



EMORY

Residence Life and Housing
Division of Campus Life

December 20, 2007

SEAHO Awards and Recognition Committee
SW 13th Street & Museum Road
PO Box 112100
Gainesville, FL 32611-2100

Dear Committee Members,

As an anticipated first time attendee of the SEAHO annual conference, I am excited to begin the process of developing a strong professional base in the areas of higher education and student affairs. As a new professional in the field and coming from a graduate program in public administration, the past few months have been an exciting learning experience. During my time as a student employee, I was able to develop a strong base of understanding for residence life and housing – the transition from student to professional seemed natural and exciting. However, in my role as a professional, I quickly realized the importance of familiarizing myself with the resources available to those in the field.

I had the pleasure of being able to make the Georgia New Professionals Institute my first formal conference experience. I was able to connect with other new professionals around the state and specifically sought out those who hold positions and have responsibilities similar to my own. I was also guided by my Emory colleagues to introduce myself to their acquaintances thus being able to further develop a professional network. The conversations had and the presentations attended provided an invaluable introduction to student affairs in Georgia.

Emory University students are provided with many opportunities for leadership for the purpose of rounding out their college experience. In doing so, many of us within the Division of Campus Life take on advising responsibilities to ensure that our students are also well prepared to utilize this leadership experience throughout their time as a student and well on through their careers. This year, I have taken on the advisory role to two student committees. One committee is made up of RAs with the purpose of being an inter-department advisory body for the development and sustainability of our current Living-Learning Communities (LLCs). Along with a co-advisor, we provide an opportunity for our RAs to provide feedback and suggestions on how to improve our existing LLCs and offer suggestions for new ones. We have provided literature to the group in order to make sure that they know the theoretical basis and reasoning behind an LLC and encourage discussion and debate on the history and effectiveness of LLCs.

Additionally, I advise a committee of graduating seniors and assist them in the development of programs and activities to culminate the Senior Year Experience for our undergraduates. As an alumnus of Emory, I am able to utilize my own experience as a senior and be a resource for questions and develop a bridge among other University departments and divisions to help make their experience successful.

One goal that I have developed for myself is to become more familiar with the theoretical and modular aspects of higher education and student affairs. I see the directors and associate directors in our department as a resource for such information and use their knowledge and borrow literature from them to help reach this goal. Practically, I am forced to develop my own understanding of certain areas of student affairs as an instructor for our RA class. Offered during the fall semester, our RA class builds upon skills and knowledge touched on during fall training and my colleagues and I are participants in that experience. I find that I learned more during my semester as an instructor than I did while in training myself and appreciate the opportunity to have a different kind of interaction with our student staff.

I am very excited about attending my first SEAHO conference and am looking forward to meeting others from around the region. I am also interested in developing a network of individuals who do not have the traditional student affairs

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background and learn how they have used their unique educational and professional backgrounds to be successful in their positions. I have no doubt that my experience in Savannah will be eye opening and rewarding.

I appreciate the committee's time in considering my application for the Fee Waiver Scholarship and if there are any questions related to any of the aforementioned descriptions, I can be contacted either by phone or email at 404.325.4193 or rroche@learnlink.emory.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Roche". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "C".

Ryan Roche