

RLPA HALLWAYS

April 2007, Volume I

The Residence Life Professional Association, 20 Years Strong!!



The Annual General Meeting of the RLPA this March was a very special one. We were in Lethbridge at the meeting hosted jointly by the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College who did a fantastic job as hosts, thanks again to Connie Chaplin and Laura Terry for all their hard work. After a Thursday afternoon with some great professional development by Dr. Steve Ferzacca on binge drinking and Derek Bly on communications, and a bus tour around Lethbridge, we had a reception at a local restaurant, Luigi's. At the reception Mark Chytrcek (Augustana Campus, University of Alberta) Glenice Grover (Red Deer College) and Kim Sullivan (Lethbridge College) gave a history of the Association and highlighted its many accomplishments. All three long-time members of the RLPA talked about the need to meet with people who understand what we do, make connections and share ideas; things that if that Thursday night was any indication, are continued today. Thanks to those long-time (and in some cases, founding) members of the Association for recognising the need we have to meet and connect with others who "get what we do."

Also during our reception, Randy Fines, RLPA President gave a touching toast to the RLPA and those affiliated with it, and certificates were handed out to the membership for those with 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service to the RLPA. There were many certificate recipients at the reception and many others would could not make it. Pictures were taken of all the recipients that could make it to Lethbridge, and are included on the next page. Congratulations to the recipients, and a heartfelt thank you as well. The RLPA could not do it without you!





Members of the RLPA that received certificates for long-standing service to the association pose for the camera

Randy Fines awarded the Josie Lamothe Award for Outstanding Service



Congratulations to Randy Fines of Lakeland College, Vermillion and Lloydminster campuses who received the Josie Lamothe Award for Outstanding Service. Randy, who was also recognized for 10 years of service to the RLPA is a very deserving recipient. He has served on the RLPA Student Leadership Conference committee, and is now President of the Association, where he has represented all of our interests at various meetings and conferences, and in turn shared his expertise. A hard worker, Randy is always willing to volunteer his time and knowledge to make things like the RLPA and its Student Leadership Conference better. He has a wealth of knowledge from his time in residence as a student, student leader, para-professional and now professional. He is totally dedicated to students and student life and a very worthy recipient of the Josie Lamothe Award. Congratulations Randy, and keep up the good work!

Welcome to the new RLPA Executive Board members!

The newest additions to the RLPA executive board were elected at the Annual General Meeting in Lethbridge. Mark Chytracsek from the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta rejoins the executive after a 13 year absence as President-Elect, and Robert Routledge from St. Joseph's College is the secretary. To help you get acquainted with them, they were both asked what they like about the RLPA and their favourite thing about working with students. Rob answered: I like the ability to "talk shop" with people that care about the same things I do. In a small school like Joe's, I work with a lot of people that don't know or care about what goes on in residence life, and having the RLPA to be able to discuss the day to day ups and downs of this job is invaluable to me. I enjoy what we called the "A-HA" moments in my Education degree: The moment in time where a student gets what you are talking about, when they have some sort of realization about better decisions they can make in their lives. I believe these moments are the ways that we help our residents to be better citizens and leaders in our society, and that we are taking concrete and meaningful action in making our larger communities better! Mark answered: The connections made to others in the province and around the area that get what we do, as well as giving an opportunity for students to make those connections through the L.E.A.D Conference.

What I like about working with students is the energy they bring to all the things they do. Their ideas and behaviours are constantly changing but they are always full of energy, and make every day interesting.

The RLPA Executive Board:

If you missed the great meeting in Lethbridge and are unsure of who the Executive members are, HallWays is here to help! Below is the list of the current executive and their email address, please feel free to contact them if you need anything!

President: Janet Athanasiou, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta ja9@augustana.ca

Past President: Randy Fines, Lakeland College randy.fines@lakelandc.ab.ca

President-Elect: Mark Chytrcek, Augustana Campus, University of Alberta mc8@augustana.ca

Treasurer: Glenice Grover, Red Deer College glenice.grover@rdc.ab.ca

Secretary: Robert Routledge, St. Joseph's College robert.routledge@ualberta.ca

Conference Chair: Tracey Mason-Innes, University of Alberta tracey.mason@ualberta.ca



UPDATES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

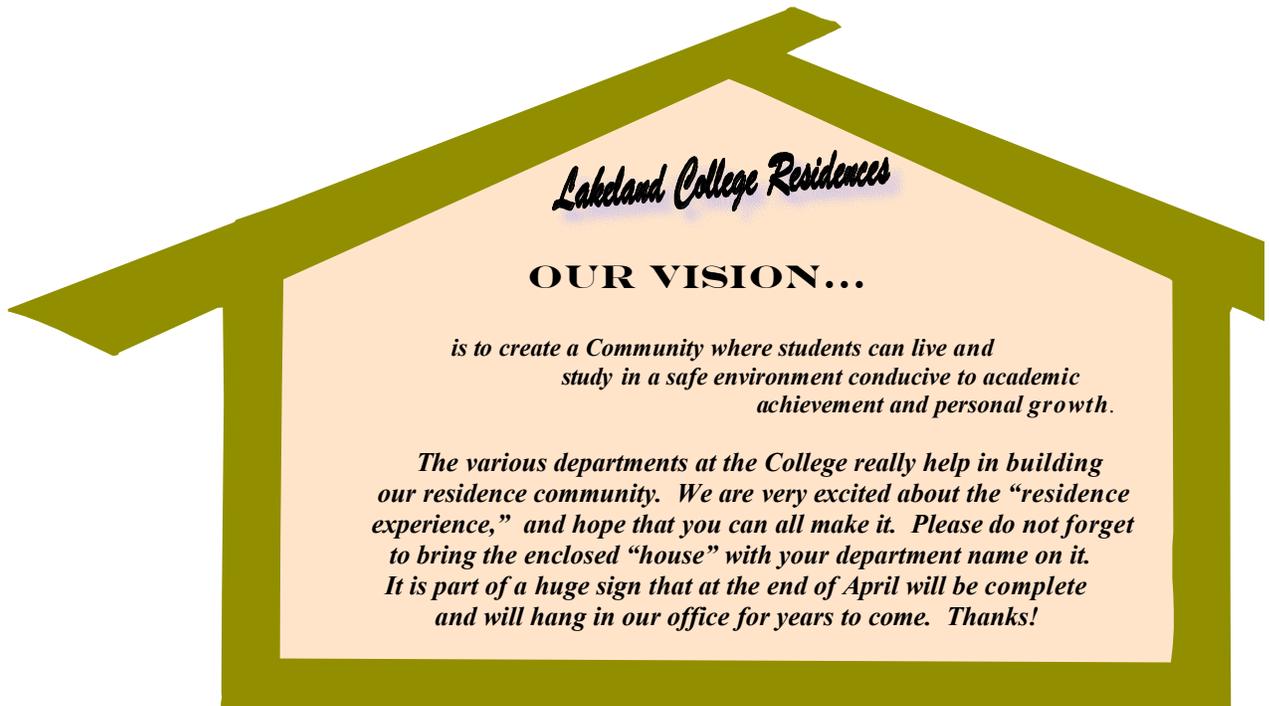
Lakeland College

One of our department goals last year was to make our internal customers/departments at the College more aware of what we do and how we make a difference in our students' lives. We came up with what we call "The Residence Experience."

It is a very simple concept, what we did was send out a teaser email to Lakeland Everyone telling them that the "Residence Experience" would be coming soon. From there we picked 6 departments to participate at the Lloydminster and Vermilion Campuses. Each department received a personalized invitation, a paper house to bring with them to attach it to our big Residence Experience sign and of course some candy.

On the day of the Residence Experience, Staff and Faculty came to the Residence office, put up their house sign and we toured them to all of our residence facilities. They got to see where students pay rent, do laundry, sleep, eat etc. The experience concluded with homemade cookies and coffee in one of our residences.

The Residence Experience has been a very positive event. The Lakeland College Board of Governors just participated and were impressed with everything. More departments will be invited to participate in the Spring of 2007, we will keep doing this until all of the College departments have participated.



Red Deer College

Well, we are closing on what has been another great year here at Red Deer College. With only a handful of beds to spare we were sitting around full capacity for most of the year (close to 575 students living in Residence). Our 14 Resident Assistants have really gone above and beyond this year with an increase in program numbers and a general decrease in tenant disciplinary problems. We have just installed new playground equipment for our Family Residents, and are preparing to finish our last phase of Tower renovations this summer. As you may or may not know, RDC has just begun major construction on new buildings on campus designed for the increasing demand for apprenticeship and trades here in Red Deer.

Beyond that, Residence is business as usual. Glenice Grover continues to rule Residence with an iron fist as Residence Manager, and Tim Siemens is still doing her dirty work as Residence Life Coordinator (just so you

know Glenice will be taking in some shows this summer in New York and Tim will be taking orders from his wife this summer as they are expecting their first child in August). From all of us here at Red Deer College Residence, we hope that your Summer holidays are well spent, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at the Fall Business Meeting in November at Olds College.

Grande Prairie Regional College

Grande Prairie continues to grow, and Kim Richardson, the Housing Coordinator there sent us in an update about what's going on there: Just a blurb about GPRC Housing. We have now grown to 369 beds and we are building two more buildings starting this spring that will house another 72 students and then two more building for 72 students in 2008.

We are growing finally and by fall 2008 will be able to house 513 students. There are plans to expand after that as well. Time will tell.

When I started in housing 4.5 years ago we had 156 beds, so for us it is a big jump.

We are also opening our first family units. There will be five townhouses opening for the 2007/2008 academic year.

University of Alberta

Service Learning is a form of experiential education where learning occurs through a cycle of action and reflection as students work with others through a process of applying what they are learning to community problems, and, at the same time, reflecting upon their experience as they seek to achieve real objectives for the community and deeper understanding and skills for themselves.

February 17th - 25th, 2007:

8 McMaster student volunteers, 8 University of Alberta student volunteers, 1 team leader and 3 professional advisors embarked on an experiential learning opportunity to various charitable organization in the Hamilton, Ontario community in the efforts of reducing poverty and community-building.

Organizations include:

* Wesley Urban Ministries

* Ancaster Food Drive

<<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=31863955&op=2&o=all&view=all&subj=2242636956&aid=-1&id=122601996>>

* Good Sheppard Centre

* East Hamilton Centre

* Jamesville Community Centre

* Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club

"HAMMER TIME: Discovering hope in the Steel city!!!"

Submitted by Tracey Mason-Innes, Assistant Director, Residence Life at the University of Alberta

Augustana Campus, University of Alberta

There is lots going on at the Augustana Campus of the U of A, making it a very exciting place to be! Starting with some construction, one of our notable places, Ollie's Crossing, aka The Bridge, is being replaced by a land crossing. Construction started last July and we expect to it to be finished this summer. By the end of April ground will be broken on our new library to be situated near the First Year Residence Complex, which we are also very excited about. The building is expected to be completed in January 2008. In terms of our residence, we are taking one of the Ravine buildings off-line for 2007/08 as we will do some major renovations to it, concentrating specifically in the bathrooms of the suite-style building.

We have just completed our hiring of student staff for the upcoming year, and can't wait to get started on working with our 3 new Hall Coordinators and 22 Resident Assistants! As we approach the summer, Mark, Rob and Janet will be concentrating their efforts on making the upcoming year a fantastic one for all students! Also to look forward to in the summer is the 25th anniversary of Mark Chytrcek (Director, Student and Residence Services) coming to Augustana. Many past and present residence lifers will come back to campus, stay in residence and be part of the celebration and reunion.

We also hope to see many of you in the near future as Augustana hosts the 25th Anniversary Alberta Services for Students Conference in May 2008 (yes, it's a year away, but we're excited for it and can't wait to share the news as we Lay the Foundation for Student Success!) And of course, we'll see many of the RLPA membership at the Annual General Meeting March 2008!



Greetings from the RLPA Treasurer

A big thank you to everyone who has been sending in payments for Membership Dues, the Student Leadership Conference, as well as the fees for the Fall Meeting hosted by the University of Calgary and Annual General Meeting hosted by Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge. If I haven't received payment yet, keep in mind that Guido, my knee breaking Assistant may be visiting you at any time! (OK, as you may have guessed, his name is actually Tim!)

In an effort to clean up the RLPA listserv, all names will be removed at the end of the year except for those identified by paying members. So make sure to get those Membership Dues paid so that you won't lose access to this very valuable tool.

Best Wishes!

Glenice Grover
RLPA Treasurer

How To View Students

Students are:

- . . . The most important people on campus
- . . .Not cold enrollment statistics, but flesh and blood human beings with feelings and emotions like our own
- . . .Not people to be tolerated so we can do our own thing. They are our thing
- . . .Not dependent on us. Rather, we depend on them
- . . .Not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it

Without students, there would be no need for the institution

American Association of State Colleges and Universities, paraphrased from the L.L. Bean Customer Creed

Date and Location for the Fall Business Meeting

Well, we're going back to Olds College for the Fall Business Meeting, November 22-23rd.



Look for Updates to the Website Coming Soon!

The RLPA website, www.rlpa.ca will be undergoing some much needed changes very shortly. Our past Secretary, Sarah Garskey will be working with the current Secretary Rob Routledge to give the website a facelift. They are working with a communications coordinator to make the website more organized and up to date. Check back to the website for more updates!

RLPA Bags

If you were at the Meeting in Lethbridge, or missed it but heard about the great RLPA, 20 Years Strong bags that were given out to certificate recipients, and want to get one, you can still purchase them! The black tote bags can be purchased from Randy Fines at the cost of \$10 per bag.

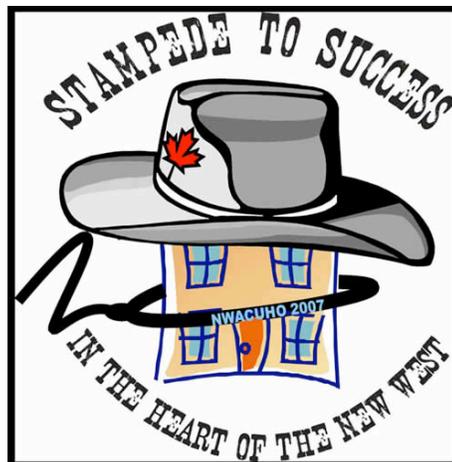
NWACUHO

Hi there, my name is Tim Siemens and I'm the newly appointed Alberta representative for NWACUHO. I couldn't be more honored to represent such a diverse and close knit group of Housing professionals. Thanks are in order to the former Alberta rep Alicia Wight, who kept us all in the loop and connected with all things NWACUHO.

This years annual NWACUHO conference, "Stampede to Success...in the heart of the North West" was held at the Fairmont Paliser in the heart of downtown Calgary from Feb. 25th - 27th. "Stampede to Success..." was well received and boasted around 135 delegates from 49 different institutions. During the conference we were privileged to hear 2 great Keynotes share their experiences and research. Dr. Piers Steele talked about his research on procrastination, and Severn Cullis-Suzuki shared her stories and message about our environment and how important it is to protect it. The sessions at the conference were of high quality, and the food and service at the Fairmont was second to none. Much appreciation and thanks are in order to Joel Lynn and his staff at the University of Calgary for organizing such a wonderful conference. I must add that it was great to see such support and great turnout from the Alberta and RLPA representatives (18 institutions attended). Thank-you for all the conversations and questions that we had.

Mark your calendars for next years NWACUHO conference "Student Learning, Taking Center Stage" in Ashland, Oregon on February 24-26, 2007. Whoever was at the final banquet this year and watched Ashland's video promoting next year's conference can attest that it should be a very fun conference indeed. In the meantime look for emails from me soon requesting institution updates for Soundings, as well as any other pertinent info that I will send your way. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

From all of us on the NWACUHO executive committee we thank-you for helping to make this years conference a huge success, and we truly hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer. See ya soon...



L.E.A.D. Update



A shot of the vans as they great ready to leave the Goldeye Centre after another great L.E.A.D conference!

Wow! It was just last October when the 2006 RLPA Student Leadership Conference took place. It feels like it was just last weekend. The Conference this year was a huge success with some of our largest numbers to date. On the weekend of October 27-29, 2006 we had 90 attendees from 12 different institutions congregate at the Goldeye Centre near Nordegg, Alberta. The Conference theme this year was L.E.A.D. (Learn, Educate, Act, Dare). We used L.E.A.D. in hopes that the acronym will stick for future Conferences. In terms of content, this years Conference was amazing to say the least. The attendees had 16 presentations to choose from, as submitted by their peers, as well as an amazing keynote speaker in Jen McMillen, who came all the way from Brock University in Ontario to inspire our attendees. Further activities included a case study competition, Halloween banquet, institutional gear swap, and many more social events allowing the attendees to interact with student leaders from other institutions. Every year over the course of the weekend we present 3 awards to attendees and institutions. This years awards were as follows:

Case Study Competition Award (Given to the group from one institution deemed to have provided the most creative and efficient approach to solving the case study scenario). This year's winners were Katie Israelson, Nicole Myrhaugen, Trevor May & Jared Blatter from Red Deer College.

School Citizenship Award (Given to the institution that was deemed by the advisors to go above and beyond in the areas of Conference spirit, school spirit, attitude, friendliness and positive contributions to the Conference). This year's winner was Olds College.

Best in the West Award (Given to the individual or group deemed to have the best presentation as a result of scores received on evaluations). This year's winner was Ashley Hay of Mount Royal College.

The success of this years Conference is due largely in part to the Conference Committee members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Janet Athanasiou, Rob Ford, Tracey Mason-Innes, Sarah Garskey and Kim Dixon. Thanks also to the Goldeye staff. That being said the Conference would not happen if it wasn't for you, the Residence Life professional. Above all else we thank you for continuing to send your student staff to the Leadership Conference.

So book off Oct. 26-28, 2007 on your calendars...we hope to see you at Goldeye for next years RLPA L.E.A.D. Conference.

Remember...Student leaders are drawn to one another, we just need to keep providing them with a space and a time. The rest is...well...you will just have to come next year and find out.

Tim Siemens
RLPA Conference Chair 2006
Residence Life Coordinator
Red Deer College



Notes from ACUHO-I

Glen Wepler, the Canadian District Rep for ACUHO-I sent the following information about a placement exchange for those interested in starting work in Residence Life. The placement exchange will take place March 6-9 in Boston, Massachusetts, and is a partnership between ACUHO-I and NASPA



THE JOB PLACEMENT PROCESS IS ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED AND IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

It is where thousands of new professionals take their first step into the energizing and rewarding world of student affairs. It is where hundreds of colleges and universities decide who to add to their staffs as they shape their campus' professional culture.

The Placement Exchange is dedicated to making job placement a rewarding experience for all involved, whether they are looking for that quality, new staff member, that eagerly anticipated first job, or that well-deserved step up the professional ladder.

At The Placement Exchange you enjoy:

- A larger, more comfortable interview environment.
- The latest in technology for job placement, quickly connecting thousands of employers and employees.
- The opportunity to reserve private interview rooms which are perfect for



follow-up meetings with candidates or mid- to senior-level hires.

- Educational sessions designed to help individuals manage careers as well as the placement process.
- The ability to upgrade the interview space with more room, as well as amenities such as shipping and decorations.
- And so much more.

We'll see you in **Boston, Massachusetts**, from **March 6-9, 2008** for the debut of The Placement Exchange. Learn more at www.theplacementexchange.org where you can find updates on the event as they become available, as well as invaluable educational resources all year long. Discover why The Placement Exchange is THE place for student affairs job placement.

The Placement Exchange is presented in cooperation between Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) and the Association of College & University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) working together to better serve their members and the student affairs profession.



Boston 2008 → www.theplacementexchange.org

So, you think you know everything...

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
A “jiffy” is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
A snail can sleep for three years.
Al Capone’s business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
Almonds are a member of the peach family.
An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.
Babies are born without kneecaps. They don’t appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
Butterflies taste with their feet.
Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.
Dreamt is the only English word that end in the letters mt.
February 1965 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
In the last 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
If the population of China walked

past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.
It’s impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
Leonardo DaVinci invented the scissors.
Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
On a Canadian two-dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand and lollipop with your right.
The average person’s left hand does 56% of the typing.
The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
The sentence: “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” uses every letter in the alphabet.
The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words ‘racecar’, ‘kayak’ and ‘level’ are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
There are more chickens than people in the world.
There are only four words in the English language, which end in dous: tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: “abstemious” and “facetious.”
There’s no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewable Vitamins.
Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
Winston Churchill was born in a ladies’ room during a dance.
Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

Now you know everything!

A Note from the Editor



Well, this is my first newsletter, so any and all comments are welcomed and encouraged. You can reach me at ja9@augustana.ca. I want to thank all of you who made submissions, as well as thank everyone in the RLPA for being patient with me while I sorted out how to make a newsletter, and then the unforeseen technical difficulties. I hope you enjoyed reading about what is going on from around the membership, and will continue to contact me about all the really cool things that are going on on your campus.

You might notice that some of the information in the newsletter seems a bit dated. Since the original publication date of HallWays was December 10th, and the executives and some of the membership were really great in getting me their information on time. The fault for HallWays going out 4 months late is entirely mine, and for that I apologize. I tried to update the information as best I can to keep it current, but if you're wondering why it sounds like people are wishing you a Merry Christmas, you now know why!

A few technical glitches, and searching for the right things to put into the newsletter aside, I had a great time resurrecting HallWays. While I know the production of the newsletter technically falls under the portfolio of the President-Elect, I am hoping Mark Chytrcek, the person to currently hold that position will not mind if I continue with this endeavour. As he is my boss, I don't think finding him to ask if it's all right will be a problem!

As I watch my students cram for exams and start a countdown of how many days left until exams, I have to be honest with you, I hate this time of year. All of the students studying, getting ready for exams, and in many cases, getting ready to move out and graduate. Living in residence, watching the buildings empty out, and the students say goodbye to each other always makes me sad so I try to remember that these students are moving on to great things, and will hopefully think back on their times in residence fondly. I'd like to think that if I did my job properly the students graduating will, and the students that aren't will move back on campus.

As the school year winds down for many, I wish you all good luck with move out and with the transitions into the summer!

Janet Athanasiou

Residence Coordinator, Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta, RLPA President, and HallWays editor