

## **Living/Learning Communities**

Georgia Wilson  
James Madison University,  
MSC 2401  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 568-3501

We have five different learning communities living in one residence hall. The learning communities have 15-40 students participating in each community for a total of 150 students. We increased the number of RA's in the building in order to have a higher ratio of RA's to students in order to better foster their environment. Our hall director's assistantship is based in residence life with a concentration in the Center for leadership, service, and transition. This is the second year for the program and the success continues to rise- we are moving the program to a larger building next year and the number of learning communities has almost doubled.

## **Madison International**

Georgia Wilson  
James Madison University  
MSC 2401  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 568-3501

We have a program called Madison International that is sponsored by the Office of Residence Life and the Center for Multicultural and International Student Services. The building housing 66 residents with 4 RA's and 1 hall director. Madison International participants must apply and be accepted into the program. We try to balance American students with international students in order to foster a unique community. Each resident serves on one committee within the hall. The committees bring in speakers, sponsor programs, and create unity within the hall. In the midst of Sept. 11, this hall has really bonded together and proudly painted and displayed all the flags from the different countries represented within the program. This is our second year having this program.

## **Theme Learning Communities at Miami (2000-2001)**

Jacqueline Elcik  
Coordinator of Themed Learning Communities  
Miami University  
Office of Residence Life and New Student Programs  
227 Warfield Hall  
Oxford, OH 45056  
513-529-4002  
ElcikJ@muohio.edu

The Office of Residence Life and New Student Programs has impacted Miami University community through the development of living learning communities within the residence halls. Specifically, the Office of Residence Life and New Student Programs has developed several Theme Learning Communities offered to first-year and upper-class students. These communities explore a variety of themes, which provide students with the opportunity to get involved in leadership, diversity, wellness,

fine arts, service learning, and international to name a few. These programs create an atmosphere of respect and dedication to a theme and a commitment to a common goal. Each theme learning community assists students in adjusting to campus life, through programming, mutual interest and involvement completing a common goal or project. Currently the theme learning communities are working on visions for the future, challenging themselves to keep up with trends and to create beneficial and unique experiences for Miami students.

### **Outdoor Adventures and Community Service (OACS) living Environment (2000-2001)**

Michael Wilcoxon, Cory Sbarbaro  
Housing and Dining Services  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521  
707-826-3451

The Outdoor Adventures and Community Service (OACS) living environment is a community of students whose members have passion for outdoor activities and community service. Participation in this living community includes enrolling in a one-unit academic course which focuses on outdoor adventure, community service, and leadership skills. The Fall semester begins with an overnight retreat and ropes course, providing an opportunity for students to begin building their community and provide input on the activities for the year. Some examples of activities include: assisting in a community soup kitchen; hiking; white-water rafting; a morning beach clean-up activity followed by an afternoon of sea kayaking; and many others! Active participation with the various planned activities is expected and is essential for the program to be a success. A participation fee of \$125 covers the cost associated with all activities. This program is open to all students.

### **Program Housing (2000-2001)**

Jeff Ederer, Debbie Colucci  
Office of Residential Life  
Wesleyan University  
48 Wyllys Ave.  
Middletown, CT 06459  
Jederer@wesleyan.edu  
Dcolucci@wesleyan.edu  
860-685-3550

The Residential Life staff at Wesleyan University are proud to offer our Program Housing concept as a Theme Housing Model Program. A highlight of the residential experience is the varied and diverse housing options that are available to our undergraduate students. An important part of this experience is the opportunity for each student to live in one of our Program Houses. Each program has a specific mission that house members agree to actively support and participate in throughout their time at the house. Through their experiences, they are exposed to new opportunities, live and learn with others who have similar interests, and participate in programs that benefit house members and the community around them.

### **Leadership House (2000-2001)**

Frank Hamilton  
University of South Florida  
4202 Fowler Ave., BSN 3528  
Tampa, FL 33620  
Fhamilto@coba.usf.edu  
813-974-4945

The purpose of the Leadership House program at the University of South Florida is to bring students together in a living environment that grounds them in shared experience and empowers them to serve and lead as well as grapple with the ideals of servant-leadership as it pertains to their lives in an experiential setting. The program empowers students to take a shared responsibility for building community of learners with allows them to model the ethical uses of power, acceptance and empathy for others, foresight and intuition. They also are developing their powers of persuasion, rather than imposing their will on others. The students have built a community through encouraging teamwork, shared vision, group participation and open communication.

### **Fine Arts Floor (2000-2001)**

Heather Hoffman  
Resident Director &ndash; Nair Hall  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
228 Egbert Hall  
Clarion, PA 16214  
Hhoffman@mail.clarion.edu  
814-226-2517

The Fine Arts Living-Learning Floor is a co-educational residence hall floor by wing where students can share a common interest in exploring the Fine Arts. The residence hall staff assigned to live and work on the floor will provide Fine Arts programming in order to help the students living explore the arts and help them synthesize classroom learning with out of class experience.

An additional goal of the Fine Arts Floor is to provide community outreach. The students choosing to live on the Fine Arts Floor will be asked to interact Clarion Area High School students by introducing them to the college experience and the fine arts. Interested students from the Fine Arts Floor may provide an introduction to the Fine Arts to Clarion Area students through demonstrations in the Clarion Area elementary school via school assemblies and workshops.