



the official nwacuho newsletter

the soundings

northwest association of college and university housing officers

**SUMMER BREAK
HOUSING JOBS**

**LEADERSHIP
BLOGGING**

**MENTORING NEW
PROFESSIONALS**

NWACUHO soundings

cover

Reading room of Suzzallo Library, University of Washington. Photo by Cap'n Surly, Flickr.com

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a letter from the president

steve fitterer

Steve Fitterer, Mount Royal University
NWACUHO President

Greetings and Happy Summer everyone!! I cannot believe that it is July 4th already. I realize that you will be reading this after the fact so I hope that my American colleagues had a terrific Independence Day and a Happy Canada Day to my fellow Canadians. While we get to celebrate our day first every year, I guess I have to concede the fact that you have celebrated yours longer ☺. Either way, I hope you all have a terrific time, however you chose to celebrate it.

I simply cannot believe where the time has gone. It is four days before I leave to attend the ACUHO-I conference in New Orleans and I'd suspect that those of us that attended had a terrific, enlightening (and perhaps very humid) experience. While institutional budgets and/or policies often set limitations on who can attend, I hope that everyone gets an opportunity to participate in at least one ACE conference. It's an incredible opportunity to form connections and to learn from colleagues from around the world. In 2012, ACE will be in Anaheim, California so hopefully even more of our members will be in attendance.

The Executive Board and many of our members have been very busy over the last

three months and we believe that there has been some excellent progress in work around the region. On behalf of all of us, I want to thank those of you that are chairing or participating in our Task Forces. We continue to see some incredible things coming out of the four task forces and we anticipate it will only get better.

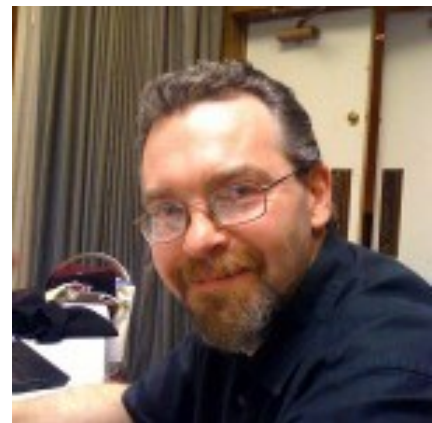
Our May Executive meetings at the University of Puget Sound were also very productive. We had an opportunity to fully review the 2011 conference and are anticipating another incredible conference in Ashland in 2012. There are some great things planned for our 50th celebration (I'm not allowed to share them yet even though I'm a terrible "secret keeper"), we've managed to get conference registration costs back to 2010 levels and the organization is on solid ground financially. The UPS folks shared some of their preliminary thoughts on the 2013 conference and I am very confident that they will do an outstanding job as well.

We also had the privilege of ending our meetings in UPS with a conversation with Mike Segawa, the Vice President and Dean of Students at UPS (and former President of NWACUHO!!!). Mike encouraged us

to continue to develop a better understanding of how our institutions operate from the academic perspective and how that can assist us in forming partnerships in our campus communities. We cover many important topics when we train our Resident Advisors/Assistants but do we teach them how our institutions function academically? The better we understand each other, the more likely we are to form lasting, productive relationships. We all really appreciated the time you spent with us Mike.

Lastly, I'm really excited about the direction the NWACUHO strategic planning process is going. Matt Lamsma, Dan Larson and Josh Gana have laid the foundation for a terrific planning document and Elaine Ames and I will be meeting with the three of them in Portland on July 19-20 to flush out the details. Our goal will be to have something to present to our members in Ashland in February 2013.

I hope you all enjoyed the rest of your "slow" summer period and had a chance to get away and recharge the batteries. We might not feel ready or want to admit it yet, but fall check in is right around the corner. Take care everyone.



a word from the editor...



Andrew K. Rogers
Newsletter Editor

This summer newsletter issue was a tricky one to produce, especially for an editor who was in-between jobs and institutions. It didn't help that I went into the summer still tooling around with my first newsletter for NWACUHO (sorry it was so late, I'm slowly getting the hang of it). It also doesn't help that I'm spending my summer in Moses Lake, WA, a small city without a Fed Ex/Kinkos or University print shop to help produce the issues. But enough about my challenges, I'm just happy to get another issue out to you.

Why? I believe in this newsletter's purpose: to keep Housing professionals connected and informed about current trends and happenings in our area while highlighting professional development opportunities. We've got all that in spades this issue, with articles about mentorship programs, summer job ideas, and leadership blogging. I hope you find something that inspires you to try something new. If so, I'd love to hear about it. I want to thank all those that submitted articles and I hope to see a few more next issue. Happy Fall openings!

THE LEADERSHIP BLOG

**What's in a name?
UBC Vancouver's Felicia Lam
and Carol Young discuss their
department's new professional
development initiatives.**

Often leadership is described in very hierarchical ways – climbing the ladder, getting to the top, being the best, aiming for that title of CEO, president, boss. And getting to the top in our society has its perks. It is hard not to get caught by society's definition of success – the idea that by some point in life we should have achieved certain things. But who is it that sets these standards of success and why do I fall prey to thinking that they should apply to me? It is not easy to swim against the current and create your own definition of success.

In a discussion with Patty Hambler who works at the Wellness Centre on campus, we talked about what having a title means. Like most things in life, titles can also have good and bad characteristics. We talked about how titles can get in the way. Titles relate back to organizational structure which can get in the way of relationship building and the work that needs to be done. It can give those in a hierarchical setting the idea that they can't learn anything from anyone in a role lower than theirs. It can also give those who are lower on the hierarchy the opportunity to defer to those who are higher than them or take less ownership/responsibility for what's happening. They feel they may not have as much say and that their voice is not as important. Titles are often directly related to ego.

We also talked about how titles can give you legitimacy but they are meaningless unless there is a person of substance behind them. A title alone defines no one and it is certainly not what folks will remember about you. I believe people will remember how you went about your day to day, how you treated them, whether you lived your life with meaning and joy. The title of leader is about being a leader at whatever you are doing, wherever you are.

Leaders should take initiative, take responsibility, and lead by example. Sharma talks about all of our experiences being "preparation." I don't disagree, but this suggests to me that there is a next step at which to arrive. Do we ever really arrive at one point where we have reached our leadership pinnacle? Instead I like to think that all our experiences are part of our formation in moving us along on life's journey – experiences which grow us as leaders throughout our lives.

The direction may not always seem forward moving – much of my learning and growth has taken place in what many would describe as my "one step forward three steps back"; sometimes what feels like being lost has transformed me in ways I couldn't imagine. Each encounter or experience adds to the foundation that is me in preparation for the next thing that comes my way. Sometimes it takes being knocked off balance to find your centre again; sometimes you do things to learn what it is that you don't want.

When I try to describe my work as a Residence Life Manager in family housing, I sometimes describe it as being the mayor, the minister and the community center director of a small town all rolled into one. And each of those titles carries certain responsibilities and expectations which I think of in these ways: helping to set standards by which people live so that there is some common ground when we are creating community among diverse cultures, ideas and expectations; listening to folks and sharing in their concerns as well as their celebrations; creating opportunities for us as a community to connect and grow.

What does having a title mean for you? So began the conversation on our Residence Life blog, which grew out of our first spring Leadership Summit. The Leadership Summit brought together incoming senior student leaders from Residence Life and Residence Councils to begin to look at their role as team leader. It was an opportunity for them to identify their leadership style and how they would



The Collegiate Readership Program, managed by USA TODAY, provides students with access to a daily assortment of newspapers on campus.

USA TODAY and a combination of local, regional and/or national newspapers (chosen for distribution by your college or university) are delivered each weekday morning to displays conveniently located in the lobbies of residence halls and other campus locations. Students then select one or more of the papers daily for their reading enjoyment.

The goals of the program are to encourage a lifelong newspaper readership habit and to increase students' knowledge of local, national and international events.

FEATURE

motivate and inspire their team in the upcoming year. The student leaders participated in a number of different sessions focused on team interactions, goal setting and leadership theory. They also heard the perspectives of student leaders who had held similar positions in the past. The Leadership Summit served to strengthen the connections between Residence Life and Residence Councils as it encouraged the students to think more broadly about residence-wide goals for the year ahead.

The idea for the Leadership Summit stemmed from our awareness that it takes a lifetime to develop as a leader. In engaging our student leaders in leadership theory and development over the summer, we are intentionally directing conversations to build their confidence, their ability to reflect and their skills as leaders.

To help direct these conversations, students were given a book on leadership called "The Leader Who Had No Title" by Robin Sharma to read over the summer. Each month, the students are provided with reflection questions and are directed to use the Residence Life blog, which is a venue for online conversations to take place. Two of the professional staff respond to the reflection questions and post them on the blog, inviting the student leaders to participate in the conversation with their own reflections and comments. Our plan is to not only continue the discussions and skill development at Orientation in August, but to carry on their development as leaders throughout the year.

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The New Professional

Sasha Masoomi, along with a mentor and a mentee, discuss how the NWACUHO New Professional Taskforce's Mentor Program has helped professionals find a pathway to success.

My name is Sasha Masoomi, and I am your new chair for the NWACUHO New Professional Taskforce. The New Professionals NWACUHO Taskforce hopes to provide mentorship opportunities to new professionals to aid their development in the field. One of our first goals we launched this past spring was to host a mentorship program, in which we paired new professionals with experienced professionals. Expectations for mentors and mentees were, once matched up, to contact and discuss the frequency and method in which you wish to communicate. The vision is to have mentees ask questions and for advice, and then the mentors will provide what guidance they can.

With this mentorship program, professionals are self-selecting into the program, demonstrating an interest in helping a new professional to advance in the field, or being a new professional seeking that relationship with a professional that they may not have had the opportunity to connect with previously. What I have found in my experience so far, there is a wealth of excitement and energy around these mentorship experiences, for that very reason. One of the benefits of this program, which is key to any successful mentorship relationship, is that we are connected, and then the mentor and mentored professional work together to explore what this relationship will look like, and how it will operate.

The hope with this mentorship program was that both members of the mentorship pairs would learn much from this experience. As we approached the end of the 2nd month of the program, I was interested in hearing thoughts and feedback from participants on how the relationships

had progressed. I also wanted to be able to share this insight with the entire NWACUHO community.

I appreciate our guest commentary from a current housing professional Erik Sorensen, who is serving as a mentor to a fellow new professional and has also himself been paired with a professional mentor. Erik has agreed to share some insight as to why he signed up to both receive a mentor and to be a mentor and what he is hoping to gain from the experience over the course of the year. He describes some of his general thoughts about the program, as well as discussing how his pairings have managed this relationship.

Erik Sorensen
Complex Director, University of Oregon

"What an exciting prospect it is to be a new professional in the field of Student Affairs or Housing, full of energy, excitement and opportunity, with a world

of possibilities open to you. On the other side of that coin, experienced professional also have a wonderful and unique opportunity to help new professionals grow and develop in their role, paving the way and offering advice on how to avoid the nasty bumps in the road. It was with these two thoughts in mind that I volunteered for the mentorship program offered by the NWACUHO New Professionals Task Force, as both a mentor and to be mentored.

I am confident that many professionals have found someone at their institution that they admire, look up to, and maybe even consider to be a mentor. I certainly have many professional staff members that I can go to with questions, seek advice or assistance, or simply to discuss current issues in the field of Student Affairs and University Housing. While the New Professionals mentorship program can offer another level of these same elements, in a field where networking is critical and

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working collaboratively with professionals of varying opinion and insight only advances our work, it offers a few unique opportunities, as well.

With this mentorship program, professionals are self-selecting into the program, demonstrating an interest in helping a new professional to advance in the field, or being a new professional seeking that relationship with a professional that they may not have had

highly value John's experience and expertise. I sent a copy of my resume to John, and he sent me a copy of his, and as noted before, while I am provided support in these aspects in my own department, having someone from another school with a fresh perspective support and encourage me in my development can only benefit me further and supplement what my supervisor has and is providing in areas of my professional growth. On top of that,

To put it briefly, the New Professional Mentorship Program offers an incredible opportunity to new professionals and seasoned professional alike. Both mentoring and being mentored can be fun and rewarding, and I encourage everyone in Housing interested in professional development and the advancement of others in the field to consider this opportunity seriously. In the few short weeks that I have been involved, on both sides of the mentor coin, it has been extremely rewarding."

I left my conversation with John feeling very enthused about future work within Housing and Student Affairs, and I have the opportunity to try my best to impart this same onto the new professional that I am mentoring.

the opportunity to connect with previously. What I have found in my experience so far, there is a wealth of excitement and energy around these mentorship experiences, for that very reason. One of the benefits of this program, which is key to any successful mentorship relationship, is that we are connected, and then the mentor and mentored professional work together to explore what this relationship will look like, and how it will operate. One of the larger concerns that I have heard from others is the time commitment of this experience, and while we are in the early stages, a huge benefit is being able to select what the time commitment will be for ourselves. With myself, my mentor, and my mentored new professional all being at quarter schools engaged in closing our buildings during our first contacts, we are saving all of the hard work for this summer.

I was extremely fortunate to be connected with Dr. John Purdie, an Associate Director of Residence Life at Western Washington University, as my mentor. John connected with me quickly, and we set up an opportunity to speak over the phone, to discuss what I was hoping to get out of the opportunity. John and I hit it off immediately, discussing everything from closing to conduct, assessment to career goals, and several things in between. I am excited to learn more about his experience, and in looking at my work in the profession, future career goals, and even possibly seeking to become a Ph.D. candidate down the road somewhere, I

one of the fun things about Housing is meeting new people and learning from as many people as possible, both of which this experience has offered me.

I left my conversation with John feeling very enthused about future work within Housing and Student Affairs, and I have the opportunity to try my best to impart this same onto the new professional that I am mentoring. I was fortunate to be connected with Brandon Knox, a Residence Hall Coordinator at Central Washington University, who is as enthusiastic and energetic about engaging the world of Student Affairs as I am. Brandon and I are in the fledgling stages of this relationship, having just started connecting on how we will manage a mentorship relationship, exploring what Brandon hopes to gain from the experience. Even with only three years of professional experience in the field, I believe that I have something to offer a new(er) professional, and as I job search and find opportunities to be more heavily involved in Student Affairs and Housing, I hope to share that knowledge with Brandon, to help jumpstart him in the field in a stronger way. As I have mentioned, I do not presume that he is not being offered this at his own institution, and in fact, assume he is, but I hope to supplement that, answering any and all questions that Brandon has for me, exploring current events in the field, and discuss my institutional experience that surely differs from his.

Brandon Knox Residence Hall Coordinator, Central Washington University

The NWACUHO Professional Mentorship program is a great idea! It provides an opportunity to network and get to know a professional at a different institution in the region and through that relationship, to grow as a professional myself.

Personally, I'm a thinker. I spend a lot of time in my head mulling an idea over, thinking about a topic and finding exactly the right words that I want to use. When I get to a point (usually well after the meeting) where I have questions or ideas, the other professionals in my department are a great resource and I couldn't have had a successful first year without them. I want to be able to bounce ideas off of another professional steeped in the processes and concerns of another institution. One of my other goals is to talk about professional trajectory; developing the skills that I want to go in the direction I want is great. What a gold mine!

I don't want to put any pressure on Erik Sorenson, a Complex Director at the University of Oregon and my mentor, though. I am looking forward to both this new relationship, a connection to another institution and to how this program will help NWACUHO and its members.

If you're new to the Housing profession and think you're interested in having a mentor—or you're a veteran housing officer who would like to offer guidance and support to another professional, you can register for the New Professional Mentor Program by contacting Sasha Masoomi at Masoomi@uoregon.edu

Taskforces

Committee Looks for White Paper Writers

The Housing and Facilities Education and Resource sub-committee is proud to present an opportunity to ACUHO-I members to assist with a written professional development initiative. White papers is designed to reach facilities professionals so they can access professional development without leaving their office or taking time away from campus. We have found that some facilities professionals cannot justify the time to leave campus to participate in professional development due to the nature of their jobs.

We are looking for people to volunteer to write for the first edition of White Papers that will come out in October. The articles are short and will have a specific focus area. Anyone can participate! We are seeking people who enjoy writing and educating others about facilities work.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact me at sphelps@wesleyan.edu or 860-685-3429. Thanks!

Stacey Phelps
Assistant Director of Residence Life,
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Communication Taskforce

Summer is in full swing in NWACUHO. For many of us, this means a chance to regroup, engage in professional development, and of course get everything set for our students to return in the fall. For others, such as our friends on the conferences side of the house, summer marks the busy season. Whether you are taking it easy or scurrying around campus, the Communications Task Force is hard at work to make professional development accessible for you this summer. Over the past year, the Communications Task Force has focused on a few key areas: expanding our presence on Twitter, Facebook and other Social Media platforms; integrating social media and technology into the annual conference and introducing a monthly webinar series.

First Friday Webinars have been a key focus for the Communications Task Force, and we're glad so many of you have been able to join us. Topics have ranged from popular annual conference entries on student conduct and existential leadership to facilitation skills to mastering social media. July marks the sixth installment of First Friday Webinars, taking a look at the operations side of housing and how technology can impact customer service. Many of the featured webinars have been presented at national and regional conferences, offering NWACUHO members an opportunity to engage in quality, conference-caliber professional development without the travel. The Communications Task Force will continue to focus on

growing and improving the First Friday Webinar series, and we hope you all look forward to the series as much as we do! If you are interested in presenting, have a suggestion for a presentation topic or speaker, or would otherwise like to be involved in the webinar series, please contact me.

If you and your colleagues haven't "liked" NWACUHO on Facebook or followed us on Twitter, join us soon! In the second half of 2011 the CTF will focus on bringing articles, news and opportunities to you through our social media platforms. Don't miss out! Finally, NWACUHO has made the leap to LinkedIn. This is a great opportunity for NWACUHO members to engage and build your networks. We look forward to expanding the community and seeing what LinkedIn can offer. These are just a few of the exciting things that the Communications Task Force is working on right now. If these topics interest you and you're looking for a way to further engage with NWACUHO, please consider joining the Task Force. In addition, if you have ideas for how the CTF can serve the region, let us know! Enjoy the sunshine, and we look forward to chatting with you!

Michelle Primley Benton
Communications Task Force Chair
mprimley@u.washington.edu



holsag

ALBERTA

RED DEER COLLEGE

Red Deer College was pleased to welcome Brad Donaldson as its new Vice President, Academic earlier this term.

Donaldson will join the College's Senior Administration team as leader of its varied academic programs. His role will focus on continuing to create an accessible, innovative teaching and learning environment that ensures RDC programs best respond to the needs of our students and our surrounding communities.

With more than 75 programs for students to choose from – degrees to certificates to apprenticeship training and everything in between – Donaldson will undoubtedly have a busy schedule. He looks forward to the opportunities that greet him at the College. "I'm excited to join a vibrant, growing campus filled with talented and driven students who approach education as a practical investment in themselves and their future. It will be my pleasure to lead RDC's faculty in delivering quality programs that prepare graduates for success," says Donaldson.

Brad holds both a Masters and Bachelor of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Toronto, and Management and Leadership Certification from Harvard University.

In March, Science Happens Here worked closely with Olds College, Red Deer College, local residents and businesses to highlight new, novel or tried and true applications of science used in and around Central Alberta. Dr. Arlene Ponting, CEO, Science Alberta Foundation commented that "the diversity of the region's mix of manufacturing, agriculture and innovation along with the creativity of the area's youth and workforce make central Alberta an ideal place to stimulate curiosity about local science and showcase science, math and technology careers."

Also as part of the Science Happens Here program, Grant Imahara and Tory Belleci from the Discovery Channel's MythBusters came to Red Deer to put on a demonstration. "The MythBusters are the rock stars of youth science culture. And much like Science Happens Here, they encourage people to question information and bust myths also" says Dr. Ponting. The show was held on Saturday March 12th in the Red Deer College Arts Centre. Show goers discovered the funny, bizarre and scientific things that go on behind the making of the show and were entertained as Grant and Tory shared "stories from inside the MythBusters".

More information about the Science Happens Here program can be found at www.sciencehappenshere.ca.

Submitted by Tim Siemens, Residence Life Coordinator

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

This year, for the first time at Medicine Hat College we created an "International Liaison" position at our residence to support International students. Part of the concern for the International student is that they arrive throughout the semester, and therefore are not able to participate in any of the orientation activities. One of the duties of the International Liaison is to make contact with students that are new to Canada within a couple of days of their

arriving. A month into the semester we held an International Student orientation, which had an excellent turn out. At that time it was identified that it was important to them to have the opportunity to participate in Canadian holiday celebrations. We hosted both a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for the students who remained on campus over the holidays. The result of this is that the International students have been more comfortable attending social events in residence. This has been beneficial for both Canadian and International students as they have gained cross cultural experience and awareness. When the disaster struck in Japan on March 11, 2011 the students in residence felt that they wanted to somehow convey their support. Being short of both money and time at this point in the semester, what the students have done is display Japanese flags in the windows of their units. It is an easy, inexpensive way of showing support. For a small community in rural Alberta the awareness and growth has been gratifying to experience.

Submitted by Glenda Staples, Coordinator, Student Housing

LAKELAND COLLEGE

Lakeland College's centennial is in 2013 and lots of work is being done now to make sure it's a year-long party that people won't forget.

There will be major events each month of the year including a sports championship, art exhibition, and nationally renowned guest speakers. We're also bringing back The Great Toboggan Caper, part two. In 1987 Lakeland entered the Guinness Book of World Records, thanks to the efforts of 132 people sliding down a hill at the Vermilion Provincial Park on a 102 foot toboggan. We'll try to beat the existing record. We're also hoping to spring into the record books with a world-record attempt for mattress dominoes involving students from the Vermilion and Lloydminster campuses.

In February, Residence Life hosted a Ladies Night. Female residents were treated to a night of pampering that included, flowers, crafts, prizes, massages, angel readings, mini manicures, aromatherapy classes, and relaxation. The event was very successful and approximately 130 students attended. In March, Residence Life hosted a Men's Night. The male residents were served pop and pizza in our Trades Centre. Local dealerships brought in trucks and farm machinery for the guys to check out. The Trades Department set up some challenges for the students and there were some massage therapists there to give mini massages. Plenty of prizes were given out and the students enjoyed the break. As well as hosting Mens and Ladies Nights, residence also hosted a Residence Appreciation Day. Residents were treated to nachos, juice, candies and door prizes. Every student who filled out a residence survey had his/her name entered into a draw to win a big screen TV. Throughout the year, students who attended Dorm Wars activities had their names entered into a draw to win a big screen TV. The final dorm wars activity of the year was held on March 22nd. It was a great success with 133 people in attendance.

This academic year is coming to a close and we are getting ready for next year. Incoming RAs have been hired and we are looking forward to another great year!!

Submitted by Judy Eyben, Residence Life Facilitator

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

It has been another very exciting year for the University of Alberta. Residence Services had an amazing fall retreat which has led to the creation of committees to review and plan for our student experience, staff experience and policy and procedures. We have had some quick wins and are working on several proposals to be more intentional and significantly improve in these areas for both our students and staff. There are also two very large projects we are currently working on. First is a switch of our housing management software from proprietary in house software to the CBORD Odyssey HMS system. Second we have had a significant change in our discipline policy. After extensive consultation and planning we will be implementing a restorative justice system to address behavioral issues in September 2011. Behavioral issues will be examined by identifying the impact of behavior and creating an agreement that restores the community by addressing the harms. Individuals who are disruptive will learn about the impact of their actions and have the opportunity to repair the harm; harmed people will learn to voice their needs and participate in resolution. We believe this will be more impactful both on an individual and community level.

RLPA

The Residence Life Professional Association had another very successful year. Our student leadership conference was once again a great success with over a hundred delegates in attendance and great feedback on the content, location and administration. Our meetings both saw very high attendance with many schools sending people from out of province and/or sending multiple delegates. We have also had many improvements to our website. There has been a reorganization and modernization and we have job boards, twitter, forms, links, discussion boards and the opportunity for members to create course curriculums similar to moodle or blackboard. We also welcomed the University of Victoria to the RLPA this summer and are very excited to have them join our community. If you would like to know more about the RLPA please visit our new website at <http://www.rlpa.ca/> or contact Chris Fukushima at cjf2@ualberta.ca. Submitted by: Chris Fukushima

WASHINGTON

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Staffing Changes –

After serving within EWU Admissions, Student Activities and in the Interim Director of Residential Life for the past six months, Josh Ashcroft has accepted the position of Senior Director of Housing and Residential Life. Josh started his Residential Life career as an EWU Community Advisor and returned to Eastern after time at Boise State University and Oregon State University.

Welcome Gina Ondercin to the staff as an Area Coordinator. Gina comes to us by way of University of Michigan and Bowling Green State University.

Congratulations to two current staff members – Mike Bowers and Shantell Jackson – who will advance from Residence Life Coordinators to Area Coordinators in 2011-2012.

Facility Construction/Maintenance –

Design continues with ALSC Architects on the new 350-bed residence hall slated for a fall 2013 opening.

Spokane-based Linoleum and Carpet City was awarded the bid for the student room flooring project in LA Hall. The chosen product is a luxury vinyl plank product manufactured by LG Hausys.

We hope to accomplish shower renovations in Streeter and Morrison Halls this summer using acrylic, professionally installed custom inserts.

Main lounge remodels in Pearce and Dressler will add significant warmth and functionality to these underused spaces.

Departmental Initiatives –

As part of Re-Application, we sponsored a fund-raiser and were able to raise enough money to sponsor a room at the Spokane Ronald McDonald House for the next two years! Hooray!

Submitted by: Josh Ashcroft

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Evergreen's Residential and Dining Services is working on a number of new projects heading into the summer and fall. First, we are exploring mixed gender apartment assignments for returning residents and new transfer students; this is in addition to our newly-named Rainbow Fort (formerly known as gender neutral housing), a community intended to be safe-space housing for students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, queer, questioning, transgender/gender non-conforming/gender queer, and/or intersex, as well as committed allies.

We are just over a year away from completing a ten-year renovation plan in our apartment buildings, and continue to incorporate sustainable practices into our renovations. This year's renovations will mark the second year that 100% of the material coming out of buildings will be reused or recycled. We are completing work on renovations to one modular housing unit that includes innovative re-using rainwater, and generating building heat using this water fueled by decomposing wood chips.

Submitted by: Michael Sledge

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

The Residence Life Staff at Gonzaga is enjoying the more relaxed pace of summer. Our time this summer will be spent on

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projects, running summer school housing, assisting a bit with conferences, and preparing for the return of our students in mid-August.

We will also be welcoming a couple of new staff members to our department over the summer. Jessica Vanderwood will be joining us in early June as an Area Coordinator. Jessica is from the St. Louis area and most recently was at the University of Illinois, Edwardsville. We are excited to have Jess join us at Gonzaga.

Submitted by: Matt Lamsma

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

It's already a busy summer at Puget Sound! There are a number of facilities projects happening on campus. The university is currently undergoing phase one of an expansion and remodel to the Wheelock Student Center. This summer we will also complete two other construction projects: Weyerhaeuser Hall—the new Center for Health Sciences—and Commencement Walk that will wind through the center of campus to Baker Stadium.

We will be welcoming two new Resident Directors to our team in July. Jessica Ward comes to us most recently from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri where she completed her Master's in College Student Personnel Administration. Nolan Yaws comes to us most recently from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where he completed his Master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education. We're thrilled to have Jessica and Nolan to join us!

We will be working on a number of departmental projects this summer. Probably most exciting, the Board of Trustees recently approved in concept the instatement of a two-year residential requirement and construction of a new suite style residence hall to open in the fall of 2013! As a result, we are beginning to evaluate our first and second-year student experiences in on-campus housing and tackle some assessment pieces, including student learning outcomes. In preparation for staff training in August, we will also be transforming the previous departmental programming model into a new student engagement model.

Submitted by: Kelly Ammendolia

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Greetings from WSU, Things are really hopping here in Pullman as we are gearing up for our new staff to arrive in July. Drew Morgan will join our central staff as an Assistant Director and is returning to the Northwest from Case Western after spending a few years at Oregon.

We are also welcoming in a large RED staff from all over the country. Alisa Dean (MSU-Mankato), Dennis Denman (UCLA), Matthew Jeffries (Ohio State), Jordan Keithley (EWU/WWU), Whitney Schmeling (UW-Stout), Griffin Uchida (WWU), and Chuanyao Zheng (Nebraska-Kearney) will join our team this upcoming Fall. We are all excited to have such great young professionals join our team! And for those keeping score, we will have 2 REDs with the last name starting with a "Z." (Chuanyao and returner Robert Zbikowski.)

We would like to thank the exiting REDs for their years of contribution to our department and making a difference here in Pullman and look forward to hearing about their next adventures.

Meg Autrey (WSU), Matthew Davenport (NMSU), Sarah Horn (NAU), Janelle Love (Illinois State), Karen Metzner (Montana), Patty Morris, and Joe Nixon (WIU) will all be spreading the Cougar spirit nationally.

We are sad to announce that Eleanor Finger has accepted the Director of Housing and Residence Life at Virginia Tech, but happy for her as she has a wonderful opportunity to work near her family.

Edwin Hamada will step in as Interim

Director and Lisa Schriver will step in as interim Assistant Director. If you can follow all the staffing changes, you might have a new career counting cards in Vegas. Anticipating the largest freshmen class ever, we are converting Rogers hall into doubles and having a few triple rooms in our system. We are also starting renovation to Community and Duncan Dunn halls and expect their completion for the Fall of 2012. Also in the works is a new residence hall on the north side of campus and refurbishing our single student apartments in Nez Perce. Never a dull moment!

Programmatically, we are participating in the launching of the Green Dot program in the Fall and inviting Mike Domritz back to campus for his "Can I Kiss You?" presentation. As if that is not enough, our Residence Hall Association has won the bid to host PACURH in November! We hope to see you here.

Submitted by: Edwin Hamada

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The NWACUHO Executive Board along with the host committee from Southern Oregon University is continuing to work hard to plan the 2012 NWACUHO Conference scheduled for February 19-21, 2012 in Ashland, Oregon. One of the major changes this is year for Exhibitors will be the conference schedule. Based on Exhibitor feedback at the 2011 NWACUHO Conference in

Vancouver, BC and the time since, we as a board have decided to condense the Exhibitor sessions. Please note, we are not shortening the amount of time Exhibitors are involved just the overall time they would need to spend at the conference. We are actually looking to involve Exhibitors more this year and to maximize the time value Exhibitors and conference attendees spend together. Below is a preliminary draft of the Conference Schedule with the bolded times being Exhibitor specific. I believe this will

allow Exhibitors to interact with conference attendees more efficiently and effectively plus maximizing travel time to and from the NWACUHO Conference. We will evaluate this schedule and the changes based on Exhibitor feedback at the end of the 2012 NWACUHO Conference then determine if this meets the needs of our Exhibitors, conference attendees, and the NWACUHO organization.

Sunday

- 3:00-4:00 - Past Presidents Reception
- 4:00 – 4:30 - New to NW (include Exhibitor welcome to encourage participation in vendor area)**
- 4:30 – 5:30 - Conference Welcome and Opening Event (with Exhibitors)**
- 5:30 – 6:30 – Hor d’oeuvre Reception with Exhibitors (chance to mingle with everyone)**
- 6:30 – 7:00 - State/Provincial meet and greet
- 7:00 - Case study Introduction, Dinner on your own, hospitality suite

Monday

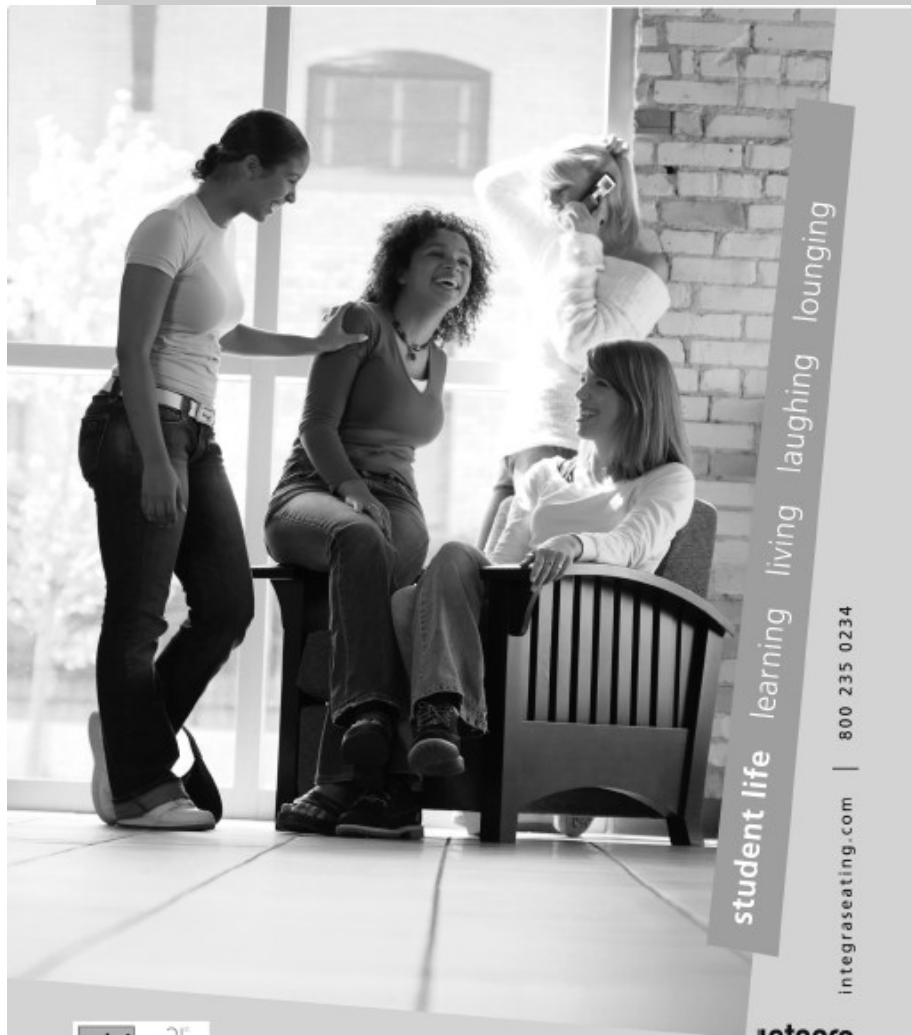
- 8:00 – Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:45 – Welcome and Keynote
- 9:45 – 10:45 Session 1 (like AIMHO, have the corporate partners preview with CHO’s/ Buyers)**
- 10:45 – 11:30 – Exhibitors Part 1**
- 11:30 – 12:30 – Session 2
- 12:30 – 1:30 – Lunch with Exhibitors (recognition etc)**
- 1:30 – 2:30 – Exhibitors Part 2 (closing, prizes, thank yous etc) – Exhibitors done if they want to leave**
- 2:30 – 3:30 – Session 3
- 3:45 – 5:45 – Case Study Presentations
- 5:45 – 6:45 – Socialize/Gear exchange – (could cater like the afternoon break?)
- 6:45 – Night on the Town

Please email milleria@cwu.edu with your thoughts.

Stay tuned for additional updates and information regarding conference planning, corporate memberships, and exhibitor materials.

Ian Miller

Products and Services Coordinator for NWACUHO



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HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER BREAK

by Andrew K. Rogers

On June 15th, my 10 month contract and, like many other entry-level Housing professionals, I found myself on a mandatory summer vacation-without-pay. I understand the logic behind the 10-month contracts, budgets are tight, and there's less work around the halls once the students leave, but it still leaves me in the precarious position of trying to find temporary employment to pay the bills (in my case, those come in the form of nasty, nagging credit card debt).

What does a Housing professional do on their two month break? Out of the peers I know, one took a road trip across the country, stopping at geological dig sites; another went to a rival University that needed professionals for their summer program; there were the lucky professionals that were appointed choice jobs working at their own University as a Summer Orientation coordinator; and there were the unlucky ones found jobs moving mattresses and desks from one hall to another in the blistering heat; of course, there were the few that chose to make no money and become hermits in their apartments, detoxing from the intense year.

As for me, I decided to spend the last two summers in nostalgia, returning to my RA and camp counselor roots.

I stumbled across a newspaper ad looking for Housing people to assist in Upward Bound, an intensive summer school/college prep program for under-privileged high school students. It paid about \$3,000 for a month and half of work and it covered food and lodging. I thought about it in my head; it was a summer job where I hung out with teenagers all day and paid about the equivalent of what I made throughout the year. Sign me up, I thought.

The sad news was, according to the



Andrew Rogers, pictured tutoring a student, returned this summer to work with under-privileged teens for the Upward Bound program at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, WA.

program's policy, my wife wouldn't be able to live with me in the dorm. While the distance was stressful, it actually worked out for the best; Shelby would get to stay in her comfortable apartment in Ellensburg while I hung out with loud, hyperactive students in a military barracks-style dorm. She would thank me later.

During the summer program, 52 students live in the residence hall at Big Bend Community College for 6 weeks and go to class and then participate in social evening activities – it's like summer camp, summer school, and college orientation all rolled into one intensive package.

As the Hall Coordinator for Upward Bound, I was responsible for providing tutoring every afternoon in study hall, and then putting on evening activities. I found myself looking deep into my repertoire of Housing icebreakers and games to come up with activities that would keep the students engaged. The game of "Gotcha," had students running around at night trying to clip clothespins to one another or stick "poison" stickers to the bottom of their plates or cups. Other activities included Capture the Flag, art nights, Crazy Olympics, Talent Show and dance parties.

During the day, I would help out students with their English papers and website designs during study halls periods. The students were tasked to write about their

personal lives, and I learned intimate details about them from their essays, serious one student who was abandoned by her father, to another who overcame addiction to one who suffers from, I kid you not, pteronophobia, the fear of feathers. Many afternoons were spent going over each line of a student's essay, having them read it aloud and teaching them to self-edit. I helped one shy student learn to project her voice for her theater class, by having her stand on one side of a lawn while I sat 50 yards away and prompted her to speak, raising my hand every time her voice was inaudible.

Along with tutoring, I met with the professors at the end of each week to discuss the progress of all 52 students. It helped me identify the students were struggling so I could be intentional with my interactions with them back in the hall. If I saw a student watching TV at night who hadn't turned in an assignment, I could pull him aside and encourage him to focus on his homework.

But at the end of the school weeks, I got to take the students on fieldtrips around the state. The highlight of the summer for most of the students was the weekend trip to Seattle, where we stayed at the University of Washington. For several students, it was the first time to ever travel away from home and into a metropolitan

ways to stay connected

Check out these great ways to stay connected to NWACUHO and ACUHO-I all year long:



NWACUHO Facebook Page

We have a Facebook page! <http://facebook.com/NWACUHO> Search for “NWACUHO” under Groups and ask to join. You can share photos, engage in discussions, or just connect with friends you haven’t spoken to in a while.



NWACUHO Blog

We have a blog where you can post thoughts and comments on various topics from the *Soundings* to next years annual conference. Blogging on the NWACUHO website is a great small step if you’re interested in writing but don’t want to write an entire article.



NWACUHO on Twitter

Follow the latest and greatest of NWACUHO on Twitter with the 24 other followers that are currently signed up. Just go to <http://twitter.com/NWACUHO> to get started.



NWACUHO on LinkedIn

“It’s Facebook, but for professionals!” exclaimed several Housing professionals at the NWACUHO conference. Check out all the professional connections you can find by linking into the NWACUHO profile. <http://lnkd.in/htviZb>

city. For others, it was the first time to see what an actual University looked like or the first time in a theater without a movie screen. After returning, there were several students who told me that they now wanted to go to college – the trip had convinced them.

I wasn’t prepared for how close I would get to the students in such a short period of time. Since I was constantly around the students, helping them edit their English papers, playing live role playing games, eating three meals a day together, and discussing life, love interests and future goals, I got to know many of students personally. I noticed I had formed stronger bonds with these teens in 6 weeks than any college student in the hall within a year’s time.

I remember a conversation I had with a student who was failing a math class. I pulled him aside during study hall to see how he was doing.

“I heard that you were having trouble in your math class,” I said with a concerned look on my face.

The student looked down at the floor and nodded.

“Your teacher told me you’re not putting in enough study time outside of class. Do you have enough time to work on your homework?”

“Yeah, I’m just haven’t been doing it,” he said.

“I want to encourage you to use your time in the evening to finish your math and study for the next day, I’m going to follow up and check on you throughout the week.”

A few days later, he ran up to me in the lunch line and exclaimed that he raised his grade in math. “I raised my grade to a D plus!” he said excitedly.

I high fived him. It was the most excited I’ve ever seen someone over making a D+. But it was a start. He told me that he

expected to get a C+ by the end of the summer. I was proud of his improvement. He wrote me a letter at the end of the summer that thanked me for the pep-talks. And ultimately, that’s why the program is successful: the staff members focus their energy all summer on a group of students we have a stake in their success. We end up caring about these teenagers. When the students pass their classes and graduate at the end of the summer, we are as proud as their parents.

When I came back to the Residence Halls at the end of summer, I was refreshed and rejuvenated, as if I really did go on vacation. The experience changed the way I viewed my profession. I have seen in a month’s time how a person can have a positive influence on a student’s choices and study habits. I have seen the impact I have on others. It reminded me why I chose Housing as a profession and why it’s meaningful.

the soundings
c/o andrew rogers
TRIO Upward Bound
Big Bend Community College
7662 Chanute Street NE
Moses Lakes, WA 98837-3299

Done reading the *Soundings*? Pass it on!!

Please remember to share the *Soundings* with the rest of your colleagues in the office and on your respective campus. A digital copy can be found at www.nwacuho.org