

Greetings Commission for Housing and Residential Life Members!  
September 2013 Newsletter



## [Commission News!](#)

**(Click on the title to go directly to that section!)**

[An Update from the Chair](#)

[ACPA Mid-Level Community of Practice](#)

[Featured Article: Keeping it Together During Training](#)

[CHRL Directorate Body Nominations](#)

[CHRL Award Nominations](#)

[2013 Residential Curriculum Institute \(RCI\)](#)

[ACPA 2014 Call for Programs](#)

[ACPA's 90th Anniversary](#)

[CHRL on the Web](#)

[Get Involved with the Newsletter](#)

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### [An Update from the Chair](#)

**Amy Franklin-Craft, Ph.D.**

Seems like only yesterday that we were participating in our August training programs. I hope this newsletter finds you off to a joyous and uneventful (you know what I mean) start to the academic year. Now that the dust is settling, it's time for you to begin thinking about your own professional trajectory and how you plan on getting from point A to point B. I encourage you, regardless of your current role in Residence Life and Housing to sit down with a supervisor or mentor and evaluate your current level of performance and expertise using ACPA's competencies. Once you have done this, you're in a great position to think though professional development opportunities. We'd like to both help and learn from you. One of our goals is to add professional development resources to our website. These don't have to be exclusive to ACPA, there are a number of student affairs conferences and developmental opportunities out there. We'd love to post the web-link for the opportunity, the time of year the opportunity takes place and a short descriptor of what one might expect to gain from participation. We'll need your help though! Feel free to contact me at [frank196@msu.edu](mailto:frank196@msu.edu) and provide your insights!

Don't forget, our commission has a Facebook page and a list serve that you can use to post questions, keep current on events, and or involve yourself with the commission.

Our Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/ACPA.CHRL>

Our list serve email address is: [chrl@lyris.acpa.nche.edu](mailto:chrl@lyris.acpa.nche.edu). If you're not signed up for our list serve, simply go to your myACPA member profile and add yourself!

Sincerely,

*Amy Franklin-Craft, Ph.D.*

Chair, Commission for Housing and Residence Life



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## **What is the ACPA Mid-Level Community of Practice?**

ACPA has always offered programs and services uniquely designed for mid-level professionals in higher education. Beginning in August 2013, ACPA has added even more for the mid-level professionals: the ACPA Mid-Level Community of Practice! The ACPA Mid-Level Community of Practice is the home for mid-level professionals in higher education. Mid-Level Professionals are those who have been in the field for more than five years and are not a Senior Student Affairs Officer.

### **Definition of Mid-Level Professional**

Recognizing that many definitions or conceptualizations exist, we define mid-level as more than five years of full-time experience in higher education and not a senior professional. The mid-level is a broad categorization. Recognizing this breadth, within this mid-level it is possible that formal or informal subgroups might develop to represent those who are early, mid or senior within the mid-level itself. If such subgroups develop better to focus on programs and services designed for mid-level professionals, we welcome and encourage the formation of such subgroups.

For some professionals, mid-level is a position at which they wish to remain for their professional careers. The reasons for doing so are as unique as the individuals themselves and which may encompass not only professional concerns but personal concerns as well. Likewise, some professionals see the mid-level as a stepping-stone to senior level opportunities. It is for this broad group of mid-level professionals that the ML COP wishes to offer programs and services designed to enrich their professional practice.



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## **Featured Article: Keeping it Together During Training**

**Scott M. Helfrich, D.Ed.**

**@studentlifeguru**

**<http://www.studentlifeguru.com>**

I have found that August can be both the most exciting and frustrating time of the year. For all of us, the staff training and student move-in part of our year has not only become a

proverbial rite of passage, but part of our culture, personality, and lives as housing and residence life professionals. As I always say, housing and residence life professionals are true warriors. While the obligatory door decs, bulletin boards, and late night runs to Wal-Mart are par for the course, it is important to make sure that not only are you taking care of your staff, but taking care of yourself as well.

Here are some thoughts on how to “keep it together” during this often stressful (yet exciting) time:

**Utilize Your Staff** – Delegate, delegate, delegate. It’s as simple as that. You can’t be everywhere at every time and keep some semblance of sanity during a busy and stressful time. You have good people that work for you so utilize their skills and strengths to help you with everything that needs to be accomplished. Enjoy your time with your staff while getting all the work accomplished.

**Take a Break** – When August 1<sup>st</sup> rolls around, I jokingly tell my wife and kids that I’ll see them in September and will miss them. I have learned over my professional career that it’s ok to take a break (and you have to!) And that includes eating, sleeping, exercising, and spending time with your family. While I know it’s a badge of courage for ResLifers to have unspoken bragging rights as to who is working more, this can be counterproductive. Excessive stress can easily lead to illness so schedule time for yourself. It’s also crucial that you build personal time in for your staff as well during training and opening.

**Move-in is Going to Happen One Way or Another** – Nothing is ever going to be perfect. There will be maintenance issues missed, roommate matches will be less than stellar, parents are going to complain, and a training session may simply bomb. That’s ok. Move-in is still going to happen, and you’ll handle whatever challenges come your way. Having that perspective will prevent you from stressing yourself out about having everything perfect because that’s simply unrealistic.

Good luck to you all this fall semester!



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## **Looking to Get More Involved with CHRL?**

### **Consider Being a Member of the CHRL Directorate Body!**

Every year the Commission on Housing and Residential Life seeks new members to serve on the Directorate Body and this year is no different. In the coming weeks, more information will be sent out regarding nominations and elections. When the official e-mail comes out we encourage you to either nominate yourself or another ACPA member. As always we are looking for a diverse group of candidates, those that represent the wide range of professionals we represent. In addition to graduate, new and mid-level professionals, we strongly encourage seasoned professionals (5+ years of experience) to consider applying to help us ensure we continue to meet the needs of all of our constituency groups.

## Why Serve on the Directorate?

There are many reasons to serve on the CHRL Directorate Body, including:

- Gain writing experience by contributing to thought papers and other types of publications;
- Help shape professional development opportunities by designing webinars, workshops, and institutes;
- Network with Housing professionals from all over the world;
- Expand your professional circle of influence;
- Put your skills and strengths to work to benefit Housing professionals at all levels; and
- The Directorate Body can lead to many other leadership roles within ACPA including convention planning teams, taskforces, and governing board.

Should you or a colleague have any questions about the role and responsibilities of the CHRL Directorate, or the nomination, application, and elections processes, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Schuhert at [sschuher@binghamton.edu](mailto:sschuher@binghamton.edu) or 607-777-2322.



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## **Awards Nominations: Recognize Great Work!**

It is never too early to start thinking about recognition! Since 1977, the Commission for Housing and Residential Life has recognized outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of student housing. The 2013-2014 Commission Directorate Body is proud to carry on the coordination of this important tradition. **You will be able to submit Award Nominations in late October so now is the time pay attention to and record the great work of your colleagues!!** The Commission Awards include:

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student Staff Member
- Outstanding Graduate Student Staff Member
- Outstanding New Professional (In their first three years of professional employment)
- Outstanding Experienced Professional: Two categories - 4-9 years, 10 or more years
- Excellence in Service (non-ResLife student or professional staff person)
- Excellence in Sustainability: Two categories - Program, Individual
- Outstanding Innovation in Housing and Residential Life

For a description of each award visit <http://www2.myacpa.org/housing-awards/housing-award-descriptions2>. If you have questions about Commission Awards, please contact Troy Seppelt at [tseppelt@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:tseppelt@coloradomesa.edu)





## 2013 RCI Resident Curriculum Institute

October 20-23, 2013  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina  
The 7th Annual Residential Curriculum Institute (RCI) co-sponsored by ACPA's Commission for Housing & Residential Life and Assessment & Evaluation will challenge you to rethink the practices and grounding philosophies of your residential program! Check out what some of our colleagues have to say about RCI:

- "Being able to hear some of the best in the field speak about a residential curriculum really opened my eyes to the impact we can have on a student's experience. Going to RCI was certainly the most formative experience I've had since leaving graduate school." Sean Watson, Residence Hall Coordinator, Saint Louis University
- "The Residential Curriculum Institute was one of the most valuable and practical professional development opportunities I have attended. Five years after attending my first and only RCI, I still implement many of the methods and practices taught to us at the institute. I am confident that any institution attending RCI will gain a new philosophy towards student learning and development in the residence halls." - Noor



## Attention History Geeks! ACPA 90th Anniversary

For ACPA's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our commission would like to put together a retrospective of Housing and Residence Life Programs over the past 90 years. If you have pictures, information about policies (with dates), etc. Please send them to Amy Franklin-Craft at [frankl96@msu.edu](mailto:frankl96@msu.edu). Please use the following format:

1. Institution
2. Information included/attached
3. If you have a preference for how it's laid out
4. Are you interested in helping to create the final product?
5. Your contact information (name, e-mail, phone, institution, etc)



## CHRL on the Web

### Stay Connected with Us!

We are putting an emphasis on the Commission's social media

Ibrahim, Assistant Director of  
Residence Life, Endicott College

Follow this link for more information:  
<http://www2.myacpa.org/professional-development/2089>.

presence! Like us on Facebook  
at [www.facebook.com/ACPA.CHRL](http://www.facebook.com/ACPA.CHRL). On  
Twitter, follow us @ACPA\_CHRL. Invite  
your Res Life friends to "follow" us and  
"like" us! Watch for a new blog hosted by  
the Commission in the near future!



## Get Involved with the Newsletter!

Want to write an article?  
Have a topic you want to know more about?  
Have information or an event to share?  
Just follow the link below!

[Submit to the Newsletter](#)

The next newsletter is coming in November!  
Use the link above if you have articles, announcements or information you'd like to submit!



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