January 7, 2007

To SEAHO Awards Committee:

I am pleased to offer this letter of nomination for Liz Powell for the James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional award. Liz Powell arrived at Valdosta State University fresh out of graduate school and has worked as a Complex Director for the past two years. Her complex consists of three freshmen halls totaling 800 residents, 23 RAs and 3 GRHDs. Liz has approached her position with profound professionalism, boundless enthusiasm and judicious practicality.

Liz has developed strong relationships with her RA and GRHD staff. Her staff values her dry sense of humor, efficient style of leadership and laid back personality. Liz is able to balance supportive learning with autonomy which allows her staff to grow as well as shine. Every staff member feels valued and enjoys their work.

Amongst her peers, Liz is seen as an anchor. They know they can count on her to help no matter the situation and no matter the hour. Liz has assisted with bomb threats and floods in other facilities at a moment’s notice and without a grumble. Her level-headed and practical approach quickly diffuses potentially volatile situations and brings calm when things become hectic.

On campus, Liz has contributed to other departments whether through volunteering her time after hours to help with events, assisting with campus program advisory panels or chairing interdepartmental committees. Her reputation is one of consistent dependability; other departments know they can rely on her for a job well done. Other department heads frequently comment on her level of professionalism for one so “young” in the field.

Honestly, it has been very difficult to sum up the attributes that Liz Powell possesses that would make her an excellent candidate for the James C. Grimm Outstanding New Professional award. Often times it is only in the flash of disaster that we see the essence of a person’s performance. Sometimes we forget to find excellence in the everyday. Liz is the type of person who does her job and does it well without fanfare and without fuss. She quietly and steadily moves her work forward, all the while leaving an indelible positive impression with all she contacts. I highly encourage you to give full consideration to Liz Powell’s candidacy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teddi Walker

Assistant Director of Residence Life

Valdosta State University