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Office of Residence Life  
University of Kentucky



January 6, 2009

Steve Stauffer, Committee Chair  
Awards and Recognition Committee: PEACE Award  
The Southeastern Association of Housing Officers  
537 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506

To Mr. Stauffer and Members of the SEAHO Awards & Recognition Committee:

Upon reviewing information regarding SEAHO's PEACE Award (Providing Educational Advocacy for Cultural Excellence), I instantly knew of the perfect candidate for this recognition. James Thomas is the Resident Director in Smith Hall at the University of Kentucky. James is a proven leader in Residence Life. His many years of service are punctuated with quality programs, conference presentations, mentoring countless students, a true spirit of caring and concern for residents, as well as a commitment to serving as a role model within the residence halls. Under James, many resident advisors have moved up through the system to become Assistant Hall Directors and Hall Directors; this serves as a testimony to the quality RA experience provided under his leadership. He is an inspiring leader and one who truly cares about the welfare of his staff and residents.

Beginning in 1998 as an RA, James found relating to and serving students a rewarding task. Over the years James advanced in Residence Life at UK, serving as an Assistant Hall Director, Hall Director (graduate assistantship), and full-time Resident Director. In his current role as Resident Director of Smith Hall, James also supervises a Living Learning Community. The Global Village LLC provides a cross-cultural experience for students interested in broadening their understanding of world issues and cultures. Domestic and international students live together in Smith Hall, further enhancing the cross-cultural experience. James Thomas has spent endless hours developing creative programming for this community and inviting special guests to Smith Hall to speak specifically to the LLC students. Each year he ensures that flags from the international students' native countries are hung in the Hall of Flags within Smith Hall, to help them feel a bit more at home.

In the fall of 2007, James submitted an orientation program proposal for Global Village. In this proposal, James indicated that the students (both U.S. and international) needed specific time before the start of classes to get to know one another, acclimate to campus, learn about relevant resources, and begin to lay the foundation for a strong sense of community. The Office of Residence Life at UK

approved this proposal and James wasted no time getting to work. By the summer of 2008, the Global Village Orientation Program was a reality.

The Orientation took place August 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of 2008, with the culminating event being the Living Learning Communities Induction Ceremony. The three days of orientation were packed with valuable guest speakers, activities, and programs. A few notable events include the Parent/Guardian session, Information Fair, and Campus Tour. In the Parent Session, James, Karen Slaymaker (Director of International Student Services), Marianne Lorensen (Residence Life Assistant Director for Academic Initiatives), and I spoke with students and their families about the transition from high school to college. James spoke specifically to the roommate transition and how it is particularly important to be supportive when American and international students live together. The Information Fair was a collection of valuable campus partners and resources in one room for the students to meet and gather information. A few of the represented groups included Education Abroad, English Department, The Study (campus tutoring service), Campus Recreation, and The Center for Student Involvement. The Campus Tour was set up as a scavenger hunt, sending the "Global Villagers" all around campus identifying key buildings and historical markers. All of these events provided extremely helpful information and ultimately weaved into the core goal of connecting the students prior to the start of classes. I have included copies of the Orientation Schedule, Parent Handout, and Welcome Letter at the end of this letter for your perusal.

The end result of this pilot orientation program was a group of twenty-five LLC students who felt included and engaged in this special residence hall setting. After the orientation, it was not uncommon to see them traveling in a group to various campus events and activities. These students attended "K-Week" (early welcome week program) events together, compared class schedules to form study groups, and made regular lunch plans... all before the start of classes. To all of this success, the credit belongs to James Thomas. Pairing his passion for serving others with his strong academic foundation in higher education (a Master's degree in Student Affairs), James worked with great focus on this program. He literally spent countless hours contacting people, creating documents, planning activities, and pulling together the logistics to make this unique program happen. It was a huge undertaking and it required someone with James' passion and commitment to pull it off. He did so, and so successfully that he has been asked to present on the Orientation Program in numerous conferences. In November of 2008, James presented a session about the Global Village and the impact of a structured LLC (Living Learning Community Orientation Program at NAFSA (National Association of Foreign Student Advisers): Association of International Educators' annual conference. He will also be presenting on the Orientation at SEAHO this year.

Since the PEACE award was established to recognize outstanding contributions and service to the SEAHO region through the advancement of diversity and multiculturalism, I can honestly think of no more deserving recipient than James. James has helped push our Living Learning Community Network to the next level at UK through his devotion to these students and his desire to see them succeed. We are truly fortunate to have such a professional on our staff who finds that it is never too late in the evening, too early on a Saturday, or too busy during a holiday season to stop and serve students. James and his wife even stay over the Thanksgiving holiday to cook and serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal to the residents of their 12-month hall who stay in the building over the break. This is but one of many examples of the ways that demonstrate how James goes above and beyond what his position requires.

The examples of James' outstanding work could go on for many pages, but I will close here with a few parting thoughts for your consideration. If the purpose of SEAHO is to "... provide an opportunity to college and university housing officers for personal and professional growth through attendance at an annual conference and to facilitate an exchange of ideas and dialogue with professional Colleagues", then James Thomas is truly a professional who has contributed to the mission in many ways. Particularly, his innovation with the Global Village Orientation Program displayed that he is committed to excellence in Residence Life and desires to keep UK on the forefront of quality programming. Not only does James value professional development opportunities such as SEAHO's annual conference, but he is also eager to serve as a presenter and share with others the innovations and successes he's found within his own residence hall. The Global Village is a community unlike any other on UK's campus, with its strong focus on cross-cultural learning and experience. I cannot imagine the Global Village's success under the leadership of any professional other than James Thomas. It is with my highest recommendation that I submit this letter of nomination for James Thomas to be strongly considered as the 2009 recipient of the SEAHO PEACE Award.

If you have any other questions or would like to discuss James' accomplishments, programs, and/or contributions further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leslie N. Woltenberg

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Living Learning Communities  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESIDENCE LIFE  
A Small Community within a Large University

## Global Village Living Learning Community Parent/Family/Guardian Orientation



### Stay Connected:

- Global Village Webpage: <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ResidenceLife/living/lcGlobal.html>
- Smith Resident Director:  
James Thomas  
[jwthom4@email.uky.edu](mailto:jwthom4@email.uky.edu)
- Living Learning Communities Coordinator:  
Leslie Woltenberg  
[leslie.woltenberg@uky.edu](mailto:leslie.woltenberg@uky.edu)

### How to send mail to your student:

John Doe  
University of Kentucky  
Smith Hall, PO Box \_\_\_\_  
Lexington, KY 40526-0565

→ Box numbers are provided at move-in!  
→ 0565 is the speed sort number for Smith!

### Helpful Contact Information:

Topic/Office	Website	phone
Academic Calendar	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/Registrar/AcademicCalendar.htm">www.uky.edu/Registrar/AcademicCalendar.htm</a>	(859)257-3161
Parent Association	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ParentAssociation">www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ParentAssociation</a>	(859)257-6597
Financial Aid Office	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/FinancialAid">www.uky.edu/FinancialAid</a>	(859)257-3172
Student Billing Office	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/StudentBilling">www.uky.edu/StudentBilling</a>	(859)257-3406
UK Athletics	<a href="http://www.ukathletics.com">www.ukathletics.com</a>	(859)257-7979
Housing Office	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/Housing/index.html">www.uky.edu/Housing/index.html</a>	(859)257-1866
University Health	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/UHS">www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/UHS</a>	(859)323-5823
Campus Recreation	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/CampusRec">www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/CampusRec</a>	(859)257-3928
Plus Account Office	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/PlusAccount">www.uky.edu/PlusAccount</a>	(859)257-6159
Student ID Office	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/UKID">www.uky.edu/UKID</a>	(859)257-1378
Residence Life	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ResidenceLife">www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ResidenceLife</a>	(859)257-4784
UK Directory	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/Directory">www.uky.edu/Directory</a>	(859)257-9000
Central Advising	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/UGS/centadv">www.uky.edu/UGS/centadv</a>	(859)257-3383
Dining Services	<a href="http://www.uky.edu/diningservices">www.uky.edu/diningservices</a>	(859)257-6161

### Ways for students to get involved:

- Student Activities Board: [www.uky.edu/SAB](http://www.uky.edu/SAB)
- Center for Student Involvement: [www.uky.edu/GetInvolved](http://www.uky.edu/GetInvolved)
- Hall Government: [www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ResidenceLife/rsa.html](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/ResidenceLife/rsa.html)
- Center for Community Outreach: [www.uky.edu/VolunteerCenter](http://www.uky.edu/VolunteerCenter)

Intramural sports: [www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/CampusRec/intramurals](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/CampusRec/intramurals)

# The Global Village

January 14, 2009



Hello!

A new year has arrived for the Global Village and with it there is an exciting new opportunity for the students who are members of the community! As a member, you are now given priority move in time and a series of orientation events that focus solely on the Global Village! As an accepted member of the 2008 Global Village class, you are truly unique! Out of the 4000 incoming freshmen, only 22 are in the Global Village! We are excited to have you as a member and we have channeled that excitement into expanding what it means to be in the Global Village!

The Global Village has always existed to help students view the world as a whole as well as trying to find ways to connect students to local ways that will lead them to see things in a grander scale! To do this, we have expanded the goals of the community! We want you to come to campus early! By coming, you will get connected to resources sooner (like Study Abroad and Office of International Affairs opportunities), have some time with faculty members and staff members before classes begin, and also have more time to become acquainted with campus! Plus, we have built in fringe benefits... we have set aside time for your resident advisors to take you to the book stores to buy books before other students come and they sell out and have to reorder, we have a campus tour with a scavenger hunt twist (fair warning: be eagle eyed), and we will be having cook outs, game nights, pancake breakfasts and more... and its all for the students in the Global Village!

Also, international students have already begun to arrive! By moving in early, we hope to give you more time with the international students living in Smith Hall before classes begin! They will join us sometimes throughout the 3 days of early move-in fun! We really want you to have time to get to know them before classes begin and this is an ideal time! The Global Village is an amazing place to make friends from around the world!

We hope you will join us on August 19<sup>th</sup> as we allow you to move in early! While you move in, we even have something for family to do as we talk to them about what opportunities you will have! Once you move in, all we ask is that you join us for the next 3 days as we have events that are solely for you and attend these events in a punctual and dedicated manner... after all, its all for you! We also realize that some of you have commitments to sororities or training and understand those, but we hope that you will participate in all events possible... it is going to be a phenomenal event and you will truly shape the future of this event! Enclosed is a copy of the schedule and I think it truly has something for everyone! What better way to join the UK family than to do it early and at a series of events planned solely for the small group that is the Global Village!

Sincerely,

James W. Thomas  
Student Affairs Officer I / Resident Director of Smith Hall

## Global Village Living Learning Community Orientation Schedule: August 2008



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		GV Orientation	GV Orientation	GV Orientation		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		LLC Induction	1 <sup>st</sup> day of classes!			


### DAY1: TUESDAY, AUGUST. 19<sup>th</sup>

Time	Event	Location
9am-1pm	<b>CHECK-IN/MOVE IN</b>	Smith Hall
Come on in! Arrive to Smith Hall and your new home-away-from-home! Staff will be present to welcome you and assist with any arrival questions you may have.		
3pm-4pm	<b>Parent/Family/Guardian Orientation*</b>	Smith Hall Classroom
Global Village faculty and staff members will spend time sharing general information about the LLC, related courses, and what to expect from this UK experience. This session will be specifically for parents/family/guardians/etc. *LLC students are not required to attend this session.*		
7pm	<b>ORIENTATION KICK OFF &amp; Dessert Social</b>	Smith Hall Lobby
This will be a chance for you to meet and mingle with the in-hall staff and campus partners. Desserts and board games will be set out in the lobby. Faculty & staff members will introduce themselves and share a brief bit of why they are invested in this LLC experience!		

### DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST. 20<sup>th</sup>

Time	Event	Location
9am-10am	<b>Breakfast and Brainstorming</b>	Smith Hall Lobby
Join your fellow LLC members for breakfast and preparations for a phenomenal year!		
10:30am-noon	<b>INFORMATION FAIR</b>	Student Center, room206
Campus partners will have display tables and various resources, materials, etc. for all Global Village students. You will be able to spend time perusing each table, asking questions, etc.		
Noon-1:30pm	<b>LUNCH AT THE STUDENT CENTER</b>	Student Center Dining
Spend time visiting with fellow Global Village students and trying out some campus cuisine! Chic-Fil-A, Subway, Café du Chat, and Quickstop will be open and accepting flex dollars at this time.		
1:30pm-3pm	<b>CAMPUS TOUR &amp; Scavenger Hunt</b>	All around campus
Meet Smith Hall RAs at the UK Bookstore at 1:30pm & depart on a tour with a scavenger hunt twist!		
6pm-8pm	<b>Cookout and Outdoor Activities</b>	Haggin Field & Game Room
Great food and great times! Come out and enjoy a delicious meal & spend time getting to know everyone!		

**DAY 3: THURSDAY, AUGUST. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Time	Event	Location
<b>9am-10am</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> floor kitchen in Smith Hall
Come down to the Smith Hall first floor kitchen and be served a stack of delicious pancakes by your favorite RAs!		
<b>11am-noon</b>	<i>Presentation by International Affairs</i>	Smith Hall Classroom
In Smith Hall, American students are paired with International students as roommates and it is important to begin good communication early. Learning about each other is critical to the overall LLC experience!		
<b>Noon-1:30pm</b>	<b>LLC Professor Luncheon</b>	Ovid's Cafe
This session is a meet-and-greet meal to with DSP and UK 101 instructor Dr. Berres. Get to know your professor and learn more about the great things to come in your classes!		
<b>2pm-3:30pm</b>	<b>BOOK BUYING TOUR</b>	meet at UK Bookstore at 2pm
Smith hall RAs will show you all of the best bookstores! A tour of UK Bookstore, Kennedy's, Wildcat, and E-Campus will provide you with plenty of opportunity to compare prices and purchase your textbooks!		
<b>5pm</b>	<b>Hot Pizza and Hot topics</b>	Smith Hall Lobby
Enjoy a pizza dinner and learn about some great events and opportunities on campus. What is UK FUSION? RSA? Have a slice of pizza and find out!		
<b>7pm</b>	<b>Games &amp; Good times with the RAs</b>	Smith Hall Lobby
Meet up with your RAs to play some board games, video games, & more! Relax and enjoy yourselves now that you are all settled in to your new UK Home... Smith Hall and the Global Village LLC!		