University Housing Newsletter, September 2011

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. University Housing

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STUDENTS & STAFF PARTICIPATE IN NEW YORK CITY 9/11 MEMORIAL

From September 9th through 13th, Residence Education hosted 12 emerging student leaders on a trip to New York, NY to be a part of the 10th anniversary commemoration of the 9/11 attacks. To prepare for the trip, the twelve selected students attended two preliminary meetings, one to go over expectations, rules, and guidelines for navigating the concrete jungle of the Big Apple. The second meeting was a viewing of the History Channel documentary 102 Minutes that Changed America. This powerful film pieced together home footage, newscast sound bytes, and 911 recordings from in and around Ground Zero on 9/11, taking the audience back to that day. The students all agreed that the film truly helped them remember what it was they were going to commemorate by taking them through the shocking events and putting a human face on the tragedy.

Indeed that was the resounding feedback from the students who went on the trip: though the 9/11 attacks are a major political event in our nation’s and the world’s history, they saw a distinctly human side to the massacre. They listened to the perspectives of those survivors who filmed the scenes comprising the documentary. They listened to victims’ family members read the names of the deceased and offer snippets about their own loved ones at the commemoration ceremony. They were amongst the first people to ever enter the new memorial plaza on 9/12, the first day it was open to the public. The plaza consists of two large, deep, vacuous waterfall pools around which a railing with the names of ever single victim of the attack is listed. There they found the names of those whose family they had seen at the commemoration ceremony the morning prior. They had the privilege to witness current New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former mayor Rudy Giuliani, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, former President George W. Bush, and President Barack Obama all speak at the memorial service. Many were able to interact with NYPD and FDNY officers or other residents who lived in the city during the attack and get their perspective. Again, the consistent message the students on the trip said they learned was that this tragedy had a very human, very personal toll that still very much lives with New Yorkers, and by extension Americans, today.

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While the commemoration ceremony and the memorial plaza were the main reasons for the trip, the students also had the opportunity to experience the wonders that New York offers, thus showing the resiliency of the city. They saw the seminal Broadway show Hair, toured the UN Headquarters and General Assembly, toured for hours in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, rode bikes around Central Park, and visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Museum. Many took other excursions to places like Rockefeller Center, Times Square, South Street Seaport, Washington Square Park, Union Square, Battery Park, 5th Avenue, and more.

Upon their return, the trip attendees will be going around to most of the residence halls to facilitate a documentary viewing and discussion about 102 Minutes that Changed America as well as discussing their experience of New York and the ceremony. Many additionally have participated in the UN-sponsored International Day of Peace on 9/21 where they discussed how their perspective on global-political affairs had been shaped by their New York experience.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the two CREs who helped with the planning and execution of this opportunity, Tamika Wordlow and Danielle Dunn. I also want to thank Linda McCleland for all of her support in booking the travel, lodging, and events that comprised the students’ experience. I also want to reiterate my thanks to Housing, RIC, and the ISS office, as well as all the hall senates who have passed bills financially supporting this trip and this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The students and I are very grateful for all of the support.

Contributed by Jack Breffe

IMAGES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS 9/11 MEMORIAL
A Resolution Thanking University Housing

Whereas:

The move-in process at the University of Arkansas has been hailed as extremely welcoming to both the Fayetteville community and the University of Arkansas community for new and returning students, and has also been cited as being efficient and excelling in comparison to other institutions’ move-in programs; and

Whereas:

The preparation and implementation of moving in the largest amount of students living on this campus in the University of Arkansas’ history requires ample amounts of time and planning by University Housing Professional staff members; and

Whereas:

The consideration of detail and utmost understanding of students’ needs portrays an outstanding image not only of the department but of this institution as well;

Be it Therefore Resolved:

That the Residents’ Interhall Congress on behalf of all students living on campus formally recognize University Housing for their coordination, preparation, and implementation of one of the largest and subsequently successful move-ins to date, and

That Residents’ Interhall Congress expresses its gratitude to University Housing’s continued contributions to the on campus community and the University of Arkansas as a whole.

Passed by Residents’ Interhall Congress by unanimous consent.
CONGRATULATIONS & GREAT JOB!

Hayley Keene, a Resident Assistant in the Northwest Quad, has been selected as the NASPA 4-West Arkansas Rising Star Undergraduate Student Award recipient. The Undergraduate Rising Star Award recognizes achievement, involvement and potential in emerging and future Student Affairs professionals. She was nominated for the award by Mary Alice Serafini, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Executive Director of the Pat Walker Health Center. Hayley is a senior majoring in Horticulture, Turf and Landscape Science. She is a third-year Resident Assistant, President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a member of the Student Fee Review Board Committee, Greek Life Facilitator and a Career Ambassador for the Career Development Center. She will receive her award at the annual NASPA 4-West Conference that will be held in Denver, Colorado, in early November. If you see Hayley, please congratulate her on this wonderful honor!

Contributed by Felisha Perrodin

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

For daily cleaning litter on Cleveland Street:

Tricia Walden
Charlotte Huffman
Bobbe Mitchell
Phyllis Matthews
Rose King
Heather Lackey
Martha Criss

For working Sunday morning, September 18, to make Fiji Move-In possible that afternoon:

Steve Smith
Gary Zweimueller
Ryan Storey
Zach Hein
Steve Curtright
Michelle Terry
Barbara John
Marvena Rust
Mira Milanova
Lewis McCarty
Simone Smith
Patty Eckman
Raul Mojica
Robert Sutton
Dave Brannon
Rick Burgess
Patrick Diggs
Angeedel Clark
Judy Kendrick
Reggie Houser
Alisha Easter

SAFETY REMINDER FOR STAFF

With cool weather on the way, we anticipate portable heater usage to increase. Please take whatever steps necessary to remind yourself to turn off your heater at the end of the work day. The evening housekeeper has already reported a few incidents where staff forgot to turn off their portable heaters.

Thanks for your help!
The International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981. HILLC decided to join the global community to celebrate the Peace Day. The goal of this program was to focus on “you” and “peace” through the 9/11 reflections.

The 9/11 commemorative ceremony and reflections reminded all of us that how important it is for individuals to think about peace and have a strong will and commitment to make the world a better place. Elijah Garcia, a Holcombe Hall resident, who participated in the NY trip with the Housing shared his 9/11 trip reflections with the rest of the community and four students from China, Rwanda, Tunisia and the U.S. talked about their own 9/11 stories as we looked at one event from different perspectives around the world.

Elijah said “Attending the 9/11 10th anniversary affected me in a manner that would not have been possible had I not attended the ceremony. Actually being there and witnessing these things firsthand at the site of the attacks put the sanctity of human life in perspective for me. After this program, I would like for people to put aside judgment and meditate on how peace and liberty should be the goal of every nation and individual in the world.”

Mr. Cory Garren, a member of the Fayetteville community who attended the program, said “I was inspired by the students from around the world who shared how they were impacted by 9/11 and other events many of them have lived through in their own countries. The wisdom they shared both challenged and encouraged me - wisdom on generalizations, stereotypes, acceptance, love and peace. This generation of students is being prepared to make a difference in the world and I believe, because of their honesty, passion, openness and willingness to accept, they will be able to.”

Students’ messages were genuine, honest, inspiring and powerful. They demonstrated that it is possible to respect and enjoy differences, break stereotypes by having dialogues, and see people who they are as individuals, not through the media or political situations among countries. Also, it makes me feel hopeful to see students building friendships no matter where they are from, whatever their religious believes are or whichever their skin colors are. Peace can start from “you” and I hope the message was delivered to the audience thanks to Elijah and those wonderful student panelists.

Thanks to RIC for sponsoring this program!
On September 12th, the fall 2011 MAP-Works Survey launched in 8 halls across campus. Over 2000 entering freshmen received an invitation to take the survey along with incentives of a chance to win a $300 Best Buy Gift Card and a $1000 credit on their housing account.

This year is no ordinary year for MAP-Works. We employed more resources than ever to encourage our students to participate, including Resident Assistants, Coordinators for Residence Education (CRE) Hall Coordinators, informative postcards to parents, and banners and posters in the halls. In turn, this has already been our most successful year in participation, reaching a sixty-percent response rate, and we still have a week left before the survey closes!

Yet, with all the effort put into getting students to participate, it is only the beginning of a much more involved and time-intensive process. Indeed, what we do with the information to help students struggling is where the true power of MAP-Works lies and the real work starts. Contacting and meeting with students one-on-one, keeping notes of these interactions in the MAP-Works system, referring students to other campus resources, checking in with them a second or even third time to see how they are progressing – this is where theory meets reality. The primary goal? To personally interact early and often with students who are identified as struggling - academically, socially, or otherwise - in order to assist them in their adjustment to college life and to increase their chances of persisting past their first year and succeeding in college. The work this requires is orchestrated and conducted primarily by the CRE’Hall Coordinators, but it has increasingly included the assistance of Counselors-In-Residence, Resident Assistants, and a Student Success Advocate. Together, they make up the MAP-Works Campus Team.

So, you may be asking yourself: “Does all this preparation, planning, interaction, and follow-up with students pay off”? The answer is a resounding “Yes”! Students, who are at high risk of leaving the university, take the MAP-Works Survey, and meet with our staff to discuss their results are 1.5 times more likely to continue to their second year than students with the same qualities and risk that do not take MAP-Works and engage with our staff. Additionally, over the past three years, we have seen MAP-Works students not only persist and do well in college, but also become part of the crew that implements the program by working as RA’s in MAP-Works halls. It is our hope that eventually, all RA’s who work with MAP-Works will have taken the survey and can convey its benefits to incoming freshmen each year.

In next month’s newsletter, I will review some of the trends we have seen in MAP-Works student’s performance and persistence over the past three years and compare them to a matched group of students who did not take MAP-Works. I will also provide some of the results from this fall’s survey to give readers a better idea of what we ask students and how they respond. Finally, I will discuss how our Campus Continued on next page
Team uses this information, along with the MAP-Works Online System, to interact with students and positively impact their experience with us, and eventually, their probability of continuing to graduation.

I’m pleased to announce that Samantha Myers is the winner of the Best Buy Gift Card as a participant of the MAP-Works Fall Transition Survey.

The Residents’ Interhall Congress (RIC) Executive Team has worked hard the past several months to put together a weekend of training, team building, connections, and entertainment at the Interhall Leadership Summit (ILS) which took place the weekend of September 23-25.

Over 65 student leaders, 10 Coordinators for Residence Education, 2 Co-Advisors for RIC, and 2 Assistant Directors in Residence Education attended the retreat at the beautiful Camp War Eagle in Rogers, AR.

ILS is designed to familiarize RIC senators, hall senators, and hall officers with important techniques for on-campus leadership, as well as allow them to meet new friends and contacts in the housing community.

The 2011 ILS started with a night of food, ice-breakers, introductions, and mingling on Friday, in order to allow the senators and officers to get to know those around them. Each participant was given a “family” of about 9 or 10 people and paired with an RIC executive. The first night ended with a giant bonfire, complete with s’mores!
On Saturday, the day started with breakout sessions on communication within housing, marketing, programming, how to write a bill, leadership and StrengthsQuest, and parliamentary procedure. These sessions were facilitated by both RIC executives and Residence Education staff and covered information that the participants needed in order to be successful on-campus leaders.

After breakout sessions and lunch, participants had free time in their families, where senators and officers had the opportunity to play around with the rope course and waterfront activities, such as The Blob, at The Cove. After dinner, an issues forum was held where executives presented on-campus issues important to them, and participants were given the opportunity to give input on these issues. After a period of hall planning, there was a mock meeting where each hall presented their goals for the year.

The group departed Camp War Eagle on Sunday morning and was back on campus before noon. Senators and officers returned to campus excited and ready to make a difference for their halls and other students living on-campus. All in all it was a great experience!

Many thanks to Jillian Patton, Director of Leadership Development for RIC, who coordinated the event!
SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Apparently, under appropriate conditions, they blow up!

A security guard posted this information to http://www.ar15.com/forums/t_1_5/951360_.html:

I was sitting in the chair and do not recall if I heard the sizzling sound or smelt if first, but realized it was coming from my flashlight on my duty belt.

When I pulled the flashlight off my belt, it burnt my finger so I dropped it to the floor. It landed under the desk near the wall and looked like a mini thermite grenade the way it was sparking / burning.

That followed with a small explosion that blew the leg off of Ricks footstool...and forced the footstool and parts into my legs.

As I was looking to see if I was injured, within a second or two of the first explosion, it really blew. This one was huge. It had a blinding light and was louder than a shotgun fired indoors....The sliding glass door was open and the screen was closed. It blew like a pipe bomb and took off like a rocket and blew through the corner of the door, through the screen and landed what I paced off to be just over 90 feet away.

From Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithium-ion_battery - citations not included):

Lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) are common in consumer electronics. They are one of the most popular types of rechargeable battery for portable electronics, with one of the best energy densities, no memory effect, and a slow loss of charge when not in use. Beyond consumer electronics, LIBs are also growing in popularity for military, electric vehicle, and aerospace applications. Research is yielding a stream of improvements to traditional LIB technology, focusing on energy density, durability, cost, and intrinsic safety.

If overheated or overcharged, Li-ion batteries may suffer thermal runaway and cell rupture. In extreme cases this can lead to combustion.

The report on the Web site has more information about the batteries used in the flashlight. Be careful out there!

Contributed by Gary Zweimueller
RIC Executive Board members Ciara Coleman and Rachel Slank representing Residents’ Interhall Congress at the Registered Student Organization Information Fair

Felisha Perrodin, Plaza de las Americas Chairperson, explains to students how to learn about American countries and win prizes with their Plaza de las Americas passports

Other events:
Alisha Easter, Meghan Jagnow and Tory Spokane represented University Housing at the Honors Convocation Information Fair on September 19.

Kent Perrodin advised Hispanic high school students on how to get a room on campus and answered their questions at the Campus Day Information Fair on September 27.

Housing staff members participating in the staff development lunch on the last day of the month!

If you or anyone you work with has participated in a campus event during the month please pass that information along! Email Kent Perroding by the 25th of each month to include your event in the Newsletter.
University Housing Newsletter

The University Housing Newsletter is a monthly publication of the department for staff members. It is YOUR news - you are encouraged to contribute articles or information to share with the department.

To contribute an article to the newsletter, email the entire article by the 25th of each month to Kent Perrodin at kperrod@uark.edu.

Articles will be reviewed for content and may be edited for publishing.

HOUSING LOVES THE HOGS!

University Housing staff members prove their Razorback Pride by participating in Big Red Friday! Photos taken at Hotz, Friday, September 16.