



## State Representative Report

**Date:** November 1, 2005

**State:**  Alabama  Florida  Georgia  
 Kentucky  Louisiana  Mississippi  
 North Carolina  South Carolina  Tennessee  
 Virginia

**Submitted By:**  
**Kathy Hobgood – State Representative**

**State Officers:**  
Kathy Hobgood, State Representative, University of Florida  
Joe Paulick, State Editor, University of Central Florida



### **Goals of the State Organization:**

- To provide two annual opportunities for state housing officers to gather for the purpose of networking, sharing updates, and discussing relevant trends and issues. The Fall meeting includes a professional development guest speaker and is open to all. The agenda for the Spring meeting is designed with the Chief Housing officers in mind.
- To provide an active listserv for communication between all state members.
- Providing a connection for state members to SEAHO and other regional & national organizations.
- To provide a Directory of all Housing professionals in the state – updated annually.
- To provide active support for our 2 student organizations/conferences: FRAS (The Florida Resident Assistant Seminar) and FARH (The Florida Association of Residence Halls).

**State Conference News** (annual conference, drive-in workshops, RA Conference, RHA Conference, Student Leadership Conference, etc.):

### **Florida Housing Officers Meetings**

- Our Fall 2005 meeting, originally scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled due to Hurricane Wilma. This is the first time in our history that we have had to cancel due to weather. The meeting always occurs during late October or early November which, in a “normal” hurricane season, would be well after we are usually effected. Most schools in South Florida were closed for a week or more and are dealing with damages and ongoing power outages. The agenda for that meeting will be addressed through several on-going e-mail conversations and is attached at the end of my report so that you may get a “flavor” for the meeting style.
- Our Summer 2005 meeting was held May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> at the University of West Florida. Attendees spent 2 days together discussing issues and working through our agenda items. A presentation from Bill Nichols, Director of Operations for the Florida Pre-Paid College program, was helpful to all.

### **Student Conferences – Florida Association of Residence Halls**

- FARH 2005: Hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, February 25-27. Themed “FARH takes Flight!” the conference was attended by 100 delegates & 20 advisers from 13 affiliated institutions.
- Mini-FARH 2005: Hosted by Rollins College in Winter Park, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Themed “Now You’re Cookin’!” the event was attended by 10 affiliated schools as well as the state board and adviser.
- FARH 2006: “FARHY Tales” will take place at the University of Central Florida from February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.
- FARH State Board for 2005-06:
  - Elizabeth Williamson, Director—UF
  - Dawn Quick, Associate Director—FSU
  - Dane Yankowich, AD Records—FIU
  - EJ Walicki, AD Finance—UF
  - Russell Small, AD Recognition—FSU
  - Christen, Westover, AD Recruitment and Retention—Rollins College
  - Sean J. Pierce, Adviser, FAU

## **Student Conferences – Florida Resident Assistant Seminar**



- FRAS 2005 was hosted by Florida Atlantic University—Boca from January 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Themed “Unleash your Magic!” this year’s conference was attended by 262 student delegates and 42 advisers from 23 institutions.
- FRAS 2006 will be hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach from January 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Theme: FRASCAR!



### **State Awards:**

- Adviser of the Year: Shari Lupton – Florida International University
- Most Improved RHA: Rollins College
- Crystal Awards (for service to the state): Chris Sclafani – FIU, Mike Reynolds – UF, Peggy Dorvil – USF
- Recognition of Jeff Novak – University of Central Florida, for his two years of service as State Representative

**SEAHO Involvement** (listing of housing professionals serving on SEAHO Committees or Task Forces, or who have submitted items to the *SEAHO Report*):

- Paul Riel & Lynn Hendricks, University of North Florida – 2005 Conference Host Chairs
- Ron Thompson, Florida International University - Research and Information Committee Chair
- Demetrius Brown, Florida International University - Placement Committee Co-Chair
- Krystal Schofield, University of Tampa - Placement Committee Co-Chair
- Julie McMahon, University of Florida, Member of the Program Committee
- Gisela Vega, Florida International University, Faculty Member for RELI
- Cathy Downes, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, SEAHO Report Author – Summer 2005. Article Title: “You either get it or you don’t – it’s that simple.”

### **New Programs, Innovations, Etc.:**

- As a state, we were EXTREMELY proud to serve as hosts to the 2005 SEAHO conference in Jacksonville. We made every effort to bring high levels of excellence to each part of the event and to also leave good records and send along information to the 2006 crew whenever possible. A number of new efforts in fiscal management of the event, as well as publications, set new heights.
- The attached agenda from our Fall Meeting highlights a number of the challenges that we have discussed and successes that we have shared with each other.

### **Problems:**

- We continue to work through challenges related to hurricane recovery from both the 2004 and 2005 seasons. Examples include the immediacy of damage and clean-up, as well as the long-term effects of displaced families, more families sending students to in-state schools, and this year’s need to absorb students from our neighboring gulf-coast region.

### **Anything else helpful or worthy of reporting to SEAHO Governing Council:**

- As a state representative, I have highlighted and HIGHLY encouraged participation in the current ACUHO-I research study regarding recruitment and retention of residence life staff. Any further encouragement from SEAHO as a whole would help the profession in the goal of capturing all available data. More information available at: [http://www.housing.ufl.edu/Retain\\_Recruit/index.htm](http://www.housing.ufl.edu/Retain_Recruit/index.htm)
- ACUHO-I 2008 will be hosted in Florida on Disney property => As a state, we are THRILLED to have our profession’s International Conference returning to our area so soon! Dates and more information will be forthcoming!

**Data requested from each institution --**

- Occupancy % for Fall 2005 (USF)
- Projected rate increases for 2006 (USF)
- Construction and renovation (planned, current, type, costs) (UWF)
- Examples of Program Statements for new construction (approx. 500 beds, suite style) (FGCU)
- Summer Conference Contracts (FGCU)
- Institutions with 1500 - 2500 occupancy: If anyone has Business Services/Operations manuals or SOPs, please bring a copy to review or that our staff can bring back as we're creating and updating policies, procedures, etc. (UWF)
- Fire Drills – looking for copies of procedures (UWF)
- Organization Charts from institutions with 1500 to 2750 beds (FGCU)
- Materials related to Honors or Arts Living/Learning Communities (FIU)

**Agenda items that will be discussed --**

**Admissions –**

- Tour Rooms (UWF)
- Open Houses (FIU)
- Admissions recruitment trips (UWF)

**Occupancy -**

- Assignment Process: placement and contract renewal process (Ringling)
- Prioritizing housing assignments for returning students (within an institution that applies an age restriction) (PBAU)
- Housing during student breaks (PBAU)
- Suggestions for transitional housing (PBAU)
- Creative questions for housing placement surveys (PBAU)
- Winter intersession semester (UWF)

**Facilities –**

- Does anyone have procedures in place if there is mold detected or if a student believes there is a spore issue in their assigned space? (UWF)

**Staffing –**

- 24-hour desk coverage (UF)
- RA meal plans (UWF)
- Undergraduate and/or graduate hall director positions (UWF)
- Staff selection and strategies - growth of staffs (UWF)
- Do any institutions require RAs to staff the Area Offices/Desks as part of their RA position? (UWF)
- Resources (what do institutions provide to RAs and leaders? New products, ideas, etc.) (FIU)
- Apartments or “apartment-style residence halls” – staffing and programming

**Assessment -**

- Uses of EBI study information

**Technology -**

- Use of pagers/cell phones/blackberry by staff (pros and cons) (FAU)
- Use of in communicating with students (e-mail, cell [any impact of long distance charges?] facebook/IM/Mobile Campus/text messages) (UF)
- Impact of online communities in residential communities and creative uses of by staff. (Miami)
- Problems with posting photographs of students on your web sites? (UWF)

**Business Services/Marketing –**

- Bond sale procedures in public institutions (UF)

- How does everyone administer the Commissions/Concessions money and how is it accounted for in the budget? Does it go toward the revenue for debt service or not? (UWF)
- RMS, bells and whistles, using program for A/R or accounting purposes (UWF)
- Branding and marketing strategies on campus (UWF)
- Marketing mandatory meal plans for freshmen who live on campus (UWF)
- Is the rent collection process conducted in accordance with Florida state statutes timelines or based on a Housing Contract timeline? Where are complaints filed regarding collections issues? (UWF)

#### **Judicial Process -**

- Sanctions and paperwork (Ringling)
- Creative sanctions (UWF)
- Dry Halls (Nova)
- Removals from housing (Nova)
- Restriction on # of people in a room (Nova)

#### **Residence Life –**

- RHAs on campus - are they listed as a student organization or not? Do they receive any funds from SGAs and what process do they use to get these funds if they receive SGA funding? (UWF)
- RHA accounts - how administered? By HRL staff advising the group, by students, etc.? Any institutions collect voluntary resident dues for RHAs and do you receipt the student for these funds? If the student cancels their contract, do they get a portion of their dues back? (UWF)
- Residence Hall units which are assigned to Greek organizations, if this is offered at your institution, do the organizations pay for spaces which are used for non-revenue generating spaces (chapter room, office, storage space)? And what are the policies around these non-revenue generating spaces if they exist? How does this impact bonds? (UWF)
- Hurricane Shelter-in-Place policies (FIU)
- Living and Learning Communities- Honors or Arts? (FIU)
- University Welcome Week initiatives (FIU)
- RA expectation shifts? (USF)
- New staff training initiatives? (USF)
- Special interest / theme housing (USF)
- Family housing – discipline, programming, children (USF)
- CPR training for RA's (Rollins)

#### **Reports to the group**

- Institutional Reports (each institution will share updates from their year: staffing changes, programmatic updates, occupancy, anticipated percent of rental rate changes, renovation & construction) Goal is 1-2 minutes each.
- FARH (Sean Pierce)
- FRAS 2006 (Cathy Downes)
- SEAHO 2006 (Kathy Hobgood)
  - ⇒ Conference Info
  - ⇒ Program proposal tracking
- Conference dates for 2005-06

#### **Other agenda items will include**

- Election of 2005-07 State Editor
- Professional Development Panel presentation/conversation
- Presentation from special guest: Tom Miller, Assistant VP for Student Affairs at the University of South Florida -- Topic: Promoting Reasonable Expectations & Learning Reconsidered
- Roundtable conversations on Monday evening (requests so far for RA selection and performance, RA Training models, new ideas, etc. and Academic Initiatives/Faculty Involvement)
- Distribution of a brief survey (one representative per institution) on predictors of staff performance – Lua Hancock doctoral research =)
- Updating the FHO listserv and Directory (should all those in the directory be added to the listserv?)