



Greetings from the Chair

Happy New Year! As I sit here looking out my office window at yet another snowy day in Massachusetts, I reflect on the past semester and the speed at which it passed. Even now my office is in full swing though the spring semester doesn't start until tomorrow.

I am sure that for many of you, the winter break is as much a time for planning as it is for relaxation. Whether you are filling housing vacancies left empty by graduating seniors, preparing winter RA training, coordinating parking passes (unfortunately I get to handle all parking passes for resident students), or gearing up for RA selection, it is rare that we really get a chance to take a moment to simply reflect on the work that we do. Now I am not talking about the never ending committee meetings and judicial hearings. I am talking about the experiences that residence life and housing departments provide for the resident students. I have found it useful over the years to take a few minutes from time to time to make some notes about individual students that I feel I made a difference to during the past semester. This has allowed me to condense a possibly hectic semester into a few personal victories where my work truly made a difference in someone's life. I use these notes to reenergize myself for the new semester and to remind myself of the important work that we do in student affairs.

I hope all of you had a wonderful break and are successfully back into the swing of the new semester. There are many things going on this semester with ACPA, and I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities. We are currently seeking commission award nominations for individuals and programs as well as looking for volunteers to serve as reviewers for the awards process. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the commission and see the great things that your colleagues are doing around the nation. I also encourage you to attend the annual ACPA convention in metropolitan D.C. The planning team is doing a wonderful job of coordinating the many aspects to ensure successful and enjoyable convention.

I want to wish you all the best for a successful semester. I also encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on the positive impact you make in the lives of those around you and take pride in the work that you do to improve the experience of the students with whom you work. Be sure to read our next newsletter to find out when and where our commission events will be occurring at the 2009 convention. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Adrian Gage

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Call for Commission Awards Nominations and Reviewers

CALL FOR AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Commission for Housing and Residential Life is currently seeking nominations for its individual and program awards in the areas of housing and residence life. This is your chance to nominate those individuals and departmental programs you feel are worthy of recognition. **The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, February 20.** I invite you to please take a few moments to nominate your colleagues for these honors.

To submit a nomination, please write a letter detailing the individual's or program's qualifications for a given award and send the nominations to the commission's 2009 awards coordinator, Sean Gehrke, at gehrkesj@whitman.edu by **February 20, 2009**. For awards recognizing individuals, please include a copy of the individual's resume. Up to three letters will be accepted per nomination in a given category.

The full list of awards available through the commission is available at: www.myacpa.org/comm/housing/awards.cfm.

Nominees and recipients of Commission for Housing and Residential Life awards will be honored at the commission's awards ceremony and social during the 2009 ACPA annual convention in D.C. If you have any questions regarding the Commission for Housing and Residential Life awards process, please contact the 2009 awards coordinator, Sean Gehrke, at gehrkesj@whitman.edu.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS

The Commission for Housing and Residential Life is also currently seeking reviewers for the awards process. This is your chance to volunteer and support the commission's efforts to honor individuals and programs worthy of being recognized. The integrity of this process is dependent on the contribution of time given by housing professionals like yourself.

Award reviewers will be asked to review award nominations between February 24 and March 5. Each reviewer will be asked to review nominations for at least one category. If you would like to serve as an awards reviewer, please e-mail the commission's 2009 awards coordinator, Sean Gehrke, at gehrkesj@whitman.edu by **February 6, 2009**.

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 winter edition of *Life-Line* includes articles on physical and emotional safety and security in the residence halls. The spring issue will focus on academic partnerships between housing and academic units. Be thinking about this topic area 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. The submission deadline for the next issue is listed to the right. All submissions should be e-mailed to Carla Dennis at cadennis@uga.edu.

Submit an article for

Life-Line!

Spring Issue: Academic Partnerships

Deadline: March 9, 2009

Newsletter Feature Focus: Physical and Emotional Safety

Being Prepared: Learning to be a Resource

Submitted by: Veronica Wilson, University of San Francisco

Of primary concern to housing professionals is the safety and security of our residential students. Over the course of my educational and professional experience, which has taken me across the United States and back, I have learned to appreciate that providing safe and secure environments entails slightly different work at different institutions. That California experiences earthquakes, the Midwest has tornadoes and the East Coast endures snow are simply a part of the experience, even a part of the regional culture. Just as we foster student development along a variety of competencies, it does us well to view emergency preparedness as an element of responsible community living.

At the University of San Francisco, I have taken to the philosophy of emergency preparedness to be resources, not victims, which complements the values of the institution. While there is no guarantee that any preparations will be sufficient, of course there are ways to reduce risks. Measures can be taken in to prepare staff and students to appropriately respond to these potential emergency situations.

Identifying potential emergencies is a logical starting place for personal preparedness. The frequency and predictability of the situation heavily impacts the type of preparations that can be made. When I moved from the West Coast to the Midwest for graduate school, it was the middle of the tornado season, and I was very anxious about experiencing a tornado. Friends who had grown up with the threat of tornadoes downplayed the dangers in a similar manner that I had always downplayed the dangers of earthquakes growing up in California.

A strong connection to resources provides a link from the institution to the community and reduces duplication. As a new staff member at USF, I completed an emergency preparedness program sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department. Upon completion of the course, I had gained new knowledge and skills in areas of triage, the city's emergency response protocol and personal preparedness. Also through this course I was made aware of local agencies, Web sites and materials that I could share with students, as well as family and friends.

Making personal preparedness a priority struck me with new meaning when I facilitated conversations with the student

staff I supervised my first fall at USF. How could I ask the Resident Advisors to be prepared if I was not? I located an old backpack and began the process of filling my "Go-bag" with necessary supplies, which I would grab in a hurry should an evacuation occur. I stored the hard hat I received at the emergency preparedness class graduation on a shelf in my office, to be easily accessible and to serve as a visual reminder of the importance of preparation. The bright yellow helmet has been the topic of many conversations with students who visit my office, making it a perfect entrée to an otherwise unnatural topic of conversation.

The bright yellow helmet has also made appearances outside my office. Covering a serious and sometimes scary training topic does not have to exclude fun. I have found that eliciting involvement can be easier when I am wearing the hard hat. This also meets dual needs of engaging staff who might think they have little to learn and of quelling fears of staff who are new to a city, state or region and are now expected to take on a leadership role if there is an emergency.

New students are barraged with information upon their arrival to school. Although the start of the semester provides a unique opportunity to share important information with students and their families, it is helpful to revisit key topics throughout the year. Move-in day is a perfect time to provide materials for parents and family members regarding emergency preparation. Having lists of supplies and a portable listing of the institution's emergency hotline and Web site not only prepares family members but also can set their minds at ease. At USF the Department of Public Safety provides wallet-sized contact cards with USF contacts as well as a space for the student's new phone number and address. These cards can then be given to family members, partners and close friends who might need more information in the event of an emergency. USF community members also utilize these cards to keep track of out-of-area contacts, which are critical if cell phone towers become flooded with traffic.

In addition to bulletin boards and fire or emergency drills, there are other ways of engaging students in thinking about and taking responsibility for their personal safety. Capitalizing on the utility of portable and condensed information, this fall I created "Are You Prepared?" cards, printed on both sides of a business card. The information included:

Newsletter Feature Focus: Physical and Emotional Safety

Being Prepared, continued . . .

items to have in a “Go-bag” and other supplies to keep on hand, the residence hall’s evacuation site, and Public Safety and Disability Services contact information for students with disabilities to create a specific plan. These cards are available at the front desk of the residence hall. Because all students fall victim to poster fatigue, periodically throughout the year new reminders are posted in highly visible areas, such as near the entrance of the building and by elevators, to keep knowledge fresh.

Along my journey I am learning that being responsible for my own preparation and helping to prepare those around me is

an ongoing process. New locations bring the need for new skills and new knowledge. Familiar locations bring the need for reminders to guard against apathy, because as I remind the members of my community, safety never takes a holiday.

About the author: Veronica Wilson is a Resident Hall Director at the University of San Francisco. She can be contacted at vwilson@usfca.edu.

Reporting on Campus: Helpful Resources to Understand the Clery Act

Submitted by: Camilla Jones Roberts, Kansas State University

As we seek to understand campus safety, it is also imperative that we understand the reporting mechanisms of campus safety as well. Compliance for reporting campus safety issues and events fall under the Clery Act. Originally named “Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990,” the act was renamed in 1998 in honor of Jeanne Ann Clery, a Lehigh University student who, while in her residence hall room asleep, was raped and murdered in 1986. The Clery Act requires universities to disclose information about the crime that occurs on their campus. Since 1990, the law has been amended adding portions requiring schools to give sexual assault victims certain rights as well as notification of how to obtain lists of sex offenders in the campus area. Below are several Web sites and journal articles that can help you begin to understand what the Clery Act means and why universities must comply with it.

Web sites

<http://www.securityoncampus.org/schools/cleryact/>
www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/handbook.pdf
<http://www.securityoncampus.org/congress/cleryhistory.html>
<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus.html>

Journal Articles

Fisher, B.S., Hartman, J.L., Cullen, F.T., & Turner, M.G. (2002). Making campuses safer for students: The Clery act as a symbolic legal reform. *Stetson Law Review*, 32, 61-89.

Lipka, S. (2008) Education dept. imposes largest fine yet for campus crime-reporting violation. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 54(18).

Depken, Craig A., II. (1998). College demand and the campus security act of 1990. *Atlantic Economic Journal*, 26(3), 326

Sloan, J. J., III, Fisher, B.S., & Cullen, F.T. (1997). Assessing the student right-to-know and campus security act of 1990: An analysis of the victim reporting practices of college and university students. *Crime and Delinquency*, 43(2), 148-169.

Lively, K. (1996). Education department starts monitoring campus crime reports. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 42 (33), A49.

Ornstein, C. (1994) Colleges, the government, and the public debate value of the 'right to know' law. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 41 (3), A56.

Other Resources

US Code: <http://uscode.house.gov/download/pls/20C28.txt>

About the author: Camilla Jones Roberts is the Assistant Director for the Honor and Integrity System at Kansas State University. She can be contacted at chjones@ksu.edu.

Commission-sponsored Programs

The Commission for Housing and Residential Life is excited the 2009 convention is just a few months away. The following convention programs are sponsored by the commission. We encourage you to attend these program sessions as they support our three focus areas for the year: (1) physical and emotional safety and security on campus; (2) current trends and issues in staffing and training; and (3) academic partnerships. Presentation times and locations will be available in the next issue of *Life-Line*.

Sponsored Programs:

NACURH Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT)

Gudrun Haider (Miami University)

Looking for a creative way to train your student leaders? Interested in learning more about NACURH (National Association for College and University Residence Halls)? Each year, NACURH recognizes an outstanding student leadership training program in the residence halls with the SALT Award, which is co-sponsored by the Commission for Housing and Residential Life. The recipients of this award will share how they developed and implemented this student-led training program.

Re-Imagining Technology: A New Way to Empower and Educate

Licinia B. Kaliber and Jimmy Howard (University of Delaware)

Educational technology is a scholarly field that focuses on using technology as a venue to educate and enhance learning. From training to student leadership, we will examine how educational technology can be incorporated into various student life arenas to allow the transformative learning process to occur. Discussion will also occur on various technology “tools” participants can take with them and implement immediately. Participants are encouraged to bring laptops to this highly interactive presentation.

Cutting too Close: Suicide and Self Injury in Residential Facilities

Joshua DeWar, Marissa Greuel and Ryan Dwyer (Ripon College)

Suicide and self injury are two of the hardest issues residence life staff regularly confront. This session will present background information on why students choose to self-injure, how to address issues of suicidal ideation, a history of literature in both fields, and conclude by offering an opportunity to examine how both problems continue to impact larger numbers of students on campus each year. The session is for residence life professionals and aims to meet the needs of live-in staff.

Establishing Hogwarts: A New First-Year Student Residential College

Angela Cottrell, Frank Wcislo and Chalene Helmuth

(Vanderbilt University)

The Commons is a community of first-year students, residential faculty, peer mentors and professional educational staff located on the campus of Vanderbilt University. With over 10 years of planning involved, the first-year student residential college was officially opened in fall 2008. How did we get there and what does that first semester look like? This presentation will provide insight and lessons learned through the multiple lenses of administrators, residential faculty and professional educational staff.

Power to Revolutionize Diversity Training for Millennial Student Staff

Paul Shang (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Hemlata Jhaveri (California State University-Chico) and Michael Speros (Missouri Western State University)

Student staffs today want diversity training to be challenging and discuss topics beyond race. To them, incorporation of technology seems to make training more engaging and credible. Millennial students on campuses are more accepting of differences. However, they usually believe they do not need diversity training, while practitioners believe otherwise. If this is your experience, come join colleagues to discuss innovative diversity training methods designed especially for student staffs based on current research and incorporating tested contemporary techniques. *Co-sponsored program with the Standing Committee for Multicultural Affairs*

The Sexual Stories of Resident Advisors: What can we Learn

J. Bradley Blankenship and Dayna Fischtein (Indiana University)

Each year, students arrive on campuses without adequate information to make responsible sexual decisions. Resident advisors are increasingly called upon to fill the role of sex educator in areas far beyond their expertise. Placed in a sudden “sexpert” role, the reality is that RAs have often had the same sexual health education as the students they advise. This interactive presentation will discuss one Midwestern institution’s attempt to assess and address the emerging role of RA as lay sex educator. *Co-sponsored program with the Commission for Wellness*

ACPA 85 YEARS STRONG *Power to Imagine • Courage to Act*
2009 CONVENTION • METRO DC
POWER TO IMAGINE • COURAGE TO ACT *March 28-April 1, 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 opened November 3, 2008.

Convention and Hotel Registration is Open!

Convention Registration Rates	Regular (2/12/09)
<i>Member</i>	\$425
<i>Student</i>	\$150

Placement Registration Rates	Regular (2/12/09)
<i>Candidate</i>	\$75
<i>Employer</i>	\$150
<i>Interview Table</i>	\$125

Hotel Rates	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
<i>Gaylord National Resort</i>	\$225	(\$215 + 10 resort fee)		
<i>Hampton Inn Suites</i>	\$189	\$189	\$209	\$229

For additional information on convention rates and registration, view the convention Web site at <http://convention.myacpa.org/>.



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:

Carla Dennis at
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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).