharge them enough to keep them focused for sessions covering topics like suicide, depression or information technology.

Every staff meeting should be an opportunity to continue development with your student staff members. Below are a few suggestions of topics to cover with your RA staff to keep them motivated and interested in their RA position all year long:

Have a mission! Break down your institution and department mission statements into smaller sections

and discuss one part each week. Help your student staff to find where they belong in that mission and how their programming efforts help the college or university realize their core values. Ask members of your student staff to present in pairs a section of the mission statement or a core value and instruct them to facilitate the discussion with the rest of the staff.

Policy Review: Take time in a staff meeting to discuss one or two policies from the student handbook. Even though RAs receive training at the start of

the semester and should understand most of the College's policies, it is helpful to review some of the more popular ones in the middle of the semester.

Survey them! If there is a particularly hot topic brewing in your building or area, maybe one about laundry or lounge usage, survey your staff formally during a staff meeting. By asking them to fill out a survey rather than just share their comments, they will be more likely to provide not only their opinion, but also that of their residents if they have feedback from other students. Asking RAs to specifically solicit their floors for feedback on a particular issue to bring to a staff meeting will also help students to develop pride and ownership over things that occur where they live.

Forward Thinking: Highlight a job in Student Affairs once a month in a staff meeting. Help student staff members understand that there are many different directions one can go with a career in Student Affairs. You could also invite professionals from other departments to your staff meeting to give a short presentation of their role at the college or university.

Goal Setting: Revisit one of your staff goals for the semester in each staff meeting.

continued on page 12



All photos by Gudrun Haider, Miami University, CHANGE Living Learning Community Residence Life Staff 08-09



PROGRAMMING RESOURCES

In each issue, we will have a section on programming resources that staff members at different institutions have utilized successfully.

If you have any resources that you would be willing to share, please e-mail HRLLifeLine@gmail.com. Please include the following: information about the resource, a brief description about how you have utilized it and whether or not you'd be willing to share further information with staff members interested in this resource.

I really hope this section will be beneficial to all of you. If you have suggestions on how to make it better, e-mail HRLLifeLine@gmail.com.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION:

Invisible children



Submitted by **Gudrun Haider**, University of North Florida

The Invisible Children Movement was started by three college graduates who went to Africa in search of a story. After meeting the children of Northern Uganda - night commuters and child soldiers - the three college graduates made a documentary and started a movement that is trying to bring peace and education to northern Uganda.

The Invisible Children documentary, *The Rough Cut*, is available online at: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3166797753930210643>

A more recent documentary, *The Rescue*, is available at: <http://therescue.invisiblechildren.com/en/#/watch/> There is no copyright on either movie, so they can be shown in the residence hall setting.

There are many opportunities for students to get involved or for staff to organize follow-up programs. For more information, go to invisiblechildren.com.



I have organized several different Invisible Children events in the past few years. For more information, contact me at gudrun.haider@gmail.com.

BAND: seetheworld



Submitted by **Gudrun Haider**, University of North Florida

I have hosted a few concerts in my residence hall and as part of campus-wide events over the past few years. Having a much smaller budget in Residence Life than, for example, Campus Activities, I've worked with newer bands that are affordable and willing to play smaller events.

One of my favorite bands to work with is *See The World*. *See The World* just released their debut record and is eager to play in the college scene. *See The World* tries to spread the message that we should live our lives according to the passions we dream about—the things we would do if we could do anything, the things we are gifted in, and the things that make us want to wake up in the morning.

See The World usually tours with a guest act. The band carries a very high-end PA system, which makes it easy to set up shows in just about any setting.

Check out their music at <http://seetheworldmusic.com> or <http://myspace.com/seetheworldmusic>. To book a show, e-mail contactstw@gmail.com.

For more information about my experience with working with *See The World*, e-mail gudrun.haider@gmail.com.

WORKING IN RESIDENCE LIFE

Funny Stories from ResLifers! At the ACPA Convention, we asked Residence Life professionals the following question: “What is the funniest thing a student or parent has ever said to you?”

“I know that smoking pot is illegal; however someday I will be the one to legalize it. I have the financial resources to do so.” –*Stacey Steinbach, UMass Amherst*

“A parent called to inquire about her son’s roommate situation. Upon giving her all the details, she said ‘yep, that sounds like my son. I’ll let you do your job but if you need me to jerk a knot in him, just let me know.’” –*Brad Johnson, UNCG*

“Don’t quote FERPA to me, I work in student affairs!” –*Anonymous*

“I’m not drinking this beer. I’m just holding it to my head because I have a headache.” –*Anonymous*

“Since the confiscated drugs cost more than \$500, isn’t that punishment enough?” –*Patrick Rogz-Gordan, Pace University*

“A student jumped from his 4th floor residence hall window and broke his foot while running from campus police. He then said ‘you’re lucky I broke my foot because I was going to keep running.’” –*Kayla Nuss, USF*

“I had a student make a grilled cheese sandwich on a halogen light. When I asked why, he said his toaster was broken.” –*Dan O’Brien*

“Can you please give my child a single room; he’s allergic to roommates.” –*Monisha Moore, Pace University*

“My dinosaur died!” –*Veronica Wilson, University of San Francisco*

“I want to talk to President Harrison.” (President Harrison has been dead for 100 years.) –*Shannon Foley, Miami University*

“After coming out of a judicial hearing, the student turned to me and asked ‘did I do alright? I prepared by watching a lot of *Law & Order*.’ The student did not win the case.” –*Anonymous*

“If you don’t change my room, you will have to meet with my therapist!” –*Marybeth Walker*

Compiled by **Megan Rowe**

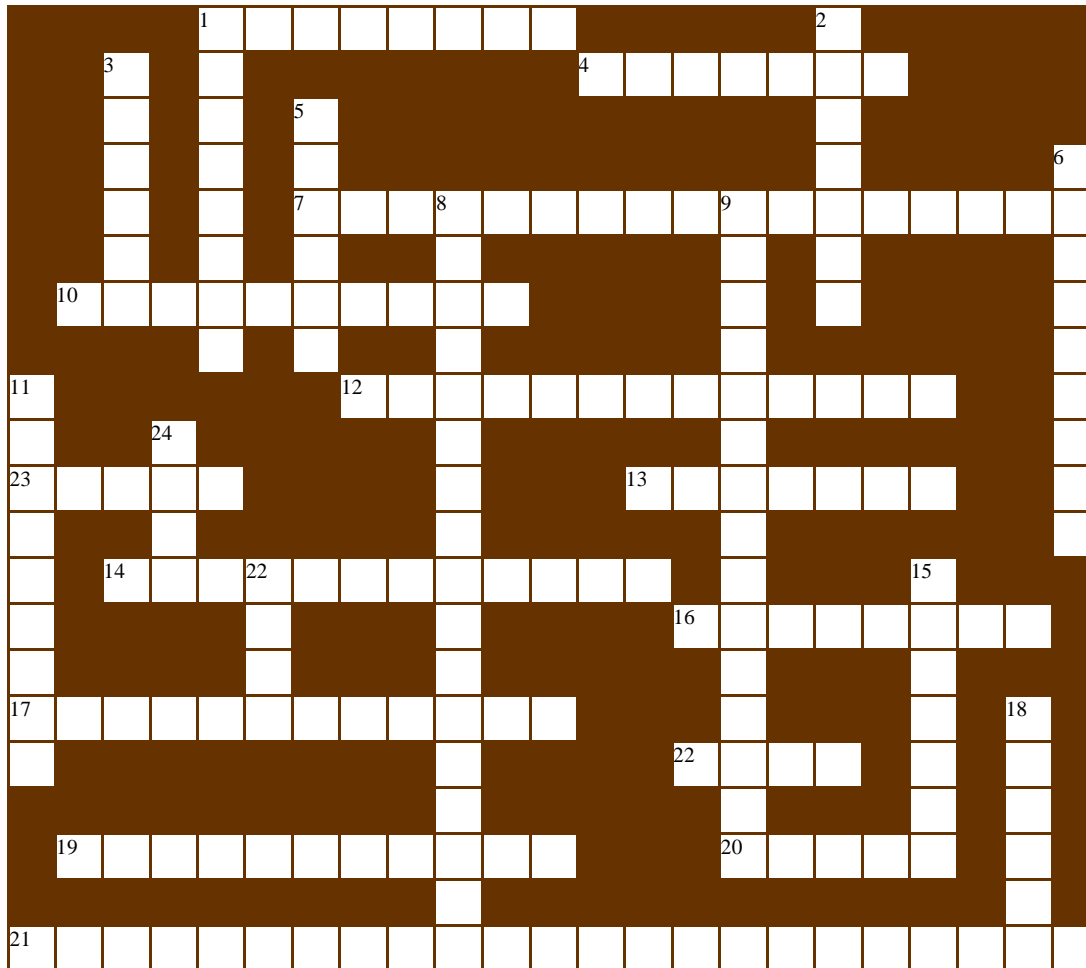
PROGRAMMING AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

Photos submitted by Romando Nash



Left and Top Right: Residents at an Ice Cream Social in a residence hall
Bottom Right: Resident at a Luau organized by a student organization

CHRL CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- DOWN**
- 1 Last name of commission member to contact about program proposals
 - 2 This newsletter is from the Commission for ... and Residential Life
 - 3 ACPA Convention 2010 will be held in this city
 - 5 First name of our commission chair
 - 6 Goal of the commission: assist in developing set of professional ... for staff in residence halls
 - 8 Organization raising awareness about situation of child soldiers in Uganda
 - 9 Another focus area of our commission
 - 11 When training student staff, it is recommended to use different ...
 - 15 Theme for the next ACPA Convention: Innovative Ideas—Revolutionary ...
 - 18 First name of the editor-in-chief of the Life-Line
 - 22 There's no I in
 - 24 Newsletter is called the ...-Line

ACROSS

- 1 Topic of an article in this Life-Line
- 4 It's important to help your RAs understand where they belong in the ... of the institution
- 5 Professional organization we belong to
- 7 Title of student staff members at many institutions
- 10 ...ideas—inspires and empowers us to imagine and act as agents of change
- 12 This commission provides resources for professionals in...
- 13 Nominations for DB members due on 4th of this month
- 14 One of the focus areas for our commission
- 16 First name of the commission chair-elect
- 17 Residential Curriculum Institute will be at University of ...
- 19 Band mentioned in the Programming Resources section
- 20 During staff meetings, revisit your
- 21 And another focus area for our commission
- 22 Newsletter is called the Life-...
- 23 Adrian Gage is the Commission ...

Training Resident Assistants ... - continued from page 9

meeting, or have it printed along the bottom of the staff meeting agenda. This will help everyone to remember the bigger picture and not to focus on the long or difficult nights of duty.

Hot Topics and the Media: Take time to break down hot topics in the media with your staff and brainstorm how that might affect life in the residence halls and what you as a staff would do to respond.

Training Topics: Plan topic refreshers for your staff about different things

that were discussed in formal RA training and answer questions now that they have had practical application of that training. Utilize senior student staff members with experience to help present these topics and help keep them engaged when listening to information they have probably heard more than a few times.

Residence Hall Pride! Involve your staff in a building wide beautification project to inspire pride in the residence halls. Whether it is asking for feedback when

selecting a piece of art for the entry way or rearranging the furniture into a new configuration in a popular lounge, your staff will appreciate being involved in bettering the place they live. Or ask your staff to identify their favorite “spot” in the building or area and post these somewhere that all residents can read them. Encourage your staff to replicate this feeling of pride with their residents, to build stronger communities and reduce any possible vandalism.

WORKING IN RESIDENCE LIFE



PROGRAMMING AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Photos submitted by Gudrun Haider



Top Left: Residents painting mugs at an End of the Year Social
Bottom Left: We The Living performing at an Invisible Children Benefit Concert
Top Right: Students performing a traditional Asian dance at Fusion
Bottom Right: Student participating in an alternative Spring Break Trip



THINK ABOUT IT... TALK ABOUT IT...

In each issue, we will introduce one or two questions or facts. We encourage you to discuss these questions or facts with your colleagues at your institution or to discuss them over our listserv.

Is it more important what we do or how we do it as effective student affairs practitioners?

Do you have a question/fact for our *Think About It... Talk About It..?* E-mail it to HRLLifeLine@gmail.com

Question for our next Life-Line:

“What has been the greatest lesson you have learned from working in Student Affairs?”

Submit your answer to HRLLifeLine@gmail.com by July 31, 2009. Please include your name and current institution. Your answer may be featured in our next Life-Line.