

Recipes from the **Teal World**: How to  
create a well-seasoned leader

*A pinch of **SALT** goes a long way...*



Residence Hall Association,  
**University of North Carolina Wilmington**

Student Award for Leadership Training,  
SAACURH 2010: University of Georgia

## Table of Contents:

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<b>Abstract</b>	Pg.3
<b>Letter from the Editor:</b> Introduction	Pg.3
<b>Appetizer:</b> Area Chapter Training	
a. Ingredients: Planning	Pg.5
b. Cooking Instructions: Training	Pg.7
c. Nutritional Facts: Budget	Pg.9
<b>Entrée:</b> Area Chapter Fall Retreat	
a. Ingredients: Planning	Pg.9
b. Cooking Instructions: Retreat	Pg.11
c. Nutritional Facts: Budget	Pg.14
<b>Dessert-</b> Area Chapter Winter Retreat	
a. Purpose	Pg.14
b. Ingredients: Planning	Pg.15
<b>Critics' Review:</b> Evaluation	Pg.15
<b>In Comparison to ACPA</b>	Pg.17
<b>As a Conference Program</b>	Pg.17
<b>Conclusion</b>	Pg.18
<b>ZAGAT Guide: Letters of Recommendation</b>	
a. Jordan Winn, Residence Hall Association President	Pg.19
b. Kristen Tucker, Assistant Director of Residence Life	Pg.20



## **Abstract:**

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It is a tradition for the Residence Hall Association (RHA) at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) to host annual training sessions for their Area Chapter executive board members. These two training sessions, called Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat, are a culmination of leadership and community development. These sessions provide opportunities for students to discover their leadership potential through a series of programs and discussions, which focus on different aspects of their positional roles and how to implement successful programs in their individual areas. Through creating two different training days, the Area Chapters have the chance to take the information they learned during the Area Chapter Training and put it to use. When the members reconvene at the Fall Retreat they can reflect on what they have accomplished over the past month, and discuss ways in which they can improve. It is important for RHA to provide the Area Chapters with training sessions in order to prepare them for the tasks in which they must face throughout the year in their executive positions, teach them how to overcome obstacles and to represent themselves as dedicated and effective leaders for their fellow residents.

## **Letter from the Editor:**

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At the beginning of each school year RHA strives to ensure that all of their members are well adjusted and knowledgeable about the organization and to teach members how to be successful leaders. It is important for the RHA executive board members to provide leadership training and support for the leaders of each of the eight Area Chapters on campus. These Area Chapters include: Apartments-Belk, Galloway, Graham-Hewlett, Schwuites (Schwartz Hall and University Suites), Seahawk Crossing, Seahawk Landing, Seahawk Village, and Tri-House (Cornerstone Hall, Honors House, and International House). The residential areas make up the leadership and voice of the on campus student population. At the beginning of every school year, residents elect eight individuals into various leadership positions on their respective Area Chapter executive boards to represent that particular area to the best of their ability. It is important to properly train the Area Chapter members so that they may provide the best support and entertainment for their residents. This is why each year the RHA executive board hosts two conference style learning sessions, the Area Chapter Training and the Fall Retreat, for the new executive board members of each Area Chapter to learn important leadership skills, network with other areas, and learn what makes RHA an significant organization on UNCW's campus.

Each year while planning the two training sessions, the RHA executive board reflects on the outcomes of the previous years, and sets goals and expectations for the upcoming Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat. A brief description of the training and retreat and the goals for each training session are stated below:

**Area Chapter Training:** For the past ten years, RHA has put on an annual fall training to inform the new members of the Area Chapters' executive boards about how to be successful leaders and to help prepare them for the upcoming academic year. The Area Chapter Training occurs at the end of August, the Saturday after Area Chapter elections. One of the main purposes of the Area Chapter Training is building relationships between Area Chapter executive boards; this is emphasized throughout day with a plethora of different activities. Since RHA is centralized around programming, the RHA executive board stresses bonding in order to initiate program collaboration between areas throughout the year as well as among each individual Area



Chapter executive board. This year was a productive time for both the RHA executive board and the Area Chapter executive boards. In the past, the training has been a very static period in which the Area Chapter members learned important information regarding their positions and RHA. This year it was imperative to provide dynamic activities which, not only, taught the Area Chapters

everything they needed to know, but by doing so in an interesting and exciting way.

#### **Goals for the Area Chapter Training:**

1. Introduce the new Area Chapter members to the RHA executive board and increase their knowledge about RHA and its sister organization, National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH).
2. Inform all of the new Area Chapter executive board members about different resources that are available to them.
3. Help each executive board member learn how to be successful in their individual positions.
4. Allow the individual Area Chapters to build a sense of community.

**Area Chapter Fall Retreat:** For the past two years, the RHA executive board has implemented a second aspect to their fall training sessions to be a step between the annual Area Chapter training and the annual Winter Retreat (a conference themed retreat held every January). Since the Fall Retreat falls in September, the executive board felt it is a good way to assess where the various Area Chapters are in regards to their abilities to effectively plan, manage, facilitate, and execute programming initiatives. The Fall Retreat seeks to foster growth and development in two ways: professionally and personally. Through creative development based programming and demonstrative presentations, the Fall Retreat builds community among the various area chapters and reaffirms and develops the professional skills necessary to be successful in their various endeavors throughout the year. This year like the last, it was very similar to the annual Winter Retreat, which included programs, roll call, and an overall theme: "Welcome to the *Teal* World."

**Goals for the Area Chapter Fall Retreat:**

1. Inform the Area Chapter members of what a conference is and prepare them for the upcoming Winter Retreat in January.
2. Remind Area Chapter members of what they learned during the Area Chapter Training, and encourage them to implement it in the future.
3. To provide the Area Chapter members with the necessary steps of how implement a successful program.
4. Give the Area Chapters the opportunity to build relationships with each other.

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**Appetizer:** AC Training

August 28, 2010 from 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

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**Ingredients:** RHA has learned over the years at UNCW that it takes a select group of students to plan successful events for other potential leaders. As members of the RHA executive board, it's easy to see and experience how challenging certain things can be when you are in a leadership role such as this one. Together as a team, the executive board decided to, yet again, put on a Fall Training for the Area Chapter members. Planning for this training takes several months and this year the executive board decided to start it all in April. It is vital to plan things out over the course of several months to allow plenty of time to advertise and work out any problems which may arise.

## The Perfect Ingredients for planning the Area Chapter Training:

### 1 First meeting of the new RHA executive board:

The new executive board met for the first time towards the end of April, and went ahead and set a date for the Fall Training and Retreat. To ensure that all members can attend both events, the executive board likes to plan as far in advance as possible. At the first meeting, small details were discussed as well as potential locations, which were agreed should be close to the RHA office so it can be shown to the new members.



### 3 Days of summer retreating:

The summer retreat was a time for all the executive board members and advisors to come together and plan out a lot of what they wanted to see in the upcoming academic year. A part of the weekend was set aside to dedicate towards planning our Fall Training with the Area Chapters. At this time, it was chosen to have the location, not only near the RHA office, but in the programming space where RHA hosts its weekly meetings (Seahawk Crossing Building 2) so that new members would know where to come each week! Fortunately the building had available side rooms where separate breakout sessions could be held that are tailored more toward specific positions, and designed to be a more intimate part of the training. In addition, larger sessions were planned so that everyone could be together, because large scale team building was encouraged as well as small scale bonding.

### 1 Perfect Time Length:

One of the other important factors decided on was the time of the training. An official time was not agreed upon at the summer retreat, but feedback from the previous years was discussed. In the end it was decided to put out a “temporary” time for the new members and their

advisors, so they would have an idea of the time commitment before the beginning of the school year.

### **1 Final Review of the schedule:**

Once back on campus, the executive board met to go over final preparations for the training. Reservations were confirmed, a firm timeline was created, and specific breakout sessions were planned. The final timeline that was agreed upon was from 10:00am and 1:00pm.

**Cooking Instructions:** Set up: The RHA executive board met at 9:15 AM to ensure everyone was prepared for the day and to receive the detailed schedule, Jordan Winn, the RHA President, had put together. The executive board then dispersed among the arriving Area Chapters, began making introductions and started getting to know the Area Chapter members of RHA.

**10:00- 10:30 AM: Introduction and Icebreaker:** After sufficient time was given for all of the



Area Chapters to arrive and get settled, Jordan Winn got everyone's attention with a "Hey RHA" and briefed those in attendance on what would happen in the event of a fire alarm and the quiet hour status of the residential building. To energize the members, an ice breaker called "The Biggest Fan" (an intense game of Rock, Paper, and Scissors) was introduced. After everyone had their fun with the icebreaker they returned

to their seats as Jordan went over the schedule.

**10:30-10:45 AM: NRHH:** The first session, in the large programming space, was a discussion about NRHH. Two representatives spoke on the purpose of the organization and relayed the importance of and procedure for submitting "Of the Month Awards."

**10:50- 11:15 AM: Positional Outbreak:** After the NRHH session, as each of the executive board members introduced themselves; the participants were informed of whom their executive board counterpart was; for example, all of the Vice Presidents of Programming for the Area Chapters would meet with the Vice President of Programming for RHA. In the session, the RHA executive board member went over the ins and outs of the Area Chapter leadership position in detail. They then gave the Area Chapter members tips for their respective roles and discussed

the expectations for their position. After this 25 minute session the participants returned to the large programming space.

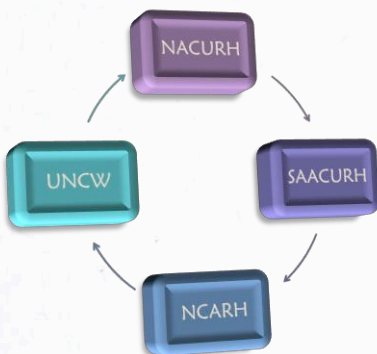
**11:20- 11:55 AM: Resources:** Once the Area Chapters had regrouped from their positional outbreak sessions, Caleb Lewis, the National Communications Coordinator, and Jordan Stone, the RHA/SGA (Student Government Association) Liaison, presented the various resources available to the Area Chapters. The presentation covered each available resource, including what forms to fill out, where to find the forms, and whom to contact. After this information session was over it was time for Area Chapter break out session.

**12:00- 12:30 PM: Area Chapter Breakout:**

Each member of the RHA executive board is a liaison to a particular Area Chapter. For the last breakout session the liaisons took their assigned Area Chapter into one of the study rooms in the building. During this session the Area Chapter members set their weekly meeting times, got to know their RHA executive board liaison and Advisor, and set goals and expectations for the year. Most importantly, the area



chapters bonded as an executive board. This was an important session because the members of the Area Chapters are going to work closely together throughout the year to program and build community in their residential areas. After the Area Chapter breakout session, the participants returned to the large programming space for their final info session.



**12:35- 12:45 PM: Conferences:** The final information session was led by Caleb Lewis and Sara Sonderman, the National Communications Coordinator in-Training, in which they aired a video describing a typical conference and why students should be interested in attending. They then spoke on the organizational flow of NACURH, SAACURH, and NCARH. They wanted the Area Chapters to leave training understanding the importance of conferences and being affiliated with these organizations.

The presentation also encouraged the Area Chapters to apply to attend the SAACURH 2010 conference.

**12:45- 1:00 PM: Wrap-Up:** Finally, the executive board thanked everyone for coming out to the Area Chapter Training, and encouraged them to join them in an optional group trek over to the campus dining hall for lunch. This was a time where Area Chapters continued to build relationships with each other and brain storm about future programs.

**Nutritional Facts:** The unique aspect to this year's Area Chapter Training is that the RHA executive board utilized our resources wisely and decreased previous year's spending to **\$0**. The main expense in past years has been providing lunch for all eight Area Chapters. Instead of providing lunch through RHA's budget, the RHA executive board decided to have all Area Chapter members walk over to our dining hall, Wagoner, and sit with their respective Area Chapters.

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## **Entrée:** AC Fall Retreat

September 26, 2010 from 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM

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**Ingredients:** Since the Fall Retreat occurs only a month after the Area Chapter Fall training, it is important for the RHA executive board to begin the planning for the Retreat around the same time as the planning for the Fall Training. Once the Training was over, the executive board met to finalize the plans for the Retreat. The Fall Retreat is a larger scale event than the Area Chapter Training, and therefore needs more attention to detail in order to ensure the day runs without a hitch.

### **The Perfect Ingredients for Planning the Fall Retreat**

#### **1 Unifying theme**

Here at UNCW, the Seahawks bleed teal, so it would only be fitting to base this year's retreat off of the most important school color, teal. At the first meeting in April, the new executive board created a theme that would encompass everything that RHA will do this year is entitled: *"Welcome to the Teal World."*

#### **3 ½ Meetings with the RHA executive board**

During these meetings, the executive board discussed a myriad of things they would like to see implemented during the Fall Retreat. It was

decided to make the retreat as much like a conference as possible. At the first executive board meeting in April, a date was determined for the Fall Retreat. When the school year began with our weekly executive board meetings, the location of the retreat, the goals of the retreat, and what the executive board wanted to see happen during the retreat was decided.

### **1 Perfect Location**

The executive board decided to host the retreat in the same area where the training was set so that the residents would be familiar with the location and comfortable with their surroundings. Since the programming space that was used for the training was already booked for the desired day, the executive board decided to move the retreat to Seahawk Crossing Building 3, which is similar to Building 2 in all manners, except it is further from the RHA office.

### **3 Well developed programming sessions**



Since the executive board wanted the retreat to be as similar to a conference as possible, it was important to include different options for programming sessions. During the executive board meetings, three programming categories were discussed: personal development, start to finish programming, and social programming. Each executive board member was assigned to present a program in one of the three categories, so there were three programs per session that the area chapter members could choose between.

### **A pinch of conference flair**

In keeping with the conference theme, the executive board decided to include a philanthropy portion to the retreat. Since UNCW will be attending the SAACURH conference in October, it was decided that it would be beneficial to include the SAACURrrrH 2010 philanthropy of HeroBox. Before the retreat, all of the Area Chapters were informed of the HeroBox project and were asked to bring items to support the mission. It was also decided that there would be a presentation from the NCC and

the NCC-IT which would discuss HeroBox in depth, and inform the Area Chapters of how they could help.

**Cooking Instructions:** Set-up: The executive board met in the RHA office at 9:15 AM, forty-five minutes before the retreat began. They gathered the supplies that were needed for each of the programming sessions and transported the food that was purchased for that afternoons' lunch over to Seahawk Crossing Building 3's kitchen. Once arriving, the executive board double checked the technology that they would be using for the day to make sure it was operational.

**10:00-10:10 AM: Introduction:** Just before 10:00 AM, members of each Area Chapters filed into the room; each Area Chapter wore a different color to represent their area. Once all the areas were present, Jordan Winn welcomed them and did a brief introduction to the retreat and went over the schedule for the day.

**10:10- 10:40 AM: Roll Call:** Each area had to come up with a two to three minute skit revolving around the "Welcome to the *Teal World*" theme. The roll call had to include the name of their area, at least one characteristic about the area, and all the names of the seven other areas. They were given twenty minutes to brain storm and practice before coming back together to do the roll call. The judges included three members of the RHA executive board and one advisor. The judges told the Area Chapters that the winner for Best Roll Call would be announced at the following RHA meeting. This was an effort to encourage the Area Chapter members to attend RHA body meetings. Not only was this a great way to start off the retreat, but it got them pumped for the Winter Retreat.

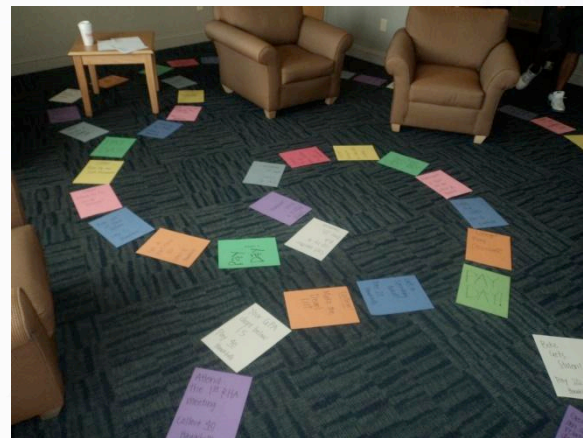


**10:50- 11:30 AM: Programming Session 1:** After the roll call Area Chapter members broke out into the programming sessions. The members of each area went to one of three sessions they were interested in, or believed would be beneficial to the growth of their Area Chapter. Each session was forty-five minutes long; there were three rounds of programming categories with three program options to choose from in each round. The first session of programs was based on development. These programs helped Area Chapter members grow in their leadership and provide them with the skills to create innovative programs of their own. The programs included:

### Session 1: Development

- 1: Seahawk Secret:** Through creativity and crafts explore your values, identity, personal expression, and your inter connectedness with other students. Seahawk Secret will help you understand that you aren't alone.
- 2: Piggy Bank Magic:** Ever have to plan in advance for a trip, event, or party? Where does all the money come from? Come out to Piggy Bank Magic, an interactive program, to learn how to make your little piggy bank go a long way toward your future adventures.
- 3: Rollin in Resources:** Have a great program idea, but wondering how to take it a step further? Great!!! That's what your resources are for. Learn how to apply your resources as student leaders to your little piggy bank go a long way toward your future adventures.

**11:35-12:15 PM: Programming Session 2:** The second session was Start to Finish programming. The presenters broke down different successful programs the executive board members had put on in the past, step by step, and informed Area Chapters of how to ensure that their programs were successful from start to finish. The programs included:



### Session 2: Start to Finish

- 1: Iron Chef of Programming:** Do you think your programs are the hottest thing since sliced bread? Do you have that hunger to make your nourishing programs even more filling? Come out and put your money where your mouth is in this session where you'll be challenged to cook up "un Piece de Resistance", where we will name the Iron Chefs of Programming!
- 2: Red Light, Green Light...Service!!!:** The program planning process can have a lot of "stop and go's". What to do, who to do it for, where to have it, when to have it, and how to go about it are all question that might stop the flow of things. This session is going to provide you with

a quick and easy guide to making any program you plan a success with an emphasis on community service!! Ready? Set? Go!!!

**3: You, Programmed ALL WEEK LONG:** Ever feel like one program just isn't enough? Come see how you can make an idea last for more than one day! Whether it's social, educational, diversity or something else, YOU can get it all into 3, 4, or even FIVE days of programs!

**12:40-1:30 PM: Lunch:** Lunch was a break between the second and third programming session. It was a "create your own sandwich" lunch. During this time, Area Chapters mingled not only with their own area, but with other areas as well. They talked about collaborating and what they had learned throughout the day. It was a laid back atmosphere in which everyone enjoyed being able to relax and talk with their new friends.

**1:35- 2:15 PM: Programming Session 3:** After lunch Area Chapter members attended the third round of programs which were designed to help Area Chapters brain storm similar program ideas to bring back to their area after the Retreat. The programs included:

### Session 3: Programs

- 1: Area Feud:** Challenge yourself to see if YOU know the habits of your fellow on campus residents!
- 2: The Game of College:** Feel like you are not getting the most out of your college career? Come follow the twists and turns of life and see where they take you as you explore how you can make the most out of your time at UNCW. Four years can go by quickly learn how to balance fun with school as you make your way to graduation. Can you win at the game of college?
- 3: Seahawk Spirit Week:** Come plan UNCW's first Spirit Week...for real!



The idea behind having three sessions of programs was to get Areas Chapters to see that putting on a program was like a recipe, there are different steps you have to follow and certain things that need to be added to the mixture in order for it to come out just right!

**2:20- 2:40 PM: World Meetings:** For the last breakout session the liaisons took their assigned Area Chapters to a smaller study room in the building. The Area Chapter members discussed what they had learned throughout the day and how they could implement those ideas in their area. They revisited the

goals and expectations that they established at the Area Chapter Training. This was important for the Area Chapters to do so that they could see what aspects that they needed to improve on and strengthen the relationship they have with each other. After the Area Chapter breakout session, the participants returned to the programming space for their final information session.

**2:45- 2:55 PM: HeroBox:** Following the World Meetings, Caleb Lewis and Sara Sonderman did a presentation about HeroBox. They requested the help of promotion for the boxes from the Area Chapters. Suggestions were also given for programs relating to HeroBox. There was an immense response from all the areas about wanting to help out.

**2:55- 3:00 PM: Wrap-up:** Finally, Jordan Winn wrapped up the Fall Retreat by thanking all the Area Chapters for coming and encouraged them to thoughtfully use all of the knowledge they had obtained.

**Nutritional Facts:** For Fall Retreat RHA had a substantial budget to work with; however, through informed financial planning, they were able to accommodate the Area Chapters in a variety of ways, while keeping expenditures relatively low. The spaces that the retreat was held in were of no cost to RHA. Nametags were provided for everyone who came and light snacks were offered for those who had not eaten breakfast. Both the name tags and the snacks were of no additional cost to RHA. Participants were served lunch from a menu of sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages. The food purchased for lunch cost **\$162.40** and was the only expense for the retreat.

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## **Dessert:** AC Winter Retreat January 28-30, 2010

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**Purpose:** Following Christmas break, RHA hosts an annual Winter Retreat, which takes the Area Chapter members off campus to develop their leadership, while relaxing and having fun with others just like them. This retreat serves as a mock of a traditional RHA conference, such as, NACURH,



SAACURH, or NCARH, so students may get a better understanding for how conferences are designed and what takes place if they are granted the opportunity to attend one. Just as any traditional conference, the Winter Retreat serves as a great time to network. This conference has been successful at motivating more students to apply to RHA conferences, as well as, form new bonds with students outside their areas. Once the weekend is over, everyone's life has been affected positively and rejuvenated for the spring semester.

**Ingredients:** Currently, Ra'Nelle Dudley, the Vice President of Multicultural, Leadership and Education, has begun the planning process for this upcoming year's Winter Retreat. The date has been set for January 28-30, 2011 and it will take place at Fort Caswell. The theme has unofficially been decided to center around UNCW's RHA theme for the year, "*Welcome to the Teal World.*" Approximately two months before the Winter Retreat, sign-up sheets will be passed out to each residential area in which they will be allowed an allotted number of delegates to attend. The chosen delegates are granted the opportunity to present programs at the Winter Retreat. The Winter Retreat will include speakers such as: the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Pat Leonard, Director of Housing and Residence Life, Brad Reid, and Association Director of Residence Life, Larry Wray, to speak to the students on their roles and how to become more effective leaders. These speakers have been known to mingle and play games with the Area Chapters and break the barrier between faculty and students. As the fall semester continues, more plans will be made concerning the upcoming retreat.

## Critics' Review:

### Area Chapter Fall Retreat Evaluation

1. How would you rate the retreat overall?  

1	2	3	4	5
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Comments:
2. What was your favorite part about the retreat? Least favorite?
3. Is there anything you think should be changed about the retreat?
4. Do you have a greater understanding of what a conference is like after participating in the retreat?
5. Did you find the information you learned useful or helpful?

At the conclusion of the Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat each attendee was given an evaluation sheet to complete and hand in the executive board members. The evaluation sheets were comprised of five questions that asked attendees their opinion on what they liked and what they thought could be improved about the

Training and Retreat. They gave the executive board an idea of how the Training and Retreat benefited the Area Chapters members. The evaluation sheets will help the future executive board's improve the training sessions for the upcoming years. Overall the Area Chapter members rated the Training a 4.5 out of 5 and the Retreat a 4 out of 5. This indicates that they enjoyed the Training and Retreat and found the information presented useful. Below are additional comments from the evaluations and the RHA executive board of what went well and what could be improved on:

### *What went well?*

#### **Area Chapter Training:**

- Better understanding of what RHA is and their purpose on UNCW's campus.
- Learned useful information about their individual positions and resources offered by Housing and Residence Life and RHA.
- Developed community and built relationships within their Area Chapter executive board and RHA at large.

#### **Area Chapter Retreat:**

- Enjoyed the roll call; they were able to break out of their comfort zone and grow in their public speaking skill.
- Will be able to use the information learned to better improve their area and the programs that they plan throughout the year.
- Felt they were able to meet other Area Chapter members which will be useful for collaboration in the future.

### *What could be improved?*

#### **Area Chapter Training:**

- More interactive sessions. Attendees felt they were being talked to and did not have the opportunity to have discussion.
- Extended time for Area Chapters to build relationships within their executive board and brain storm program ideas for the year
- They would have liked more opportunities to get to know other Area Chapters.

#### **Area Chapter Retreat:**

- Sticking to the Schedule; roll call went longer than expected and from then on the times differed from the schedule.

- Some Area Chapters felt the length of the Retreat was not necessary. They felt they could learn the same amount of information in a shorter time.
- Felt that some of the programming sessions were not as interactive as the Area Chapter members wanted them to be.

## In Comparison to ACPA:

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American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and RHA are similar organizations because they are dedicated to the success and personal growth of both students and professional staff. The purpose of the Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat were to help Area Chapters grow and become the best they can be. There were multiple sessions that focused on the development of the Area Chapter members and also their advisors. We also encouraged Area Chapters to share what they learned to other residents in their area through programming. The purpose of the 2011 ACPA conference is to help Professional staff members to define their leadership, share what they have learned, and commit to becoming more developed leaders. The purpose and goals for UNCW's Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat are similar to those of the 2011 ACPA conference.

## As a Conference Program:

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**Title:** *The Perfect Ingredients to Make a Well Seasoned Leader*

**Blurb:** Cooking is hard without a recipe, that's why it is important to find the right combination of ingredients and directions to ensure the meal receives the five stars it deserves. Come find out the perfect combination for creating a well seasoned leader.

**Description:** Once entering the program, delegates would participate in a brief ice breaker to get more comfortable with each other for the purpose of discussion. We find that students are more comfortable during discussion periods when they are familiar with the other students involved. We also would include an icebreaker to build relationships between delegates which is one of the goals for the Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat. Attendees would be encouraged to ask questions throughout the program so that they can get a better understanding of how UNCW instills leadership in their students.

### Program Outline:

1. Area Chapter Training
  - a. Purpose and goals
  - b. Planning Process
  - c. Description of the Training
  - d. Outcome of the Training
2. Area Chapter Fall Retreat
  - a. Purpose and goals
  - b. Planning Process
  - c. Description of the Retreat
  - d. Outcome of the Retreat
3. Overall Budget
4. Pointers for schools interested in adapting our leadership training our their campus
5. Discussion



The presentation would be in a PowerPoint format and would be included on the CD that each delegate received for attending the program. Also on the CD would be any documents that were used for the Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat. The CD package would contain the names and e-mail addresses of the presenters if any questions arose outside of the presentation. They would be available to help any school implement an Area Chapter Training and a Fall Retreat on their campus.

### Conclusion:

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In conclusion, the Area Chapter Training and the Fall Retreat were a success. Area Chapters were able to walk away with a better understanding of their purpose within RHA on a large scale, and gained knowledge of the different resources available to them. Individually, they were able to grow within their position and brainstorm for the programs they would present throughout the year. The Area Chapter members believed the Training and the Retreat were useful and helpful within their new leadership positions.

The Area Chapter Training and Fall Retreat were cost efficient and could be adapted to meet the needs of other schools and organizations. The purpose of the theme, "*Welcome to the Teal World,*" is to welcome the newly elected Area Chapter executive boards to the community of residential living and the relationships that will be built. Any school can adapt this purpose and use it to strengthen the relationships within their RHA and their student leaders.



September 30, 2010

Dear SAACURH Award Committee,

My name is Jordan Winn and I am currently a junior undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW). Since my freshman year, I have been an actively involved student leader, and have had the opportunity to experience and be a part of many different organizations. One organization that I am most proud to call myself a member in is the Residence Hall Association (RHA). Since my time moving on campus, I have come to find a second home and more importantly, a family. The students involved within RHA care so much about their fellow members and residents that their love shines through each and everything that they do. Starting out as an Area Chapter member, I can attest to how important it is to be trained in that position to help gain the necessary skills to be successful not only as an Area Chapter Executive Board Member, but as an RHA Executive Board Member as well. From my first year membership to my current third year membership, I have seen the Area Chapter Training as well as the Retreat develop into something spectacular that continues to improve each year.

With Area Chapter elections and training happening so close together, it's important for the RHA Executive Board to begin the planning process of Area Chapter Training several months in advance. Until this year, I had not seen much preparation for the training, but was pleasantly surprised when it began this past April. With such a motivated group of individuals, it was easy to delegate out portions of the training and get each Area Chapter liaison talking to their respective advisors about the training. Having the opportunity to directly work with others in regard to the planning process really gave me insight on how beneficial it is. We had our largest turn out this year for the training and I believe a lot of that should be credited to the dedicated RHA Executive Board. In addition, I would like to recognize our incoming Area Chapter members and credit them with some of the training success because without their hard work and enthusiasm, we would not be as successful as we currently are.

With training coming to a close at the end of August, and our annual Winter Retreat still months away, the Executive Board and I decided it would be smart to plan a smaller "Fall Retreat" to check back in with the newly elected Area Chapter Members and get them excited for all that's to come! Now that we had given them all the necessary tools in training, we were excited to see them put it into action. The beautiful fall day began on campus with a cheerful group of residents ready to participate. With a 5 hour packed day, the Executive Board and I knew we had a great retreat to put on. After long hours of learning, team building, and performing, we concluded the day with a small evaluation to see how much our new members liked the retreat! Most of our feedback was positive and we are excited to pass along some ideas for changes in the coming years!

My appreciation for this organization goes beyond the training's and retreat's they offer. Not only does RHA consistently listen to its members, provide new ideas, and give useful skills, but they're always thinking about the other person. How can I help a resident? Who will benefit from this program? What will they get out of this meeting? Without the success of our Area Chapter Training's and Retreat's, RHA wouldn't be half as successful as it is today. We look to our new members and Area Chapter Executive Board members for pointers and advice on how to be better, because in the end, they are our future, and we could not exist without them.

Best,

*Jordan Winn*

Jordan Winn  
President, Residence Hall Association



September 30, 2010

Dear SAACURH Award Committee,

I enthusiastically submit this letter of support for the SAACURH Student Award for Leadership Training (SALT) by the Residence Hall Association at the University of North Carolina Wilmington for its leadership program, "Welcome to the *Teal* World." I am impressed by the creativity and energy that went into planning and presenting this unique leadership training program. Our students took the "conference" concept used on much larger state, regional, and national levels and applied it to our local campus residents. This gave students the opportunity to identify with their role in hall government and take away skills and resources to help them better serve in this capacity. Presentation opportunities were:

- Ways to serve in your position
- Who you need to know! Contacts and resources at your fingertips
- Step by step program planning

Having had the opportunity to review and discuss the program, I feel qualified to provide an assessment of the success of this program. The opportunity to see a group of student leaders engage in the thought and organization it took to present this program reminded us of how critical a learning opportunity the "program" is to the students who attend and, possibly more importantly, to the students who participate in the planning and presentation of the program. Our students have embraced this program and taken such ownership in all its many facets that we are certain it will become a tradition on our campus.

"Welcome to the *Teal* World" is also a new initiative this year. This theme is an excellent example of thinking globally and acting locally. It was also a remarkable example of how a group of students can take an existing idea, add their own creativity and flair, and produce a new way of looking at leadership development and campus community development. This program warrants recognition as the SAACURH SALT winner because of its positive impact on our residential community, for its creative use of an existing idea, and because it provided an intense educational opportunity for attendees and presenters alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristen Tucker", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Kristen Tucker  
Assistant Director of Residence Life