

WAVES

The official newsletter of the
Western Association of College and University Housing Officers



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President's Letter

Suzanne "Seppy" Seplow

Hello WACUHO,

Although we are into February, I did want to begin by wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I do hope that you were able to take some well-deserved time away from the office during the winter break for some rest, relaxation and rejuvenation.

I've delayed in writing this message as I have searched for the words to honor and pay tribute to one of WACUHO's finest, Jim "JB" Brock. His passing has left a void which seems to be growing as the Annual Conference and Exposition nears. However, as I read his Facebook wall, "Preserving our Memories of Jim Brock," I found myself being uplifted. The joy and love he offered unconditionally, his willingness to volunteer and step up whenever needed, his laughter that radiated a room, his WANGO fifty bucks always being pulled from his pocket, and of course, his gracious bear hugs are just some of the JB gifts we will hold onto for a lifetime. For those who may not have known JB personally, I share with you that JB was a person filled with integrity, passion for his work, which included WACUHO, and lived life to the fullest and did the small things that made a big difference. His love for his families (Pepperdine, WACUHO, and his Family family!) was demonstrated in his every day actions. As an association, we will get to remember our past-president, colleague, mentor and dear friend, JB, at our conference. On Wednesday morning, April 8th at 9am, we will come together to celebrate his life. *May we take the collective lessons we've learned from JB over the years and continue living positive, full, enriched lives where we value what's most important – our relationships with others.*

And **NATURALLY**, a great way to build those relationships is at the upcoming **WACUHO Annual Conference and Exposition in Santa Barbara starting Sunday, April 5th – Wednesday, April 8th**. During these tough economic times, we are all challenged by budget restrictions and limitations on resources; particularly travel. I believe WACUHO is very fortunate this year to have a conference that is within driving distance for most of our region. While institutional support for professional development may have been reduced for some, the importance and value of professional development and collegial relationships have not wavered. I urge you to maintain the investment in yourself and the commitment to WACUHO, and hope you will join us in April. A special note to Chief Housing Officers (CHOs): I encourage you to continue to find ways to keep staff motivated and invested by supporting them to attend. Any bit helps and I know many of us give credit to WACUHO as we reflect on our own career successes. I promise you all a conference filled with intellectual stimuli, a full house of exhibitors willing to meet your campus needs, intentionality to be sustainable, time to reconnect with colleagues and friends, and A ROCK YOUR WORLD KEYNOTE SPEAKER (Bertice Berry)!!!

On that note, I'd like to thank the many, many volunteers who have worked hard throughout this year on numerous committees to put on conferences, assist in collaborative efforts, and advance our knowledge base within the field. The Annual Conference and Exposition Committees continue to work hard in preparing for "Naturally, WACUHO." Hope to see you there!

All the best,

Seppy

Submission Deadlines:

The WAVES is generally published two weeks after the submission deadlines.

Pre-Conference: March 2

Spring/Summer 2009: May 29

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WACUHO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT

WACUHO recognizes the benefits derived from the inclusion of diversity in the Association. Significant contributions are made by members from all areas of higher education and at every level of responsibility. The quality of perspective and experience shared by our members, inclusive of ethnicity, age, gender, religious preference, sexual orientation, or differing abilities, adds a dynamic that enriches the character of the Association. WACUHO encourages all to actively participate in its programs, events and activities.

2009 Corporate Partners

Gold Plan

ASI Campus Laundry Solutions

Capstone Development Corp.

KLN Steel Products Company

Southwest Contract

Silver Plan

A-1 Textiles & Hospitality Products

On Campus Marketing



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Our upcoming conference in Santa Barbara, “Naturally WACUHO”, is on target to provide exceptional professional development for housing professionals of all levels. It’s a perfect time to invest in the WACUHO Association & its members - YOU.

Key highlights include:

Nationally recognized keynote speaker – Dr. Bertice Berry combines her skills as a sociologist and researcher, with her ability to make audiences think and laugh at the same time. She is the best selling author of the inspirational memoir, “I’m On My Way, But Your Foot Is On My Head”, four novels and two humor books.

Extensive Exhibits Showcase with access to a myriad of products and services to enhance your operations

Numerous networking opportunities, including karaoke night, beach activities, and our fun-filled hospitality and networking suite which welcomes and entertains everyone throughout the conference

Stimulating “spotlight” sessions and program offerings that target:

- Professional Development
- Chief Housing Officers
- Operations
- Student Programming
- Technology & Assessment

Please book your reservations on the website <http://wacuho.org/annconf09/default.htm> and take this opportunity for personal and organizational renewal in our seaside community. I look forward to seeing you in April!

Judy Edner, WACUHO Conference Chair
UCSB Housing & Residential Services

Remembering Jim “JB” Brock



James Lewis Brock, Jr. was born August 30, 1949 to James Lewis and Mary Alice Brock of Logansport, Indiana. He passed away Thursday, January 15th, 2009.

Jim, or JB as he was known to many, moved with his parents to a farm outside of Stafford, Kansas before his first birthday. He attended grade school and junior high in Stafford and graduated from Stafford High School in 1967.

He was involved in many activities through his childhood, including church youth groups and the Boy Scouts of America. In high school, he participated in speech, debate, forensics and choir, and acted in several school productions. He also served proudly as the Stafford High Marching Band drum major. He was class president of his senior class and Student Body President his senior year of high school.

Following his graduation, he attended York College in York, Nebraska and obtained his Associate of Arts degree in 1969. He continued his education at Harding University, in Memphis Tennessee where he met and married Kathy Jones in May of 1971.

JB graduated at the end of that fall semester with a degree in communications, ready to teach. He and Kathy stayed in Stafford at the family home while he looked for employment and until he was offered his first teaching position at Harding Academy.

JB taught speech and drama at Harding Academy from 1971-77 where he hosted forensics festivals, the Tennessee State Speech Tournament, and served as the yearbook advisor. He became president of the West Tennessee Education Association in 1976.

That honor paled in comparison to the September 13, 1976 birth of his daughter Alison Leigh Brock. From that day forward, being a father became his most cherished role.

The family relocated in 1977 to York, Nebraska when JB accepted a position at his Alma Mater, York College, as an instructor of communication.

While at York, JB was a sponsor of Alpha Psi Omega and Sigma Tau. He served as the theater director and the director of Songfest. He also served as the director of Soul Concern, a traveling drama troupe.

While at York, JB received several honors and awards for his teaching and service to the College, among them being named an Outstanding Young Man in America, and Teacher of the Year, an award he received four separate years. He received both the

Presidential Service Award and the Student Association Outstanding Service Award.

After his time at York, JB moved to California to be close to his young daughter, Alison. He worked for a relative in their family business when he first arrived in California. JB found his professional home at Pepperdine University in 1984, starting as a clerk in the library. His career progressed as he moved from the library to an administrative assistant role and then to housing as the Men's Resident Coordinator in 1987. In 1987 JB became the acting director of housing and was made the permanent director three weeks later. The department changed the name of his position to Director of Residential Life. In 1993, he was named Associate Dean of Students along with his residential life duties. He reclaimed the position of Director of housing in March of 2003 and served in that position until his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, Bentley Brian Brock. He is survived by his daughter, Alison Henrie, her husband Benjamin and their children; Brooke, Wyatt, Aubrey, Easton and Mallory, all of Henderson, Nevada. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Lou Brock of Wichita, Kansas. He will be sorely missed by his niece and nephew, many cousins, each of you here, and many who could not be here but hold JB and his family in their hearts and prayers.

-Taken from obituary at JB's Memorial at Pepperdine on January 21, 2009.



The Pepperdine Housing and Community Living staff would like to thank our WACUHO family for your support and encouragement in this difficult time. We have all suffered a profound loss with the sudden passing of our dear friend and colleague, Jim "JB" Brock. JB loved his WACUHO family. It was a fitting testimony to his legacy that so many from WACUHO attended his Celebration of Life service. We are touched, honored, and gratified that so many of you have contacted our office offering condolences and sharing in our grief. He was a remarkable man and will be dearly missed.

Sincerely,

Luke Bost

Sue Gamboa

Stephen Keene

Jesse McCauley

Scott Reynolds

Stacy Rothberg

L.E. Stokes

and the rest of the Community Living staff.

NEW PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

We are beginning to work on all of the new professionals activities that are going to be offered at the 2009 WACUHO Annual Conference in Santa Barbara. Kayla and I are excited to be attending the conference and are looking forward to meeting all of you. We will have our traditional " Night on the Town" social on Monday evening, April 5th. So make sure to be there if you will be attending the conference. You will have an opportunity to sign up for the Night on the Town at the " New Professionals Welcome" on Sunday, April 4.

There will be more information to come on the next social in the Northern CA region.

If our committee can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to meeting you!!

Noah and Kayla

Why should Colleges and Universities consider Leasing?

In these times of economic uncertainty, we look for ways to stretch our dollars. How can Colleges and Universities continue to bring products and services on campus that will make life easier and enjoyable for their residential students? One way is to secure these products and services is through a lease program. Leasing provides flexibility and protection against technological obsolescence. Leasing allows a school to better match cash outflow with revenue production through the use of equipment. Leasing conserves valuable working capital and bank lines.

Leasing is efficient, convenient, and allows for 100% financing.

Top Ten Reasons Why Companies Lease

- 1. Purchasing Power.** Lease financing allows the lessee to acquire more and/or higher-end equipment.
- 2. Balance Sheet Management.** Certain types of leases help the lessee better manage the balance sheet and improve the overall financial picture, by conserving operating capital and freeing up working capital and bank credit lines for inventory, expansion and emergencies.
- 3. 100 Percent Financing.** With leasing, there is no down payment. The term of the lease can be matched with the useful life of the equipment.
- 4. Asset Management.** A lease provides the use of equipment for specific periods of time at fixed payments. It assumes and manages the risks of equipment ownership. At the end of the lease, the lessor disposes of the equipment.
- 5. Service Additions.** Many lessees choose to structure their leases to include installation, maintenance and other services, if needed.
- 6. Tax Treatment.** Leasing offers the option of deducting 100 percent of the lease payment as a business expense.
- 7. Upgraded Technology.** Leasing provides companies with the ability to keep pace with technology. The lessee can upgrade or add equipment to meet ever-changing needs.
- 8. Specialized Assistance.** Lessors are specialists in equipment leasing and financing, and understand capital equipment markets.
- 9. Flexibility.** There are a variety of leasing products available, allowing the lessee to customize a program to address needs and requirements - cash flow, budget, transaction structure, cyclical fluctuations, etc.
- 10. Proven Equipment-Financing Option.** Over 80 percent of all capital equipment in the United States is acquired through financing. In fact, eight out of 10 companies lease their equipment.

Information provided by US Capital- financial resources.

Submitted by Lisa A. Farrell on behalf of the Corporate Relations Committee

WACUHO Apartments and Community Living

Recently, we had interviews for Resident Assistants. Those interested in the apartment-style areas were asked what would make them the "ideal candidate" for those areas. Almost every candidate who answered this (that I interviewed), spoke about how those students choosing to live in the apartments were "looking for independence" and would "rely less on the staff" than in the residence halls. In response, they (as a new staff member) would "be there when needed." However, in my experience, apartment staff are expected to do more than "be there when needed," and that, while the *desire* for independence is true of apartment residents, the *ability* to live independently is frequently still being developed. This often leaves a morass where 1) staff are less motivated to do programs; 2) residents are less motivated to attend programs; but 3) many residents still need assistance in developing. This is compounded by much of the training and research in Residence Life focusing on first-year students and traditional halls.

So, the WACUHO Apartments Committee has gathered a collection of tips, suggestions, and ideas related to programming in apartment-style communities. We hope the below will assist those in these non-traditional areas be successful in reaching out effectively to their residents.

Tips for Programming

-Think positive! Building community through programming IS possible in the apartments.

-Program for your population!

-2nd year and/or upperclass students: look at career-based programs (internships, resume/interview skills), independent living (cooking, cleaning, laundry), or even commencement.

-Graduate/post-doc students: career based still helpful, possibly family-based, grant writing, teaching tips.

-Survey students to find out what they want (through RHA, RAs, Front Office) and WHEN ... sometimes, programs in the apartments fail because schedules are assumed to be the same as for traditional hall students. At some institutions where traditional halls empty on the weekends, apartment communities stay fairly full.

-Research successful programs on other campuses and make it fit for your campus.

-Try a program that is successful in the traditional residence halls...it may surprise you and be very successful in the apartments. For example, maybe a pool-side dance.

-Advertise in the same AND different ways than in the residence halls. In one of our apartment complexes which is significantly lacking in effective posting space, we bought sturdy metal stands which can be placed in grassy areas, and our Facilities staff attached wood to them. These are signage spots that all staff have to do is staple their signs to the board. This then does not damage the facility, and lets the staff place the stands in the most conspicuous areas, or to move them around for a new look (make sure your staplers can adequately staple into the wood!). Maybe you can utilize stair railings or other unique architectural features (in a way that does not damage them or make the facility look "untidy").

-Consider (if you have the budget) taking them to a special event/location off-campus, providing transportation and a reduced fee. While they may not be as interested in learning about the direct local community (if they are returning students), many students are still interested in reduced price activities such as skiing, theme parks, etc.

-Be creative. Programs don't always have to be large scale. Go door-to-door and engage residents in their own space. Have a pool or game room? Think of how you can mold the program around these non-traditional spaces. Rent a tent and have something outside.

-Use passive programming. Anecdotal evidence suggests that apartment residents are less likely to come out to the traditional "educational" program. However, passive programs can be a great way to get some of this same information out there.

Specific Programming Ideas

Battle of the Buildings: The program is a weekend long program in which buildings compete against each other in 13 different events. Residents compete in sporting events like volleyball, basketball, & track. We also included events for residents who were not so athletically inclined like a spelling bee, Wii tennis, trivia, and an ice cream eating contest. The weekend long event started with an opening ceremony and ended with a closing ceremony where 1 team won the Gold Medal Award and 1 team won the Best Spirit Award. The only responsibility the RAs had was to get participants out there and the professional staff planned it. It was a great way to create building community and also provide residents with a weekend alternative.

Financial Literacy Series: Create a semester long series of programs in which financial responsibility is the focus. First program "Young, Fabulous, & Broke" was a presentation based on Suze Orman's book and other resources for young people. The presentation focused on what college students should consider when thinking about student loans, credit cards, savings, budgeting, credit score, and retirement. The second program in the series "Learning How to File Taxes" teaches residents about filing for taxes and answers any questions residents may have. Look into having a tax preparer come in for this presentation, it's a great way to have them advertise for their company. The last program in the series "Building a good FICO score" can focus on how your score is determined and what students can do now to ensure a good score for their future. A presentation can be created by visiting various websites (examples: myfico.com & suzeorman.com). This can also be a program where faculty members can be involved.

Mock Interview: Enlist the help of your campus Career Center and have them bring their services to your residents. Program would include tips about dressing for an interview, appropriate topics to discuss, and practicing a mock interview with a career center staff member. This is a great way to help prepare your residents for what to expect during interviews and help ease their anxiety.

Go Green: Create a semester long program about the environment. To kick off the program have a faculty member from Environmental Science create a presentation on what residents specifically living in apartments can begin to do in order to be environmentally conscious. During a 6 week period, residents compete against each other to determine who is doing more "green" activities, this is an individual competition. Students fill out an on-line chart which assigns points to various activities. Residents also receive a Go Green newsletter via email every Monday with resources and tips. At the end of the 6 week period, residents come together to celebrate their accomplishments with a "Green Party" and the winner of the competition is announced and given a prize.

Cooking 101: Create a cooking show where residents can learn new easy, quick, delicious, and nutritious recipes while at the same time sample the dishes. This is a great program for the professional staff to show off their cooking skills and let the residents see them in a different light. At the end of the cooking show provide a recipe book of all the dishes that were created during the program. This program is also a great opportunity to teach students about healthy eating habits and budgeting when grocery shopping. Also, false smoke alarms can be a major issue in apartment buildings. This is a good way to teach some of the basic safety tips associated with having a stove and/or oven ("No, it's not a good idea to leave your apartment when you are letting that pan of oil heat up ...").

Progressive Dinner: The following program is a wonderful icebreaker for residents. Each apartment on the floor is responsible for creating a dish for the dinner. The dinner should be broken up pretty significantly. For example, if the floor is making a spaghetti dinner then one apartment would make the noodles, someone else would make the sauce, and so on. Each resident is responsible for making their own plate and introducing themselves to each others' apartments.

What's on your plate?: This program involves residents talking about balancing priorities over dinner. Each resident receives two plates, one for dinner and the other to list the priorities they are balancing. After everyone has filled out their plate, residents will discuss what can be taken off their plate. Typically, apartment residents list issues involving academics, having more than one job, guest policy violations (the 5th roommate), cooking, cleanliness, and groceries.

Although programming in an apartment style setting can be challenging, it can also be fun, creative, and rewarding. Programming is not only a great way to continue to build community and identity, it is also a wonderful way to help transition students to becoming more independent. Programming can help to prepare students not only for find focus in their career path but also in becoming a responsible citizen of the world. We hope these tips and ideas help to spark some creative ideas for programming that can work in apartments on your campus.

Have requests for future Apartments and Community Living articles or conference programs, or suggestions/best practices for apartment/community living? Email us at

apartments@wacuho.org.

It is that time of year when we begin the process of selecting committee members for next academic year. If you are interested in a WACUHO committee for the 2009-2010 academic year, please be sure to fill out an UPDATED committee request form.

The 2009-2010 form is now on the WACUHO Website at www.wacuho.org.

The Awards and Recognition Committee is excited to announce that nominations for the **2009 Charles L. Miller Leadership and Service Award** are now being accepted for review. This award is in special recognition of a current member of the Association who has made significant contributions through dedicated service and outstanding leadership to the Western Association of College and University of Housing Officers.

The nomination form and instructions can be found at www.wacuho.org. All nomination materials must be received by March 16, 2009.

The Charles L. Miller Award is named in memory of Mr. Charles L. Miller, the 30th President of the Association. Throughout his career, Charles L. Miller, better known as "Charlie," exemplified the highest level of dedication to our profession, provided outstanding leadership and role modeling for seasoned veterans and new professionals alike, and was known for his tremendous sense of humor. His death at a young age only served to accentuate the wonderful contributions, accomplishments, and valuable service he gave to our Association. In fond memory of him and respect to his family, this award has been bestowed on individuals who, like Charlie, have made a difference in our Association and in the lives of colleagues and the students we serve.

You will find a nomination form for this prestigious award at www.wacuho.org. The form contains the criteria, post-mark dates, and process information. The Awards and Recognition Committee strongly encourages you and your staff to nominate a colleague who deserves our Association's highest honor.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please feel free to contact Tim Trevan via email at presidentelect@wacuho.org or by telephone at (818) 677-6103. The Awards and Recognition Committee appreciates your input and assistance in honoring one of our own!

Past Charles L. Miller Leadership and Service Award Recipients

1992 – Joseph Risser	2000 – Norma Armtrout
1993 – Harland Harris	2001 – Not Awarded
1994 – Gary Little	2002 – Sue Matthews
1995 – Rick Hagan	2003 – Jack Gibbons
1996 – Ali Mossaver-Rahmani	2004 – Andy Klingelhoef
1997 – Harry Le Grande	2005 – Liz Simpson
1998 – Eddie Bankston	2006 – Alan Ogi
1999 – Jim "JB" Brock	2007 – Carol Robert-Corb
	2008 – Terry Campbell

**Calling all New Professionals:
What Would YOU Do?**

You are a Director of Housing and Residential Life at a mid-size public institute. A copy of a police report is submitted to you by your Associate Director for Residential Life about a female student, who is the Residence Hall Association Vice President, who filed harassment charges against a male student, her ex-boyfriend and Resident Assistant. The break-up occurred almost two months ago. The ex-girlfriend contends that the ex-boyfriend has been sabotaging her efforts to plan successful RHA programs. The ex-boyfriend denies the charges and claims it is the ex-girlfriend who has been making contact with him. Because of their leadership roles on campus, the issue is a "high profile" case. The ex-girlfriend's mother is calling because she is fearful for her daughter's safety and wants you to do something about it.

Does the scenario interest you? Scare you? Excite you? Intrigue you? All of the above?

Do you want to experience a real-life critical and ethical issue faced by senior level professionals?

Participate in the New Professionals Case Study Competition! It is an opportunity to exercise your presentation skills, your critical thinking skills and your ability to link theoretical knowledge to practical experience.

When is it? It will be held during the Annual Conference in Santa Barbara. Details regarding day, time, and location will provided at a later date.

Past winners include:

Camille Harvey and Lakisha Tillman (2008): Bronze

Elissa Lappenga and Bonnie Yun (2007): Gold

Niki Libarios (2006): Silver

Genice Sarcedo (2005): Bronze

Emily Sandoval, David Hong, and Jerry Verdin (2004): Silver

Details, registration information or desire to express interest, please contact Alex Belisario (abelisa@ucsc.edu) or Happy Cimenski-Almogela (lalmogel@csusb.edu).



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Hello WACUHO!!

By any chance, did your new year's resolutions include getting more involved in the field or taking on an exciting leadership role?

If you aren't into resolutions, have you been itching to make a difference in our esteemed Association or been searching for a way to give back to the Housing field?

Or might it be that you have been working on the sidelines, cheering on the Association and you are now at a point where you are willing and able to take that "next step"?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, or if you know of someone who would answer "YES", do we have an opportunity for you!!!

WACUHO has a rich history of incredible leadership and we want you to become a part of this tradition. The Nominations Committee is currently identifying candidates to run for 2009-10 WACUHO Executive Committee positions. To accomplish this goal, we need your help!

Simply let us know who you would like to nominate: nominate a colleague; nominate a fellow committee member; or nominate yourself. If you are nominating another colleague, please remember to speak with that person first and ask if he/she is interested in running. The Nominations Committee will follow up with all nominees to confirm their interest.

The deadline for submitting a nomination is February 20, 2009, so show some WACUHO love and nominate today!

The open positions for the upcoming election are:

President-Elect	Member-at-Large, North
Vice President	Member-at-Large, Central
Secretary	Member-at-Large, South

For more information on each of the positions refer to the WACUHO website at www.wacuho.org.

Please take the time to encourage someone you know to run or consider running yourself. The candidate slate will be revealed in the next issue of the WAVES, so keep your eyes open for more detailed information!

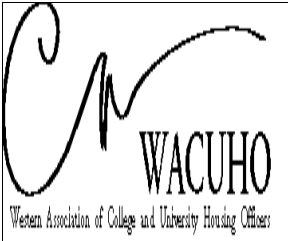
If you have any questions, please contact me, or any member of the Nominations Committee:

<p>Happy Cimenski-Almogela CSU, San Bernadino 909-473-7800 lalmogel@housing.csusb.edu</p>	<p>Byron Howlett University of La Verne 909-593-3511 howlett@ulv.edu</p>	<p>Christine Jordan CSU, San Bernadino 909-880-1335 cbender@csusb.edu</p>
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Thank you for your interest in serving our Association!

Sincerely,

Martin Castillo, Nominations Chair
 San José State University
 408-795-5602
nominations@wacuho.org
martin.castillo@sjsu.edu



Northern Region News

Happy New Year!

I hope that your 2009 has starting off well.

The Fall season brought a successful NRAP, hosted by San Jose State University. The day was full of spirit, great programs, first time attendees and a distinguished group of past presidents. WTI was returned to the retreat setting on beautiful Sorority Row at UCLA, where our Scholars. Jane Rosser of Bowling Green, Chuck Rhodes from Sonoma State and Richard Clark from UNLV challenged attendees to Reconnect with your passion, Redefine your work and Reinvest in your community. The Icebreakers cheerfully incorporated the football theme as this years institute opened on Super Bowl Sunday.

On Saturday, February 20th, Pacific Management Institute will be held at UC Riverside. The committee worked hard to bring this WACUHO gem back this year.

Now is the time to submit your committee request forms to Request forms to Staci Buchwald, WACUHO Vice President.

There are a host of committees that you or your staff can join, chair or co-chair.

Institutional and Individual Membership payments are also happily accepted now. Please see the invoice that you received from our Treasurer, Ramona Hernandez or feel free to contact me for payment information or questions about your institutions status.

We are also actively seeking volunteer support from administrative roles to annual conference support. If you are looking to get your feet wet in WACUHO, have a special knack for administrative skills or just plain want to help out, please let me know or submit a committee request form . WACUHO is grounded in wonderful Housing Officers volunteering their time and skills and we THANK YOU!

The Annual conference is right around the corner and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Santa Barbara! UCSB and the Annual Conference chairs have done a remarkable job of putting together a conference that will not only be edifying to the membership, but the area lends itself to a great family vacation or relaxing getaway if your schedule permits. Hope to see you there!

Mia Love, Member-at-large North

n ovegies@stanford.edu

ACUHO-I Global Housing Summit

By Mia Love



What do you call a meeting with over 80 Housing Officers from Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States? Amazing!

The 2009 Global Housing Summit organized by ACUHO-I, was the brain child of Eddie Hull, Duke University. The Summit started with an intense study tour of college and university campuses across China including the cities of Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Guiyang. Led by Dr. Howard Wang, the associate vice president for Student Affairs at California State University, Fullerton, and this 10 day tour allowed 20 participants to experience campus visits and meetings with students and educators.



Academic Residence Hall At City University

On Sunday, January 10, the rest of the team attended the opening ceremony at the Excelsior Hotel in Hong Kong to embark on 5 days of campus visits, facilitated discussion and the chance to speak to local students about the needs of international students on our campuses. We dialoged about the similarities of issues that we face on a variety topics from binge drinking to renovations versus new construction as well as the ever-present daunting picture of the current economy.



Chinese Garden at City University

The days were filled with residence hall tours and a glimpse of Asia's largest one-story library at City University, audits of classes in hotel management at Hong Kong Polytechnic University (ranked in the top 5 in the world), tours of labs and informative sessions at Chinese University, Hong Kong's largest campus, which boasts a mind-boggling 50 stories. We also heard from the Hong Kong housing authority. Their presentation detailed the construction of 41 story flats incorporating the Innovation Precast System. The incredible effort allows 60 percent of a building to be prefabricated and hoisted into place. The polymer-based, volumetric precast components include staircases, 20mm walls, bathrooms and kitchens!



Polytechnic University

At the end of an intense day, those with a sea-worthy stomach or a Dramamine tablet enjoyed the light show on a dinner cruise of Victoria Harbor. We didn't dance the night away because our facilitator had plans for us bright and early the next day. Through the methodology of appreciative inquiry, we explored the question of "what's next for campus housing". In our break out sessions, ideas ranged from future annual conferences on cruise liners to international resource centers.

If you had any energy left, you could take in the culture and history of Hong Kong and the adjacent areas. At the end of the Summit, one thing was clear; this is first of many more meetings of great minds!



This is the residence Hall where most Athletes live



Harbour View from Excelsior Hotel