



## State Representative Report

**Date:** October 1, 2006

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

**Submitted By:**

**Lisa Diekow – State Representative**

**State Officers:**

Lisa Diekow, State Representative, University of Florida  
Kathi Akers, State Editor, University of North 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 Summer 2006 meeting was held May 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, at the University of Florida. Attendees spent 2 days discussing various issues and working through nearly 30 agenda items. Azfar Mian, UF, presented a session on the essential understandings of Information Technology for housing professionals and Diane “DP” Porter, UF, presented a session providing an overview of Academic Initiatives. Both presentations were helpful to all.
- Our Fall 2006 meeting will be held November 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at The Florida Leadership Training Center in Haines City, FL. Tom Kane, USF, has served as our longtime host for this annual meeting. We are in the process of developing our agenda items for this meeting. Craig Ullum, Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs at the University of Central Florida will be our guest speaker and will address the topic of “Partnering with Parents.”

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



- FARH 2007: The University of North Florida will host the annual conference from February 16<sup>th</sup>-February 18<sup>th</sup>. The theme is SAFARHI!
- Mini-FARH, September 30, was hosted by Florida Atlantic University Honors College, themed “A Pirate’s Life for Me, Mini-FARRRRH!” boasted 14 schools in attendance. Florida Institute of Technology became the newest

affiliate, bringing the total number of affiliate schools to 18. There were \$\$ delegates and \$ advisers in attendance.

- “FARHY Tales” 2006 was hosted at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, February 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. FARH welcomed two new schools: the University of West Florida and the University of Miami, which brought affiliation numbers to 17 schools represented throughout the state, and 180 in attendance.

#### **FARH State Board for 2006-07:**

Dawn Quick, Director, FSU  
Joanne “Jo” Soliman, Associate Director, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Oleg Polupan, Associate Director of Finance, USF  
Joey McNamara, Associate Director of Records, Lynn University (**elected 9/30**)  
Will Harmon, Associate Director of Recognition, FAU  
Brianna Bragg, Associate Director of Recruitment & Retention, FAU  
Larry Faerman, Adviser, FAU

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

- FRAS 2007: Will be hosted by the University of Central Florida in Orlando, January 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2007!
- FRAS 2006: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University hosted FRASCAR 2006 in Daytona Beach from January 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. There were 24 schools in attendance, and 354 total participants (307 delegates and 47 advisers) an all-high in attendance in the past 4 years. There were 55 program offerings for delegates and 5 sessions for advisers. The overall top programming award recognized Nicolette Imam, Stephanie Garland and Tamara Marryshow from FIU for “Family Feud: Revving up the spark on your Team! Roll Call: 1<sup>st</sup>: Jacksonville University; Spirit: 1<sup>st</sup>: Florida Southern College.



#### ***State Awards:***

- Outstanding Adviser of the Year: Ric Baker, University of South Florida
- Most Improved School: FAU Honors College
- Crystal Awards (for service to the state): Elizabeth Williamson-UF, E.J. Walicki-UF
- State Board of Directors Commendations: Julie McMahon-UF, Jessie Sunski-UCF, Dan Holmes-UCF

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

- Lynn Hendricks, University of North Florida – Placement Committee Co-Chair
- Ron Thompson, Florida International University - Research and Information Committee Chair
- Paul Riel, University of North Florida, Membership and External Partnerships Task Force Chair
- Lisa Diekow, Vision Statement Task Force Chair
- Krystal Schofield, University of Tampa - Placement Committee Co-Chair
- Julie McMahon, University of Florida, Advising Student Groups, Task Force Chair
- Scott Nelson, University of Florida, SEAHO Report, Co-Chair
- E.J. Walicki, University of Florida, SEAHO Report author - Summer 2006. Article Title: "Myth Busting the High Rises."
- Greg Connell, University of North Florida, SEAHO Report author- Summer 2006. Article Title: “Starting to plan your conference tour this year? If you are new to field, make RELI 2007 a priority!”
- Kim Fugate, University of Florida, ACUHO-I Talking Stick author- Summer 2006. Article Title: “Life Preserver”

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

- Florida State University: We have instituted a new programming model called the BRIDGE (Building Residents by Intentionally Developing Guided Experiences) Model. It focuses on monthly hall wide, floor based and passive programming methods centering around the five tenets present in our new mission statement in Residence Life: "Residence life facilitates the development of every resident through the promotion of responsible citizenship, learning, appreciation of differences, personal wellness, and involvement." It is our hope that by centering on each tenet through active and passive programming initiatives we will be able to drive these core value themes home to the residents to help shape their experiences in living with us. We intend to look at the model throughout the year to see what tweaks we need to add to it including the potential of some type of points based initiative to recognize continued achievement by individual staff members and teams. We have implemented several changes to our staffing patterns in residence life this year including the addition of more masters level professional staff members and the refocusing of some professional positions to concentrate on areas that need more specific attention in our system. We have one professional staff member in charge of Rogers and McCollum Halls (both upper-class apartment facilities) and serving as the advisor to both IRHC (our RHA here at FSU) and NRHH. We are looking to this person to help grow our young leaders in these vital student organizations to be better equipped to represent the students on campus as an agency of SGA and more intentional in the programming and support efforts campus-wide. We have begun operating Dorman and Deviney Halls as a complex providing additional leadership over there for the first year students and RAs serving in those two halls. Finally, we have continued to expand the skills of some of our full time professionals by giving them opportunities to chair significant initiatives in our system including working with our residence life judicial boards and judicial database system, hall life improvement committee, staff recognition, and training and selection committees.
- University of Florida: Residence Life and Education designed and implemented new community development model for graduate and family housing and single-student housing, which includes a weekly compass point/topic of discussion. Each point of the compass coincides with programmatic focus areas (N- Navigating University Life, S- Scholarship, E-Establishing and maintaining relationships, W- World Awareness). Graduate and Family Housing has implemented new administrative procedures to include: a health and safety inspection, 45-day notice to vacate, reduced turn-around time for apartment readiness. Administrative Services has implemented an online application process for graduate and family housing and single-student housing. We opened the Global Learning Community at Yulee Hall for Fall 2006. Academic Initiatives and Enhancement implemented study buddy program for entire undergraduate housing population for Fall 2006. Residence Life and Education staff participated in campus training initiative: QPR suicide prevention, as a collaborative effort with our Counseling Center. Administrative Services completed a network upgrade and moved from a 10/100 megabit to a 1 gigabit connection at the pillow in single-student housing. Facilities staff completed renovation of a 200 bed residence hall, installation of a fire suppression system in a 250 bed residence hall and replacement of elevator in a 14-story tower residence hall.

### ***Problems:***

- We continue to be challenged by the ever-changing landscape of technology, development of budget processes which support by our long-range planning, the continual drain on Auxiliary budgets to fund non-Housing related expenses and initiatives, aggressive building programs, competitive off-campus markets, higher expectations from students and their parents, and establishing best practices to support sustainability efforts. We consider ourselves very lucky to have avoided severe weather patterns thus far, as many communities remain "under construction and renovation" from the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons.

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

- The State of Florida was well represented at our profession's preeminent professional development opportunities:
- SEAHO Regional Entry Level Institute: Participants- Douglas Bell, UWF; Greg Connell, UNF; Kelly Doel, UCF; Keenya Horton-Smith, FAU; Heather Murdoch, FSU; Emmanuela Pierre, USF. Faculty: Kathy Hobgood, UF (now at Clemson University).
- James C. Grimm National Housing Training Institute: Participants- Vivian Ortiz, UCF; Mohammad Hussain, UF; Karen McLaughlin, UF.
- ACUHO-I STARS College: Undergraduate Participants- Nitin Aggarwal, University of Miami; Jordan Burns, UF, Jemilia Harrison, University of Miami; Janel Lopez, FAU; Dustin Rollins, UF. Faculty/committee members- Valerie Averill, USF; Lisa Diekow, UF; Jill Eckard, FAU; Tom Kane, USF; Gisela Vega, FIU.

- The Diversity Fellowship at the University of Tampa hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual diversity Drive-In Conference on April 7, 2006. The theme of the conference was “A Daily Dose of Diversity” and the highlight of the event was keynote speaker Jermaine Davis, author of *Get Off Your Butt & Do It Now*. The Residence Hall Association at the University of Tampa provided support and leadership for this event.
- It will be great in 2008! No, this is NOT the annual conference theme, but ACUHO-I 2008 will be hosted on Disney property in Orlando, Florida. More information to come!
- The Florida Housing Officers would like to acknowledge Kathy Hobgood, for her service as our State Representative to the SEAHO Governing Council. Kathy accepted a new position, Director of Residence Life at Clemson University, in July 2006, and we thank her for her leadership over the years. Among many contributions to our profession, Kathy served on several host committees for the state of Florida (SEAHO and ACUHO-I), and we will miss her as a colleague and a friend. Thank you, Kathy!