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.

December 6, 2011

A preview of Christmas? Alas, no; the forecast is not favorable for snow on the 25th.

Happy Holidays! Here's hoping everyone has a safe and restful Winter Break!
REPORTING TIME AND LEAVE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

EXEMPT STAFF:

• If you are taking personal leave for 12/29 and 12/30 and not working extra time to make up for the days... complete the Leave Request Form like normal and please submit it to Linda Jackson by January 3.

• If you were granted permission from your supervisor to work the extra 16 hours for the Governor’s Proclamation on 12/29 and 12/30...Please note those days under “Other Leave” with the leave code of GP. In addition, you need to provide what time(s) you worked and have your supervisor’s documented approval. Please submit the forms to Linda Jackson by January 3.

NON-EXEMPT STAFF:

• If you are taking personal leave for 12/29 and 12/30 and not working extra time to make up for the days...do nothing. Linda will enter your leave coded as “V” and there is no need for a form.

• If you were granted permission from your supervisor to work the extra 16 hours for the Governor’s Proclamation on 12/29 and 12/30...do nothing. Your extra time will be reflected on your time cards and your supervisor should supply a list of staff who have been approved to work extra. Linda will enter your leave coded as “GP”

Contributed by Stacey Freeman

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES TRAINING UPDATE

Trey Graves, Mike Rouse, Chris Cooke and Vince Voorheis attended a Johnson Controls class the week of December 12. All maintenance staff will be attending a training each month starting in January at Facilities Management for a series of safety trainings. Pictured, from left to right: Mike Rouse, Chris Cooke and Trey Graves.

Contributed by Aaron England
During the month of December, three University Housing staff members will graduate from the Supervisor Development Program. This semester’s graduates are Takama Statton-Brooks, Cody Davis, and Danielle Dunn. This program is designed to provide participants with tools needed to be effective leaders at the University of Arkansas. Participants are required to attend 50 hours of training covering subjects such as: Communication, Diversity, Motivation, Procurement, Performance Evaluation, and Legal Issues. Please congratulate Takama, Cody, and Danielle on their completion of this program!

Past graduates include:

**Fall 2005**  
Felisha Perrodin

**Spring 2006**  
Beverly Bartz  
Ruth Ann Davis  
Judy Kendrick  
Raymond Watts

**Fall 2006**  
Barbara John  
Judy Kendrick

**Spring 2007**  
Angeedel Clark  
Bill Finley  
Stacey Freeman  
Austin Hammons

**Fall 2008**  
Jim Barker  
Aaron England

**Spring 2011**  
Linda Jackson  
David Pitner  
Leon Smith  
Carolyn Sohn

Contributed by Stacey Freeman
There are 720 hours in the month of November. 720 hours was all Sarah Kaminski had to not only go to class and study, but also to fulfill her responsibilities as National Communications Coordinator for our Residence Hall Association (Residents’ Interhall Congress), President of our NRHH chapter, and as a Resident Assistant in one of the largest halls on campus. Somehow, even in a month shortened by the addition of Thanksgiving Break, Sarah not only managed to cram all of her responsibilities in but went above and beyond, truly proving why she is a STAR.

S - SWACURH: Not only did Sarah have to deal with her traditional responsibilities in the NCC role but she also had to ready our delegation for the SWACURH conference. Fighting against our traditional apathy, she motivated our group to participate whole-heartedly in the conference. Not only did she have the responsibility for motivating our group and managing the experience, but she also played a large part in submitting 2 bids, for Student Staff Member of the Year and for Program of the Year. She even presented our Program of the Year bid and, after winning Regional Program of the Year, worked hard to get it submitted to be considered for National Program of the Year. She pushed our delegation to succeed in many different facets and each of us came away grateful for her hard work!

T - Teamwork: As mentioned before, Sarah played a large role in motivating our team. But even more importantly she encouraged and fostered an environment that allowed all delegates to take ownership in the SWACURH experience. She actively engaged delegates in a discussion about the development opportunities at the conference and provided numerous opportunities for students to get involved in the planning and preparation for the conference. Throughout this conference and its preparation Sarah served as a guiding light for our delegation’s efforts.

A - Advising: Outside of her role in the preparing for the SWACURH conference Sarah also spent her time advising the Pomfret Hall Senate through Homecoming events. But more importantly she helped advise several RHA Senators about ways to engage the on campus community, through everything from applying to be a Resident Assistant, to working with other students, to involvement in both RHA and NRHH. This month Sarah has taken the initiative to encourage student leaders across campus using her Executive positions, and in doing so has shined her light to ignite the passions of other student leaders.

R - Role Modeling: Through all of these activities Sarah has remained a role model by not only accomplishing all of her job responsibilities, but also through encouraging all of those around her. She has role modeled what it truly means to be a student leader on campus by balancing school work, campus involvement, in addition to her own personal concerns. This is especially impressive given her work load this month and it is obvious to all those around her that she radiates positive energy and light in all things she does.

All of these amazing characteristics came together this month to showcase Sarah’s STAR power on a grand scale. Without her motivation and support shining the light ahead our RHA (RIC) and NRHH would have gotten lost in the dark in the month of November. Thankfully though we have a bright STAR to light our way!
“It’s a policy for a reason” was implemented on November 5, 2011. This date was intentionally chosen as it was a SEC football game that would naturally generate more traffic within the residence halls.

In preparing for this event Tara Faulks cut out life sized images of males and females on black butcher paper. These layouts were then posted throughout the first floor lobby area to capture visitors attention upon entry. On the images were statements that read, “Do you know whose roaming your child’s hall?” or “Thanks Dad, you allow me to get away when they see you roam the halls also.” The images were created to serve as a symbolic representation to stress to parents that the best way to keep this building safe is for everyone to do their part and let the host escort guests throughout the building.

The residents of Reid Hall also received a survey that was generated by Tara Faulks. This survey asked residents their opinion about parents being unescorted and how they felt. This information was collected and displayed for parents to see as they entered. For example, of the residents that completed the survey 52.5% felt uncomfortable when seeing fathers walk the halls unescorted. Statistics such as these were placed in between the life sized cut outs so that no matter the path an unescorted parent took they would see this information. Additionally, Tara Faulks created brochures to distribute to parents that were confronted for being unescorted. These brochures provided information on the Jeanne Cleary Act, the University of Arkansas Visitation Policy, as well as other methods that can be used to surprise residents - children rather than walking the halls unescorted (e.g. send flowers, have the roommate walk you upstairs, or call just as you are pulling up and state that your downstairs waiting to give a big hug filled with love).

Throughout the program parents would tailgate into the building, not realizing that a program was taking place. Once they passed the front desk to use the elevators or stairs they were greeted with advertisement from the program. The visual aids were beneficial in highlighting safety concerns to parents. As a result, many parents returned to the lobby desk area to wait on the residents. It was during this time that parents were informed the purpose of the program. Since this event, many parents have expressed their gratitude and appreciation.
Holcombe End of Semester: Fall 2011

Holcombe International Living Learning Community (HILLC) has been a great place for students who are interested in learning different cultures and expanding their global perspectives. I love seeing their interactions on their floors: from playing music together, playing volleyball, cooking together to serious discussion about political situations around the world. All of these are something we cannot do or learn from a classroom environment. At the end of the day, it makes us realize that we are all different but we are all human beings wherever we are from. That’s the beauty of HILLC.

However, there is a down side of the hall as well: we have to say good-bye to some friends who are going back to their countries at the end of the semester. For the Fall 2011 semester, RAs and Hall Senate helped each other to make our End of Semester Gathering memorable. The program was held on December 7th in the Holcombe Living Room.

RAs made message cards, Hall Senate took care of catering and dessert, and students sang “Leaving on a Jet Plane” which has become our traditional good-bye song. Ray Salmon also worked on the creating a good bye video for residents.

It was indeed a wonderful moment to have good closure with everybody and reflect on our semester together. I hope students will come back fresh from the winter break and we can start a new semester with lots of positive energy!
Above: Students express their good-byes to departing neighbors
Left: One of countless group photos taken at the gathering

Above: Roommates saying good-bye
Left: Ray Salmon
T’was the night before a non-denominational or denominational celebratory day, when all through the residential dwelling, not a creature was stirring, not even an evolution-advanced, sentient, small furry species that must be respected. Because if it were, Reggie would be sure to capture it on video!

I am sure there is not a single staff member that would be surprised to learn we have closed circuit cameras sprinkled throughout our facilities. What most of you may not realize is what they are intended for, what they provide, and just how USELESS they are without YOU! That’s right...USELESS! Sure, these cameras record thousands of frames of video every hour. They see who’s been naughty and who’s been nice. They can reveal some peoples most private secrets...BUT ONLY IF WE LOOK!

As we come to the close of another Fall Semester, I am asking everyone to remember back to last January, February, and March. Not only does the landscape change in the winter, so do the habits and activities of our residents. The days of playing in the sun, taking long walks to their cars, tooling around on their bicycles, have all come to an end. Now they are locked inside our buildings and all will be looking for something to do. The “winter blues” will set in and boredom will become their driving force.

Over the years, we have experienced GREAT SUCCESS in our hall security efforts. If you believe this success is real, you must give thanks to all the Housing staff that have learned their role in security and become an active member of the security team. That’s right...everyone has a role and it is everyone’s responsibility. After all, YOU are the ones that report the problems...I am the one that identifies the responsible. Without YOU, I have no reason to review video. Without YOU, the cameras and the information they store is useless.

When you see something that does not seem right...report it. When you find something broken...report it. When you find graffiti on the walls...report it. When you realize furniture is broken or missing...report it. But REPORT IT QUICKLY. It is not too challenging to review 4, 8, 16, or even 24 hours of video footage. After that, it gets a little more difficult. When you report these concerns, include DETAILS. Here is an example; you finish your busy day around 3:30 PM on a Wednesday afternoon. Your floor is PERFECT...everything in its place. You have worked hard and ready for a relaxing evening.
You return to work the next morning, everything is fine...EXCEPT...that dang rug is missing!

You are angry and frustrated, but you ask yourself...what can I do about it? The answer...PLENTY! You can start by immediately remembering the details. It is helpful and increases the likelihood of locating the responsible person (and the rug) if I am given a known period of time in which the dastardly deed was committed. In this case, I would start reviewing the video at 3:30 PM and watch it until I see you arrive for work the next morning at 7:00 AM. However, if you were to run into your RA and discuss it, you might find out the RA saw the rug in place at 11:30 PM. In this case, if I am told this, I am spared from watching EIGHT HOURS of video. This quickens the process and wastes less time. It also increases the chances I will not fall asleep watching a boring elevator lobby for 16 hours. Telling me a rug was stolen from the elevator lobby in your building is not enough. First, you are assuming I know what building you are currently working in. There are at least 12 Housing buildings with elevator lobbies. Telling me it was an elevator lobby rug at Humphreys is still not enough...there are 10 elevator lobbies in Humphreys (that’s right...10...count ‘em!). If you know the rug was on the 9th floor elevator lobby...include that information. It will save me time and I can concentrate on a single camera.

It is my hope I will be able to attend small meetings where we can discuss our unique positions and how you can enhance the security of our residence halls. Some may wonder...is it worth my time? Will it actually make a difference? Will they actually do anything to the offender? The answer to that is YES, YES, and YES! Many of the cases reported to my office are successfully resolved (over 80%). These students are dealt with through a campus judicial process that is governed by FERPA. This federal act forbids sharing information with others. This is why you oftentimes do not hear back on the event you’ve reported. But here is an example of the results: In the month of November, my office cleared over 25 events, with an estimated value of $4,000.00 in intentional damage charges. Be proud to be a member of a great Housing team...be proud of the special skills you bring to the effort...and be proud to be an active part of our SECURITY TEAM. We could not do it without you!

Contributed by Reggie Houser
Residents’ Interhall Congress (RIC) and University Housing worked together during the fall semester to plan two campus lighting tours for our campus. These lighting tours were done by student volunteers who walked specific areas of campus to check for lighting and/or safety issues. Tyler Priest, the RIC Vice President and Quality of Life Committee Chair, worked with Reggie Houser and Felisha Perrodin on the planning and implementation of the lighting tours.

The first lighting tour was held on October 26 and focused on the residence halls on the north end of campus (Reid, Maple Hill East, Maple Hill West, Maple Hill South, Northwest Quad, Holcombe and Futrall). Nineteen students participated in the campus lighting tour and the students noted 19 lights (including two emergency pole lights) that were out. The list of lights was compiled so that work orders could be generated. The students also listed areas where there were safety concerns (i.e., sidewalks, tree limbs needing trimmed, etc.) as well as any natural pathways that might be a good spot for a sidewalk.

The second lighting tour was held on November 30. This tour focused on the actual center of campus (areas around Old Main and Mullins Library) and the residence halls on center and south part of campus (Gibson, Gregson, Humphreys, Yocum, Buchanan-Droke, Gladson-Ripley, Walton and Pomfret). Volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed service fraternity, joined residence halls students for this lighting tour. Twenty-two students reported on lighting issues and concerns (as well as any safety concerns and possible locations for sidewalks). A list of 48 lighting issues and concerns was generated and work orders were completed so that these lighting issues could be addressed.

At the conclusion of each lighting tour, the students enjoyed some hot chocolate. The campus lighting tour is a great opportunity for our students to actively look for safety issues and concerns. The enthusiasm that the students had for this program was evident as they shared with one another some of the problems that they identified. The campus lighting tour program will continue during the spring semester as well.
Photos from the University Housing Annual Holiday Luncheon, December 19, 2011
Entertainment graciously provided by Richard Hartrick and Michelle Key
The University’s Faculty-in-Residence, Michael Landman, is a Drama professor and heads-up the directing program. He lives in the Northwest Quad with his wife, Janie, who’s a senior Communications major, their 14-year-old daughter, Jordan, and their cat, Midnight, who you might see being taken for walks around campus.

Professor Landman (he’d be happy if you called him Michael) leads and participates in various social, academic, and service activities with residential students throughout the year. Activities this fall included cleaning-up the areas outside the NWQuad and Maple Hill dorms, taking students to shows at TheatreSquared, leading a staff team-building workshop at Reid, presenting a study skills program at Futrall, and connecting with MAP-Works students at Holcombe.

Most recently, he and his family hosted a Holiday Cookie-Making Bash for students in their apartment (see pix!)

Michael hopes his presence here will help break down any perceived barriers between faculty and students, empowering students to form connections with their professors outside of the classroom, perhaps visiting them during office hours.

He’s available for students who’d like to talk about academic or social concerns, as well as connecting students with other campus resources.

If you have an idea for a program or would just like to introduce yourself, please send him an e-mail: <mlandman@uark.edu>. To find about various activities of interest to residential students, follow him on Twitter: @UA_Fac_N_Resdnc

And, if you see Michael, Janie and Jordan at the dining hall, they hope you’ll introduce yourself and join them for a meal!
FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE COOKIE BASH

Contributed by Michael Landman & Kerri Smith
Residents’ Interhall Congress (RIC) held its traditional “Deck the Halls” competition with winners in several categories, including Overall, Residence Hall and Sustainability. We have here the Overall First and Second Place winners, the Sustainability First Place winner and Buchanan-Droke decorations, including the Buchanan-Droke winner.

**Overall Winner:** Humphreys 907

**Overall 2nd Place:** Yocum 813

**Sustainability Theme Winner:** Gregson 142

**Buchanan-Droke Hall Winner**
THANK YOU TO THIS MONTH’S CONTRIBUTORS!

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Holiday cheer from Buchanan-Droke!