

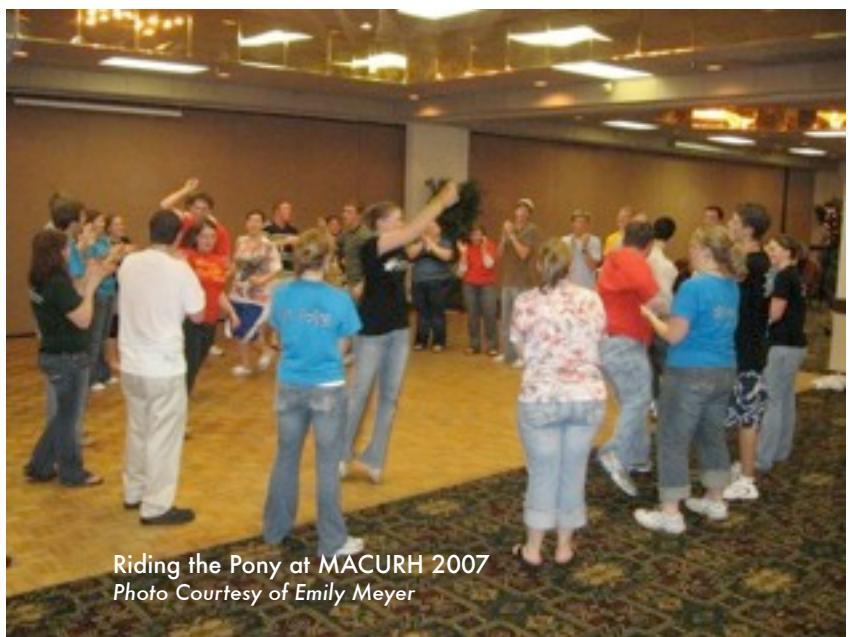
NACURH LINK

The Premier
Newsletter of the
National Association
of College and
University Residence
Halls

Volume 3 Issue 4
November 2007



A Rockin NEACURH Conference
Photo Courtesy of Ryan Durling



Riding the Pony at MACURH 2007
Photo Courtesy of Emily Meyer

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Find out why we
cheer



Learn how to survive
your very first
conference



Meet this month's
featured alumni



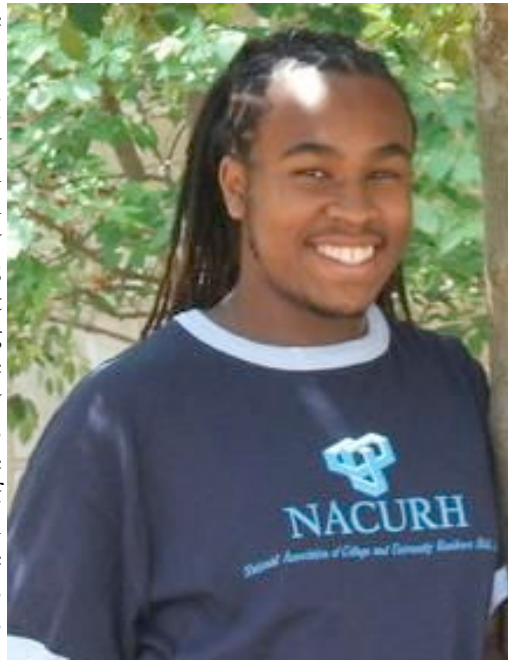
Vision Statement

The National Association of College and University Residence Halls, Incorporated, recognizes living on campus as an integral part of the college experience, and therefore strives to be the organization of choice for residence hall leaders by providing comprehensive resources for college and university students seeking to create the ultimate residence hall environment and experience.

Letter from the National Chair

Hey NACURH! (Still Waiting For the “Hey What?”)

It’s that time – conference season! I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend MACURH 2007 from October 26 – 28, 2007 at North Dakota State University. Not only was I truly welcomed in the Midwest; the camaraderie that the student leaders shared in exchanging resources towards improving the quality of their campus community made me realized why I love this organization so much. I thank the entire MACURH Regional Board of Directors, delegates, advisors, and the conference staff for inviting me to be a part in helping the “stars today” grow into “leaders tomorrow.”



As such, as you embark on your journey at your regional conferences, I highly encourage you to take a moment to step back and reflect on what are your goals for the conference. If you are a first time delegate, welcome. If you are a veteran delegate, challenge yourself. Looking beyond what you may think you are capable of learning from your conference experience. Yes, it is important to communicate with each other about leadership and resident student issues. However, I want you to be inspired. I want you take this experience as a stepping stone in discovering who you are as a leader; as a human being. The question is how can you begin that path? What resources can I gain from this experience to understand what it truly means to be a leader? Through your regional conferences, I am confident it will serve as a start; an imperative mark towards your overall discovery.

Finally, part of NACURH’s quest is to create the “ultimate residence hall environment and experience.” There is nothing better than the present to begin fulfilling that quest – not for NACURH, but for your peers back at your institutions. Quoting from the MACURH Regional Director, Daryl Lawrence, at his closing remarks at MACURH 2007 – “I hope you take advantage of the possibilities that are here throughout the conference experience...Make it a great day or not. The choice is yours.” I am going to tweak it a little, by saying make your conference experiences a great one or not. Take advantage. Go beyond what is the norm. Ultimately, the choice is in your hands. Once again, good luck in your regional conferences and welcome to NACURH – *Creating Opportunities, Developing Leaders.*

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Special Thanks

Ryan Durling & Hayley Umphrey,
for the disturbing number of
Conference Photos they both take



Mission Statement

NACURH is the leading national organization advocating for the interests and welfare of residence hall students, while also providing opportunities for their personal growth and development. It is an organization of students committed to developing leadership, honoring diversity, recognizing achievement, as well as stimulating engagement and involvement among students who reside in college and university residence halls. Through regional and national programs and services, NACURH provides leadership opportunities for students, shares residence hall programming resources and best practices, and coordinates activities with appropriate professional associations and business partners.

September National OTM Winners

Advisor

Julie Anderson
University of Tulsa
SWACURH

First Year Student

Rachel Christie
University of Florida
SAACURH

Community

The "3rd Floor Guys"
University of West Georgia
SAACURH

Organization

Makato Ushihara Chapter of NRHH
San Jose State University
PACURH

Community Service Program

Dash 4 Cash
Marquette University
GLACURH

Resident Assistant

Nick Ortlieb
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay
GLACURH

Diversity Program

DUHiversity Week in the Pines!
Georgia Southern University
SAACURH

Social Program

Larger than Life Football
Purdue University
GLACURH

Educational Program

Dessert Shots
University of Tennessee
SAACURH

Spotlight

Barbra Hettinger
University of Arizona
IACURH

Executive Board Member

Lindsey Johns
University of Florida
SAACURH

Student

Julie Esser
Gonzaga University
PACURH

Surviving Your First Conference

by Jill Medhus

Every seasoned conference veteran of NACURH remembers his/her first conference experience. The first time you walked into the room full of groups of people from different schools in flashy conference attire, screaming out cheers, and trading clothespins is impossible to forget. You meet so many people and learn so much.

Yet, most veterans do not recall their first conference experience as the most beneficial one. As a first-timer, do you remember collecting everyone's contact information? Did you find out all of the details about programs that interested you? Did you truly step outside your comfort zone, or did you mostly hang out with people from your home institution?

First-time attendees may be wondering how they can act like veterans to get the most out of a conference. If you fit the bill of a first time attendee (or are looking for a refresher on maximizing your conference experience), read below!

Three key parts of the conference experience are addressed: planning, attendance, and post-conference.

PLANNING

Success at a conference depends greatly on what is done before it begins. This is what you should be doing as a conference and as a delegation.

First, attend delegation meetings. They help you to bond as a delegation and to get a feel for what you will experience at a conference.

Next, when you attend a conference, there will be an opportunity to swap items with other schools. Be sure to collect lots of items from your home school. T-shirts are always a winner, and novelty items such as stuffed animals, note pads, and more are sure to get you a great trade.

Schools also opt to create their own giveaways. The most famous and well-recognized is the clothespin. Spray paint and decorate clothespins to match your school's colors and spirit. For example, if your mascot is a bird, you could attach a feather to the end of your clothespins.

Stepping into a conference can be like stepping into the twilight zone if you do not prepare for cheering! Before a conference, learn your regional and state cheers to promote regional and state unity. If you have any cheers that are school-specific, learn those as well. If your particular conference does a cheer or dance for roll call, try your best to learn it beforehand if it is made available prior to conference time.

Conferences encourage schools to make banners and displays, so do your best to help make your banner and display. It is a great way to promote creative synergy among your delegation if more than one individual helps out, and it gets you excited to share your school pride!

Your delegation should also plan out some matching outfits. The greater degree of matching, bright colors, feathers, beads, and wacky attire that you are able to pull off, the cooler you will be at a conference!

If you are up for the challenge, prepare a presentation! It is never too early to share your expertise, whether on leadership training, publicity, community service,

programming, or another category. If you are afraid of presenting at a conference, ask a conference veteran to run through your presentation. If a veteran is willing, s/he can present alongside you.

Don't forget to plan early for your presentation. Collect information and materials and create a brief outline of what you would like to be in your presentation. This will give you time to sort through the information and choose that which is most appropriate and beneficial. Next, organize the information visually. You can create a computer presentation with programs such as PowerPoint, record and edit a movie, or design handouts to help delegates remember information. Inform the conference staff in your program proposal if you will need specific



This is not an uncommon sight at a NACURH Conference
Photo Courtesy of Avi Zacherman

technology. Finally, rehearse the presentation. Know your time limitations, and allow five minutes of extra time for unexpected setbacks and evaluation completion. For example, if your allotted presentation time is 45 minutes, try to keep the rehearsed presentation to 40 minutes. Before you leave for the conference, make sure that you have all the materials you will need while presenting.

Prior to the conference, your delegation should collect items for the conference philanthropy. This immediately gives your attendance at a conference a greater, lasting purpose: benefiting others through your donations and actions. You have two options for philanthropy: setting aside some of your conference budget or fundraising. I will focus on fundraising, since setting aside money is self-explanatory. The simplest method of fundraising is to go dorm-storming. Go door-to-door in teams in all of your residence halls on campus, and bring a bucket for donations. Knock on residents' doors, and explain to them that you are collecting money for (fill-in-the-blank philanthropy organization). Ask if



they have any spare change and would like to make a donation. Residents may have a strong connection to philanthropy or to your particular philanthropy organization, so they may be particularly willing to give. Regardless, remind residents that every penny counts.

The final, and most important, item that you should remember to complete before a conference is to get plenty of sleep! There will be little opportunity for rest in the conference environment, so be sure that you are well-rested prior to arriving so that lack of sleep won't interfere with your ability to remember ideas and have a good time.

ATTENDANCE

You have just set foot at the conference – now what?

From the moment you arrive, make it a point to step outside your comfort zone. Meet people from other schools, and don't just hang out with your own delegation. As you

meet new individuals, be sure to swap clothespins and record their name and contact information in a miniature notebook. This way, you can network efficiently and get the most out of meeting so many people.

From beginning to end, be sure to thank the conference staff for all of the work they are doing and have done. It takes a tremendous amount of dedication and energy to run an effective conference, so make sure that those responsible are recognized for all of their hard work.

With every person you meet and every presentation you encounter, praise publicly and criticize privately. If you like something, let people know immediately! The most potent fuel at conferences is recognition, so don't hesitate to let others know how great they are. If something doesn't suit your taste or you have suggestions for improvement, the time to make this known is during anonymous evaluations for programs. Another time to discuss this is privately with your delegation in the framework of self-evaluation. Consider what others are doing well and what others do not do well, and think about how you would like to incorporate the good elements into your delegation and leave out those that you do not favor.

A crucial part of conference attendance is, well, attendance! Be sure to attend all of the conference programming sessions in which you are not presenting. Attend sessions that interest you, and try your best not to attend the same session as another delegate from your same delegation. This will ensure that your school brings back the greatest array of ideas possible. Take notes on valuable information that you do not want to forget. Before you leave, request the presenter's name and contact information if it is not mentioned during the presentation. That way, you can ask the presenter any questions you may have once the conference ends.

If you are presenting, get excited! You are about to learn more about yourself than you ever thought possible. Present just as rehearsed, but anticipate that something will go

wrong. If it does, then you are ready; if it doesn't, then it gives you confidence! You will receive good feedback from your peers and gain recognition for your school. You are building up experience and will become a seasoned veteran in no time.

Finally, attend the evening programs, such as entertainment and the swap shop. There will be time for sleep after the conference and on the trip back home. You only get one chance to enjoy all of the fun programming that the conference staff has arranged! This is a great way to connect with new individuals, too.

POST-CONFERENCE

We attend conferences to get a lot more out of them than time away from school. What do you do with all of the information and experiences that you now have?

First, focus on how you would like to implement new ideas. Meet with your delegation and create an action plan! Would you like to implement new ideas on a campus-wide scale or on an area-wide scale? Would this idea work best in the winter or in the spring? How adaptable are some of the ideas? If you need questions answered, don't hesitate to contact presenters for more information.

The other thing you should do is contact your new friends! Give them an e-mail or a phone call and check in. Ask how the rest of their conference experience was, or ask them how the trip home went. Ask them about items relating to your region and your organization. Meeting new people and sharing ideas during the course of a year is one of the greatest benefits of conference attendance, so don't be shy to take advantage of it!

By following these steps, you will be able to get the most out of your first conference experience and enjoy it to the fullest extent. 🍀

Secrets to a Successful Boardroom

by Lindsay Peck

Picture this scenario: It's the Regional Conference, and you are about to enter the NCC boardroom. Whether you're a first-timer, or a boardroom veteran, the prospect of making decisions that affect the entire region or nation can be daunting. What kinds of things do you DO in a boardroom? How can you prepare yourself beforehand so that you're on top of things when the time comes? What kind of follow up can you do after the boardroom meeting to make your experience the best it can be? The answers to all your questions... and more... are answered in this article!

The NCC boardroom is a meeting of the National Communication Coordinators that takes place during the Regional, Mini No-Frills, and National Conferences. During this business meeting, which the Regional Director generally chairs, important information is disseminated. This involves updates from the national level (including national office briefings), regional committee reports, and presentations from NACURH Corporate partners (i.e. OCM). Legislation is discussed and voted upon, that changes or clarifies policies in the regional governing documents. Some award winners are chosen based on bid presentations and procedures by member schools.

With over 30 schools present in an NCC boardroom, keeping an informal speakers list for discussions may impede the efficiency of business being done. Parliamentary Procedure as dictated by Robert's Rules of Order, 10th edition, is therefore utilized. These are a set of guidelines that are used to make business in the boardroom more efficient and fair. Most of the time, "looser" variations of Robert's Rules are followed, as set by the Regional Director. It is important to note that the purpose of these guidelines is to be a tool for organization in the

boardroom, and NOT to be used as a weapon for discouraging discussion.

At the National Conference (which is being held this coming May at the lovely Oklahoma State University), an NCC boardroom occurs both for each region, as well as for all the nation's NCCs together in what is called a Corporate Meeting. These are run similarly to regional NCC boardrooms, but deal with issues that affect all of NACURH.

Preparing for an NCC boardroom is not as difficult as some may think. Many resources are given out ahead of time (via email, snail mail, or posted on regional your websites). Bids are distributed before the conference so that you can review and generate questions. NCC "training" sessions are also held before the boardroom occurs, that go over the specific way your region conducts business.

Looking over materials before you get to the conference is important in being able to make good decisions when you get there. Going through everything for the first time is tough when you wait until the last minute, because you only have a limited amount of time to focus on all that information, what with other conference things needing to be taken care of. Coming to a boardroom prepared will allow you to ask more in-depth questions that aren't fleshed out in a bid, and in the end, make a more informed decision.

OK... so you've survived the boardroom. What now? Your NCC boardroom duties shouldn't stop there! There are things you can do to keep the fun going. Archive the bids you received in a box or filing cabinet in your RHA office. Keep an updated copy of the policy book and bylaws, so that when you reference them next time, you'll have the most current information. These are all things that you can transition to your successor when you must leave the NACURH world; and they'll be that

much more prepared the next year if they have resources to look through, in order to get a sense of things!

Did you see anything interesting in your boardroom? Did someone present information that you want to apply to your school? Get in contact with them! Programming sessions at conferences aren't the only ways that networking happens. Post-boardroom information sharing is one of the best ways that bids and other presentations can be helpful to YOU!

I hope this has been helpful for you to get a sense of the boardroom and how things work. Remember that even if you're feeling nervous about going in and doing business, you're not alone! Other NCCs are in the same position as you are, and you have the RBD who will help you out in any way they can, especially answering questions you may have about the boardroom! So good luck, be confident, and give that boardroom all you've got! 🙌

NACURH, Inc.

Programming Grant

Need more funding for on campus programming?

The NACURH, Inc. National Board of Directors has voted to approve a new service being offered to member schools: The Programming Grant.

The Programming Grant is a source of funds from NACURH, Inc. that can be utilized by member schools to help fund RHA and NRHH programs on their own campus

After completing a simple application, member schools will be selected by a committee of the National Board of Directors based on need and design of the program

The Maximum Grant that may be given is \$3000. Multiple Schools may take advantage of the Programming Grant

Applications are due December 1st, 2007 to the NACURH National Chairperson at nationalchair@nacurh.org. To get an application and learn more go to:

<http://www.nacurh.org/chair/programgrant.html>

For More Information

Contact Jay Dixon at nationalchair@nacurh.org

Passive Programming

By Ashley Day

At the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), we love programming! One of the problems we run into is that there is only so much time to put-on active programs. Our solution is our wonderful passive programming. Passive programming is a way to relay educational topics or points of interest to residents by displaying it in and around the residence halls. This provides them information, but lets them be responsible for taking it in and applying it to their lives and communities. We have boards on every floor to allow our residential staff to always have intriguing and important educational information on display. There are a few tricks to making passives successful and impacting. In this article learn key ways to improve your passives and gain new ideas to capture your residents in the time between active programs and classes.

It is all about location, location, location! It may seem like common sense, but depending on the location of your passives, residents will be more or less likely to stop and take the time to read them. Imagine a passive at the furthest end of a hall, as compared to a passive right next to the elevator. Which do you think will get more attention? Most residents will not walk out of their way and spend their time to look at passives. The key is to place passives in an area where residents will be waiting or congregating for small chunks of time. If they have nothing else to do it will result in them reading whatever is around them. Here is where you can really grasp their attention and repeatedly remind them of the educational message you are trying to get across.

Ok, so it's not all about location. Presentation is the next big step in catching residents' attention. It is a great idea to use really bright colors and color schemes that stick out from a distance. Make them

aesthetically pleasing and people will be more likely to notice them. In some of the passives at UCSB, there is everything from dinosaurs and flowers to newspaper and buttons as apart of the backgrounds of passives. The most boring passives are ones with simple squares of text on a plain background. Make them interesting and make them fun. The background of the passive can even play off of the theme and add some humor to otherwise potentially sterile topics. Backgrounds don't have to be overly complicated to be fun, and often times if they are too complicated people will miss the message and only remember the background. So it is important to find a nice balance between visual appeal and functional purpose.

What does that have to do with me? This is a question that we all hope not to hear. Relevance is crucial for a successful passive display. If the residents can't see how a topic applies to them or their community they will simply forget about it. Get to know your residential community and choose topics that hit close to home. Deal with hard issues as well as fun ones, but also make sure your residents know they can approach their resident assistant or residential staff about it if they need to talk to someone. Passives provide an excellent opportunity for self development and reflection in a way that many times, active programs don't cater to. Display topics that will help your residents become aware of issues in their community and include ways that they can help participate in making their community a safe and welcoming space.

Variety is another big part in keeping residents interested in passive programming. Stay on top of your displays and set a time bracket for changing them up. Also around major holidays you can take advantage of displaying issues around those holidays. For example, at Halloween

many times passives include information about substance abuse and safety tips. Also in the winter holidays many passives include topics of diversity and holidays celebrated during that time, around the world. This is also in line with keeping the passives relevant to the time of the year. If you change the passives regularly and follow some of the guidelines above, residents should stay interested and continue reading the displays.

Passives can drastically change the atmosphere in your residence halls by subtly teaching residents how to be valuable contributors in their community. As issues arise use this great space to address them and use those times as teachable moments. Your residents will see them and will learn great life lessons that they will take with them into their community and teach others. 🙌

Alumni Interview with Craig Wanklyn

2003-2005 MACURH AD-NRHH



Host School: Kansas State University

Region: MACURH

Major: Architectural Engineering

Master's: Architectural Engineering

3-4 Random Facts:

- I had perfect attendance in school from K-12 and I only missed 1 class in college.
- I have had a hole in one while playing golf.
- I own the world record for consecutive jumps on a pogo stick.
- Only one of these is true

How did you first become involved in NACURH and/or your Region?

I first became involved with NACURH my freshman year in college when I attended NACURH 2001 at the University of Southern California. Some older folks might have recognized me as the guy who dressed up as a cow with purple spots and rode the subway in downtown Los Angeles to Universal Studios. From that point on, I attended five NACURH conferences, numerous MACURH and No Frills conferences, and was involved as a student leader at Kansas State as well as in NACURH and MACURH.

What accomplishments have you achieved or seen achieved are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the implementation of the OTM database. While I was the NRHH RAD I worked with the creator of the database Andrew Bell to put it into use on the national level. Today, this is what everyone knows and uses to submit and grade OTMs. It revolutionized the way OTMs were submitted. It allowed greater access to the OTMs and sped up the announcement of regional and national winners. Overall number of OTM submissions increased as well as the quality of those OTMs. Hopefully, the same type of database, the OTY version, will catch on with NACURH so the same benefits seen for OTMs can happen for OTYs.

Where do you see NACURH in five years from now?

I hope that NACURH moves beyond the "residence hall" name and begins to look at how the organization can serve on campus living as a whole. The trend is for residence halls (new and renovated) to become suites, apartments, etc

and NACURH being the National Association of College and University Residence Halls doesn't cover all those on campus living options. I hope NACURH thinks about updating what the acronym stands for possibly to something like the National Association of College and University Residential Housing. That way it fully encompasses all the great things happening on every campus throughout the world. NRHH could also become the National Residential Housing Honorary. NACURH and NRHH shouldn't limit students and participation in events just because they don't live in residence hall. On campus living is much more than that.

What is your fondest NACURH-related memory?

Outside of dressing up in a cow outfit at NACURH 2001, my fondest memory occurred at MACURH 2005. It was my last conference and was the end of my two years as RAD and I was to address the entire region at the closing conference. Upon getting introduced and walking toward the stage, everyone in the room stood up and started clapping and cheering for me many of which hardly knew me. It made me stop in my tracks because I didn't realize until that moment when I looked out at everyone in the room the impact that I had on the schools in MACURH and NACURH. It wasn't just NRHH people, it was everyone. . .students, advisors, and fellow RBD members. It was a scene and that I'll never forget and something I wish everyone would be able to experience.

What 'words of wisdom' do you have for the current generation of NACURH?

It's not about you, it's what's best for on campus living and the students that live there. Many times

students, student leaders, and delegates want to do something, make a change for instance, solely so they can have their "mark" on something in NACURH. If you do the things that will benefit students, ultimately, you will leave your own mark. NACURH is, and forever will be, a special organization. Embrace its history and traditions. Don't lose sight of those parts of NACURH while leading the new generation of on campus living.

What skills have you learned from your years in NACURH that have served you well outside of the organization?

Without a doubt it's being able to see the overall plan in whatever I'm doing. There are few organizations where you get to meet with so many talented people across the country and work toward a common goal to make on campus living great. I found I had to rely on looking at the 'big picture' when I made decisions that didn't benefit myself or my school. Once I looked at it from a different angle, my perspective changed and I could see what would be the best way to go for the common good.

What are your future plans?

Currently, I live in Denver, Colorado, and work as a Mechanical Engineer for M-E Engineers. One of our trademarks is designing sports stadiums (professional, college, etc) so if you have something going on around your campus, it could very well be designed by the company I work for. I also like to go and give leadership presentations to college students and other organizations so I can give back what I have learned to the new generation of students. So feel free to look me up if you need some help. Oh and the perfect attendance random fact above is true! 🙌

Jump Shake Your Booty by Emily Duyck

Jump Shake Your Booty, Jump Jump Shake Your Booty... Why is the NACURH culture surrounded by Little Sally Walker, Ride the Pony and Spirit Competitions? The NACURH, Inc. Mission Statement reads:

NACURH is the leading national organization advocating for the interests and welfare of residence hall students, while also providing opportunities for their personal growth and development. It is an organization of students committed to developing leadership, honoring diversity, recognizing achievement, as well as stimulating engagement and involvement among students who reside in college and university residence halls. Through regional and national programs and services, NACURH provides leadership opportunities for students, shares residence hall programming resources and best practices, and coordinates activities with appropriate professional associations and business partners.

Nowhere does this mission statement involve wearing costumes, screaming at the top of your lungs and doing the Cha Cha Slide; but the spirit that we all witness and partake in while attending a conference does intrinsically support the mission statement of NACURH. Cheering provides an environment where creativity and risk taking is embraced, people are encouraged and stimulated to take action and take pride in what they do.

Residence life as an innovative industry and generally includes early adopters to social and managerial change. Risk taking is a positive characteristic to have in a conference setting as it breeds more ingenuity and creativity within a project. At conferences, there is a ton of collaboration, ideas are swapped and cultivated, programs are developed and people find different



Cheering can involve as little as one or two people...

and better ways of managing and accomplishing tasks. Cheering and spirit creates an environment that sets people in a place outside their comfort zone that allows them to be innovative.

‘We Are Proud Of You Say We Are Proud Of You! We Are Proud

Of You Say We Are Proud Of You!’ Encouragement is one of the best ways to stimulate action within an organization and help people to take pride in their work. A person who is excited to be around those that work towards the same goals will be more effective within their role. The welcoming feeling that comes alongside the encouragement that cheering provides creates an environment where a person feels more comfortable, accepted and more willing to share. Scientifically speaking, encouragement creates a stream of serotonin into a person’s brain that becomes a channel into which risk and well being and new insight are easier to reach.

Finally, if there wasn’t something fun to look forward to that perk up your energy between sessions, it would be much harder to concentrate on the topic at hand within a session. So, go out and paint your body purple, wear a crazy hat with a frog on top of it, let other delegations know that “We’ve Got Spirit, Yes We Do! We’ve Got Spirit, How About You???” and move your body like you just don’t care! The culture of NACURH only supports

the mission and vision of the organization and the more spirit that you bring to a conference will enhance both the fun and the productivity of the conference!

Tips for Building a Spirited Delegation:

★ Make delegation meetings fun, start them out with an ice breaker or music

★ Conference veterans should be encouraged to attend to help lead the delegation while the NCCs, NRHH Reps and Presidents are in boardroom meetings

★ While traveling over to the conference get your delegation to make up a cheer that they can be proud of and take ownership of so they will continuously use it

★ Prepare your delegations for what they are about to encounter so they are not shocked when they see everyone hooting and hollering all over campus

★ Look over regional cheer books to be familiar with the cheers that generally show up at conferences

★ Delegate conference preparations out to delegates (like banner making, or role call choreography) so they are as excited as you are to attend the conference



...or many more

Bidding for a Conference

by Paula Bland

Bidding and hosting a NACURH-related conference – a challenge you and your school should consider! Bidding and hosting a conference is one of the most exciting and fulfilling experiences a student leader can have. The NACURH, Inc. organization started with a “conference” called the Midwest Dormitory Conference in 1954 at Iowa State University. Students from four universities gathered together to share information and discuss issues on their campuses. The organization has grown from those first four schools. However, the purpose of the conference has continued to include opportunities for students to learn from each other and be challenged to make their residence halls better. The regional and national conferences gather students and advisors from many schools together to share ideas and to learn from each other. The conferences serve as a primary focus for the NACURH, Inc. organization. The conferences can help build an RHA and strengthen individual student leaders through networking and gaining information. The conferences can motivate and challenge student leaders to improve the quality of life on their own campus.

The conference bidding and hosting experience is lead by student leaders. Professional staff members serve as advisors to the effort. The process for bidding and hosting a conference for NACURH mirrors the event planning or conference process in other organizations or business. The conference experience will give student leaders a very “real world” experience, and skills they can apply in any situation they may encounter in life. Students learn how to negotiate contracts for hotels, performances, facilities, banquet meals among other things. They lead teams of volunteers, and over an extended period of time, motivate students to work to accomplish a goal that goes far beyond any benefits to them alone.

Bidding for a conference challenges students to put together a presentation as well as a written bid. Teamwork, public speaking, selling, leadership, research and development of ideas, visioning and planning as well as many other communication skills are developed throughout the bidding process. The development of these skills through the bidding process will give students the opportunity to articulate their strengths in these areas to future employers. Students will learn about themselves as well as how they can work together as team. Whether the bid team receives the honor of hosting the conference or not, the individuals in the bid team as well as the team as a whole will benefit from the bid development experience.

To many people who have connected with NACURH, Inc. over the past 50 years, to them, the national conference *is* NACURH. It is the only part of NACURH, Inc. that they have experienced. As stated before, the conference was the beginning of NACURH. The need for leadership development today is as strong as ever. Students on university and college campuses will continue to seek out ways to improve the quality of life on their own campus, and perhaps more so today, seek to improve life for all college and university students. The national conference can play an integral role in this effort. As students share their successes and failures in these improvements, they learn from each other. They learn about critical issues facing students, residence life departments, as well as the entire university, and how other campuses are addressing those issues. The host school serves all university and college campuses as they take on the challenge of hosting a conference to aid in addressing the issues and developing the leadership skills of students.

From the professional staff/administration point of view, hosting the conference has many benefits as

well. Many individuals who have served as advisors to a regional or national conference have treasured the experience as one of the greatest learning experiences of their careers. They not only have the opportunity to hone their advising skills in a different context, but they also will learn about the “business” of conferences and what it takes to host a large scale event. Administration should consider hosting a conference to enhance the leadership experiences for their students. Many departments of housing and dining services also use conference business to keep some full-time staff employed throughout the summer. A NACURH conference can be one of those conferences that can help a department with filling the conference business.

The national or regional conference experience can be very stressful for students AND staff. Is it worth it? Yes, it is. For many years, delegates have commented that networking at the conference and gaining new knowledge and skills have impacted their life dramatically. The conference can expose students to new ideas and issues and create change in their way of thinking. Students have found solutions to issues to enhance the living experience on their own campus. Students, who never thought about student affairs as a career, have started down that path, partly because of realizing at the conference that the work of student affairs happens at every college and university. By hosting the conference, students and staff are helping others grow and develop. And, perhaps most importantly, the students and staff who plan and present the conference gain so much from the experience. So, look for the opportunity to bid and host a conference! For more information about bidding and hosting a national or regional conference, contact the NACURH, Inc. conference resource consultant, Paula Bland at Paula.Bland@colorado.edu. 📧

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Presenting a Program

by Jess Terry

So, we have all been there... attending a program that you wish was more interactive, more informational, or just plain more. How does somebody deliver that extra little spunk that makes a good program spectacular? Now that it is your turn to present a program to someone else, how can you make sure to be in the running towards the top 35? Here, I will give you some helpful hints to prevent your program from being a blunder.

First things first: make sure you know your stuff! Nothing is worse than feeling unprepared, except for maybe listening to a presentation from someone who doesn't have all the facts. Make sure to research your topic carefully. Practice presenting the program to a few friends. Afterwards, write down some of the questions you were asked and make sure to come up with other potential questions, so you can be prepared to answer anything.

Once you know your material, it's time to write your description and submit your program. A few tips about your description... make sure it is clear, concise and informative. Also make sure it sounds fun and appealing. You often have a



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Durling

very small word limit so keep it very eye catching – hook them in to your program! Also, make sure to come up with a catchy title. Short, sweet, maybe with a rhyme – anything to grab the attention of other delegates.

Your program has been selected! How can you perfect the delivery? To start, make sure that the program is interactive. Delegates are full of energy and are jazzed about your program. Icebreakers are great,

and we all love them, but make sure your interactivity is something that helps to set the tone for the program.

After some practice, you'll know what you need to cover, but make sure to have note cards, or an outline, just in case. When presenting, do whatever helps you to make the delivery organized and natural. If you use an outline or note cards, just have your main points, not verbatim transcriptions of the program.

Delegates want something to hold on to. It's helpful to give them something concrete so they can have all the information to relay to their schools, or recreate your program in the future. Handouts, samples, or a "hot-sheet" with your contact information to email them the PowerPoint, notes etc. are all great ways to get your information out to them.

Lastly, don't forget to have fun! Presenting programs is a great way to get practice with public speaking and commanding a room, but the best part is getting to share information with your peers. Having fun makes this experience one worth enjoying – both for you and the delegates listening in. 🐾



Photo Courtesy of Lauren Horsefield

OFFICE SPOTLIGHT: THE NIC

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For those of you who don't know what the NIC is, you have come to the right place! The NIC is the national office of NACURH and is currently located at the University of Missouri-Rolla (soon to be Missouri University of Science and Technology). At this point in the year most of you should have had some dealing with the NIC. For those of you who haven't, I'll give you a little run down of what we do...

1. We take affiliations materials! Every year we get dues, RFI reports, NRHH Constitutions and all kinds of other good stuff from the nearly 300 schools throughout the country that are affiliated with NACURH.
2. We send you stuff! Throughout the year you get not only e-mails from us informing you of upcoming conference and affiliation stuff, but we can also send you awesomely amazing RFI reports to improve your campus.
3. We are the RFI! Not only do we house the RFI, but we are currently in the process of getting it organized and digitized so your school can have electronic copies of whatever reports you are interested in sent to your e-mail within seconds of checking out.
4. We get to go to all of your conferences! This is totally the

best part of this "job" is getting to go all over the country and visit with you all at conferences. Every year the NIC sends staff members to all 18 NACURH

Left to Right: Tori Seely, Genny Walters, Lucas McIntosh, Amanda Gealy, Kristi House, Matt Hawkins, Amy Perrey, Kate Oliver, Carlo Licea.

Photo Courtesy of Genny Walters



Affiliated conferences to make sure you guys get squared away. While our sleep deprived eyes may say otherwise, we wouldn't give this part up for anything!

While we do these and many other things to keep NACURH running as smoothly as possible, we are always looking for input from you all, the NACURH member schools! If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns, please feel free to call us or shoot one of us an e-mail, we'd love to get your input. 🙌



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The Day After by Avi Zacherman

So, you've experienced the boardroom, cheered till you lost your voice and got a chance to see some wonderful programs. Now what?

Well first and foremost, the most immediate thing you should do is sleep. Conferences are draining, and no amount of risk management policy can solve this. Be sure to thank your advisors for making sure you get back to school

safe and sound while you're passed out in the back of a van.

Once you've recovered from the conference itself, you can begin to take what you learned and apply it. Did you get to go to a program that taught you some great icebreakers? Try some out at your next general body meeting. Maybe try adapting the winning Program of the Year bid to your own campus and see how it works out.

Conferences are just as much about what happens afterwards as they are about the actual event. We go to conferences to share information and to improve ourselves and our organizations.

Another important realization that comes out of this is the nature of NACURH itself. While many of us always remember the conferences we attend, NACURH, Inc. as an organization persists 365 days a year (actually, this year it will be 366). Conferences remind us of that, but you should order RFI files and submit OTMs all the time, not just the month after the conference.

So when you do wake up from your long nap, remember why you went to the conference in the first place. You've now had the opportunity to network and learn from your conference experience. It's time to put it to good use. 🙌



The first instinctual response to the end of a conference

Photo Courtesy of Emily Morgenstern

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