# HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE-LINE



"WE ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR STUDENTS' LIVING EXPERIENCE"

Vol. 35, No. 1 Newsletter for Housing and Residential Life Spring 2007

#### **Greetings from the Chair!**

Hi everyone. No need for me to take up too much space or too much of your time. The 2007 Joint Meeting is right around the corner and the Commission for Housing and Residential Life is hoping we'll see you in Orlando. Inside the pages of this newsletter you will find all the information you will need to be able to find us and join us. I hope you'll attend our Commission Meeting on Sunday, April 1 where we'll discuss our achievements for the year and plan for the coming year. We'll also receive an update on ACPA's new governance structure from a member of the Implementation Team and we will discuss ACPA's commitment to sustainability. Join us on April 3 at the Commission's Awards Reception where we will have the great pleasure of recognizing outstanding work being done in residence halls across the country. Finally, be sure too to attend one of the Commission's sponsored programs – again details are inside!

As you consider participating in ACPA's Commission for Housing and Residential Life, I think it's important to remind everyone of the purpose of the Commission:

- To provide leadership to ACPA and the profession in general for student learning in college residence halls.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- To cultivate professional development experiences through sponsoring and implementing convention programs and regional workshops.
- To assist in developing a set of professional standards for staff working in residence halls.

Personally, the Commission has been of great value to me, as someone who has worked in Residence Life for close to 20 years. I hope you'll join us in Orlando, introduce yourself to me or some other Directorate Body members, and discover how the Commission can be of value to you too!

Kathlee J. Ken

Commission Chair, Commission for Housing and Residential Life Director of Residence Life – University of Delaware

#### Greetings from the Communications Chair!

Hey-diddly-dee everybod-dee, to the Spring 2007 Housing and Residential Life Newsletter! I don't know about yall, but I cannot wait to get to Orlando! Yes, the weather in Austin has been mainly nice, but I know that there are plenty of other places where that has definitely not been the case. So I encourage you to think ahead to next week. Think about the number of programs you'll have to choose from. Think about the caliber of speakers and vendors that will be in attendance. Think about the countless friends and former co-workers that you will undoubtedly run into. Think about Mickey Mouse coming to tuck you in every night at your hotel. Okay, well, maybe not Mickey Mouse, but you catch my drift, right?

I must admit, I am particularly excited about the Joint Meeting Showcase/Carnival/Grad Prep Fair and "The Greatest Show on Earth" Cultural Fest and Talent Show! With over 7,000 people expected to be at this Joint Meeting, I know there will be PLENTY to enjoy!

As always, we thank you for allowing us to take up "valuable" space in your email inbox! ☺

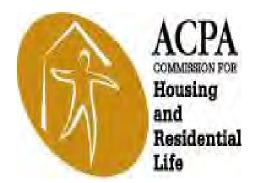
Please feel free to email me with any possible contributions and as always, questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions are greatly appreciated! See you at the Joint Meeting!

Angel L. Wilson Communications Chair angelw@austin.utexas.edu

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## **GETTING INVOLVED!!!**

# 2007 Joint Meeting Commission for Housing and Residential Life Activities



#### **New Directorate Body Orientation**

Date: 3/31/07 Start Time: 6:30 PM End Time: 7:30 PM Location: Denver – Marriott

#### **Directorate Body Meeting**

Date: 4/1/07 Start Time: 9:00 AM End Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Grand Ballroom Salon 10 -

Marriott

# Awards Reception (co-sponsored with OCM)

Date: 4/3/07 Start Time: 7:30 PM End Time: 9:00 PM

Location: Grand Ballroom Salon 1 & 2 -

Marriott

Questions about the 2007 Joint Meeting? Go to the Joint Meeting website:

http://www.2007jointmeeting.org

# Housing and Residential Life Commission Directorate Body Assignments for 2006-2007

Chair: Kathleen G. Kerr

- 1. Vice Chair for Education and Outreach: Stephanie Sue Helmers
  - A. Convention Programs/Educational Strategies Committee:

Lulu Kaliher, Chair Chris Elliott Erik Albinson Carla Dennis Trent Pinto

B. Publications Committee:
Olan Garrett, Chair
Harry Knabe
Pete Trentacoste
Jodi Schulman

- 2. Vice Chair for Membership Services: Jayme Uden
  - A. Communications Committee:
    Angel Wilson, Chair
    Jenna Moroney
    Roberta Garrett
    Rebecca Mosely
    Jack Saxon
    Cat Sanders
    Tricia Schwery Smith (ex-officio)
  - B. Webmaster: Jenna Moroney
  - C. Awards Coordinator: Mary Gallivan
  - D. Commission Photographer: Lulu Kaliher
- 3. Vice Chair for Commission Operations: Adrian Gage
  - A. Elections Coordinator: Rachel Rumple-Comerford
  - B. Convention Showcase Coordinator: Ryan Green
  - C. DB Orientation Coordinator: Jack Saxon
  - D. Fundraising/Corporate Relations Coordinator: Cat Sanders
  - E. Liaisons: Rod Waters & Mary Gallivan (Includes: Core Council for Outreach and Advocacy; NACURH/SALT Presentation; ACUHO-I; SC New Professionals; SC LGBTA; SC Women; Commission for Social Justice



# **GETTING INVOLVED!!!**

#### Join the Commission for Housing and Residential Life Listserv:

Just a reminder, if you haven't yet done so, join the Commission listserv: To subscribe to the Commission for Housing and Residential Life listserv, please follow the following directions:

- ✓ Visit https://members.myacpa.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/person/Listserv.html
- √ log in with your myACPA 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."

If you have any questions regarding this process please contact the International Office at (202)835-2272 or <a href="mailto:info@acpa.nche.edu">info@acpa.nche.edu</a>

# "THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH"

2007 ACPA/NASPA Joint Talent Show

Tuesday, April 3, 2007 8:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Every 10 years, two powerhouse associations representing Student Affairs come together for one explosive event. The 2007 ACPA/NASPA Joint Meeting offers an unprecedented opportunity to experience the best of the student affairs community and our Associations. It is a time to renew our commitment to students and their success, take stock of our impact on higher education, and engage in discourse with colleagues. Above all that, it is a time for us to have fun!

To that end, ACPA and NASPA are joining forces to sponsor, "The Greatest Show On Earth." This event will feature performances by members of ACPA, NASPA, and special guests. Approximately 7,000 colleagues are expected to attend the joint meeting, and this is their time to shine!



## COMMISSION COMMUNICATION

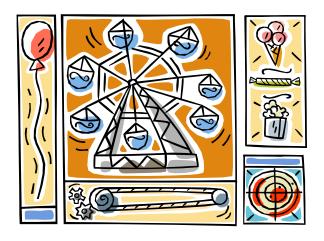
Here is where you'll find the latest tidbits on what's happening within the HRL Commission as well as any other information from groups or individuals that needs to be shared. If you would like to submit something to be shared here, please email Angel L. Wilson at angelw@austin.utexas.edu.

#### **CONVENTION SHOWCASE**

We are very excited for this year's showcase. In case you don't know, the "Convention Carnival" name has been changed to "Convention Showcase" to better reflect the purpose of the event—an opportunity for commissions, standing committees, state/international divisions, and graduate preparation programs to showcase their contributions to student affairs and to recruit new members. The showcase will be held on:

Date: Monday, April 2, 2007 Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Location: Crystal & Grand Ballrooms -Marriott

Ryan has worked on a fun, interactive game table that will draw in a crowd but we need your HELP!!!! We need give-aways from different schools for our table. Anything from shirts to pencils will be wonderful to receive (no candy or chocolate is allowed though). We would like to have a variety of schools represented so please make sure to bring items to our commission meeting during the convention. If you have any questions about what to bring, please email Ryan at <a href="mailto:greenry@dickinson.edu">greenry@dickinson.edu</a>. See you all in Orlando!



# 2007 Joint Meeting Selected Sponsored Programs

Program ID 274: Intentional Learning in Residence Halls: Whitman College's Residence Life Learning Outcomes Project, Monday, April 2, 2007, 1:45pm-3pm, Sawgrass, Marriott Presenter: Sean Gehrke, Whitman College Assistant Director of Residence Life & Housing

With the release of both Learning Reconsidered and Learning Reconsidered 2 came a mandate for developing comprehensive learning outcomes across the academy. This presentation will guide participants through the process of developing learning outcomes for residence life programs on small campuses and will share insight from the process that Whitman College is undergoing to develop outcomes for their program. This presentation will discuss the entire process, from initial planning to assessment of fully developed outcomes.

Program ID 508: Residential Curriculum: A Strategy for Citizenship Development, Monday, April 2, 2007, 3:30-4:45pm, Grand Ballroom Salon VIII, Marriott Presenter: Kathleen Kerr, Jim Tweedy, Mike Diesner, Ivet Ziegelbauer, University of Delaware

Calls for citizenship development abound both within and outside of higher education. Yet, colleges often find themselves unable to deliver on the promises of citizenship development. Examined through a new paradigm, residential life can provide a substantive context for citizenship development. The University of Delaware has significantly shifted educational delivery from programmatic to curriculum-based. This interactive program will explore the residential curriculum as a strategy for developing students who demonstrate civic engagement toward the development of a sustainable society.

Program 2026: NACURH Student Award for Leadership Training, Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 8:30am-9:45am, Sawgrass, Marriott

The Commission for Housing and Residence Life is pleased to be able to sponsor the NACURH Student Award for Leadership Training. NACURH the largest student leadership organization in the country presents this award annually to the College or University RHA that sponsors the most innovative, creative, and comprehensive student leadership training program for their Residence Hall Government on their campus.

# COMMISSION FOCUS AREAS

#### Cross-Campus Collaboration and its Impact on Developing New Professionals Rebecca (Becky) Mosely

As another national conference approaches and many of us prepare for yet another search for new residential professional staff members, it is a prime time to consider what we are doing to help our young professionals develop in their core competencies. There are two primary reasons this consideration is vital to our field. The first is that as core competencies continue to be discussed in graduate programs, being able to articulate to candidates what an institution does to help develop young professionals is necessary to recruit the top emerging professionals. Secondly, it is clear when interviewing at conferences which candidates have either not had good mentors in their previous experiences, or have not taken full advantage of their mentor's advice.

Much of the research and advice on developing new professionals focuses on the relationship between the direct supervisor and new professional. While this is very important, it is also important to understand our own individual limitations as educators and recognize the importance of creating multiple mentoring opportunities for new staff, both within and beyond their specific department of responsibility. The amount of collaboration that young professionals have outside of their specific areas of responsibility often changes based on the institution where they work.

As a new professional in my first position as a Resident Director, my outside involvement was very limited because of the large number of students and staff I oversaw. While I was able to grow profoundly within my area of focus due to great supervisors who genuinely cared about my growth as a professional, it was not truly until my next position that I was able to reach outside of residential education into other areas of student affairs. My luck with supervisors continued as I moved into an Area Coordinator position and found myself with a supervisor who was constantly urging her staff to grow professionally and to publish and present. In addition, she sought out the areas that I wanted and needed to grow in and provided me with opportunities for growth in other areas of student affairs as well as in residential education. While I was lucky to have supervisors who were able to motivate me to gain new professional experiences, I know of just as many colleagues who have had very different experiences. We have all heard stories about the not so stellar supervisors, and many of us can easily identify situations where we have seen new professionals who were clearly ill-prepared because of supervisors who did not encourage professional growth and development.

In an article for the Colorado State University SAHE Journal in 2003, Linda Kuk and Blanche Hughes wrote that "the profession's leadership has to become collectively visionary in its approach to providing staff development to professionals, especially new professionals." They also stated that "leaders within the profession need to decide which skills should be taught through preparation programs and which skills can be augmented and enhanced through on-going professional development activities." While I fully agree with these statements, it is clear that this has yet to happen in such a way as to guarantee that all of our new professionals would acquire the same skills and knowledge. This guarantee seems impossible to meet when we continue to have more jobs available than applicants who have been trained in a Student Affairs Master's program. That then leaves it up to the individual department or institution to determine how to best aid new professionals in their development.

There are many ways for young professionals to find development opportunities, including conferences, web or phone seminars, classes, and on-the-job training. One of the other ways is to give new professionals opportunities to be involved in campus committees and programs outside of residential life. At some colleges this comes naturally based on the collateral assignments that are part of the RD jobs, however at other schools this requires intentional planning by supervisors and student affairs divisions.

One intentional way that the Division of Student Affairs at Oberlin College has created an opportunity for development is through the establishment of a New Professionals Institute, run out of our Dean of Students' Office. It began as a monthly lunch to discuss topics of importance to new professionals such as campus culture, (continued on page 6)

# COMMISSION FOCUS AREAS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To the Newly Elected Members of our 2007 Directorate Body

#### **Chair-Elect**

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#### **New Professional**

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#### **New England Region**

Jerome Holland Quad Director Brandeis University JHOLLAND@BRANDEIS.EDU Cross-Campus Collaboration and its Impact on Developing New Professionals (continued from page 5)

balance, creating opportunities for collaboration with other professionals, and job searching. Participation in the program was offered to all staff within the department with 5 or less years of experience.

As the program developed, the staff who were involved expressed an interest in more personalized development, which led to the modified format that is now in existence. The group still meets to discuss key topics and issues, but in addition, all of the staff that participate in the program are paired with an experienced staff member who works in a different office than that new professional. The pairs then meet on a regular either monthly or bi-weekly schedule depending on what they decide they want their relationship to be.

The intention behind this new format is to provide an opportunity for young professionals to connect in a meaningful way with someone who can give them a different point of view of Student Affairs than the staff who work in their department/office. We have found this to have many benefits to both our young professionals and to our division as a whole as the relationships that have been created have allowed for improvements in our student services as well as in the way that we serve each other as staff. The staff members who participate really enjoy the opportunity to learn from others in the field. In addition, it has allowed those of us who supervise new professionals to work in tandem with another mid to upper level administrator to provide opportunities for growth and experience to our staff.

At the end of the day, the professional staff who leave our institution are a reflection of the quality of the developmental experiences they received at our institution. It is important for us to continue to find innovative ways for our younger staff to grow and develop with ever fewer resources to help them. It is up to each institution to determine the best way to provide these opportunities, but it is key that the opportunities exist. For the Division of Student Life at Oberlin College, collaboration is that key.

References: Kuk, L. and Hughes, B. (2003) *Bridging the Competency Gap for New Professionals*Available online:

http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/SAHE/JOURNAL2/2003

# DIRECTORATE BODY CONTACT INFORMATION

The Directorate Body members would like to keep in contact with you. If you have any questions, feedback, and/or input, please feel free to reach us at the contact information provided below!

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