

North Carolina State University is a land-grant **University Housing and Greek Life**

university and a constituent institution of The 1112 Pullen Hall Box 7315

University of North Carolina Campus Box 7315

Raleigh, NC 27695-7315

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**Steve Stauffer**

**SEAHO Awards and Recognition Committee Chair**

537 Patterson Office Tower

Lexington, KY 40506

Dear Steve,

It is with pleasure that I nominate Megan Horan for SEAHO’s Graduate Student of the Year award. Megan Horan came to North Carolina State University (NCSU) without prior housing work experience and yet has learned and accomplished so much in her graduate assistant position with University Housing that she is fully deserving of the Graduate Student of the Year award. I believe anyone that has worked with Megan would confirm that she has gone above and beyond expectations in working with the students, staff, and various offices at NCSU.

In her role as the graduate Resident Director, she has the greatest opportunity to impact students. In that role, she is accountable for the entire operations of Tucker Hall, home to 368 freshman residents. As a graduate student, she supervises a large staff of 10 Resident Advisors and 6 student peer academic mentors who help ensure residents are academically success while living in a safe, welcoming environment. An added challenge in her role as RD is that Tucker Hall is one of two buildings that comprise the First Year College Village (FYCV), an academic-based living and learning community focused on meeting the needs of undecided and/or undeclared undergraduate freshman students. She understands the FYCV and creates unique experiences and opportunities for this distinctive population of students. One major example was her instrumental involvement this past summer in developing the current FYCV programming model that implements the mission goals of the program and effectively impacts FYCV residents. She was also a big part in the development of our Pack Academic Workshop Series, once a week programs/events put on by academic peer mentors focused specifically on academic development and success. Being aware of the needs of her unique community, Megan has created two initiatives within her hall: a March Madness event focused on community service and The Sophomore Series to prepare her all-freshman community for entering their sophomore year.

In her role as RD, Megan has shown her strength in running Tucker Hall . Megan has developed and/or implemented a variety of ways to track information on her building including student concern logs to tracking facility issues. As a result, there has yet to be a time when her supervisor has sought information that she could not readily answer within a few minutes. This level of organization also extends to her staff supervision. One area of primary concern is the academic success of her staff. For those staff who struggle in their academics, Megan has individualized academic tracking for each of their courses and appropriately follows up with staff as major due dates arrive. Additionally, Megan has been an excellent mentor in the transition of her first-year partner RD for Owen Hall, providing him with a phenomenal amount of resources, assistance, and support. Besides her many hall responsibilities, Megan is involved in several housing committees. First, she is involved in the department’s Resident Advisor Selection Committee. She also co-chairs the Central Campus Banquet & Recognition committee and co-chaired the Central Campus Community Service Committee. In all these ways, Megan has been a leader in her residence hall and has greatly impacted her residents in even the little details. Evidence of her outstanding work is easily shown by Tucker’s winning the Inter-Residence Hall’s “Program of the Year” and “Village of the Year” for 2007-2008.

In connection with her RD position, Megan is heavily involved in her First Year College partnership. She sits on the First Year College Village Advisory Council helping to shape the Village Philosophy, sustain Village successes, and initiate new endeavors for the residents. She also serves as a co-teacher for the FYCV Resident Mentor course, a for credit course that trains peer mentors on how to provide academic support to the village residents. Megan is also chair of the FYCV Advisory Council’s Leadership and Service Subcommittee in directing and implementing leadership efforts within the FYCV. Currently she is planning the Village’s Leadership Potential Retreat for aspiring leaders with the FYCV community.

Even with such challenging graduate position, Megan has found additional ways to assist and be involved with students. Her biggest area of outside involvement has been through interning and volunteering with the Greek Office for the past year. Recently she was a facilitator and assistant for the 2009 Greek Leader’s Retreat mentoring and guiding the many leaders of NCSU’s 51 fraternities and sororities. She has been involved with the recruitment and development of Greek Week, assessment of fraternity and sorority recruitment procedures, and improving individual chapters at NCSU. She also volunteered her time to provide in-depth help in developing the Chi Omega sorority and aiding in their recruitment for Fall 2008.

Additionally, during the past year she has taken on two academic internships: one with the New Student Orientation program and another providing academic assistance and advising in the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes. Megan also received her diversity awareness certificate through the Equal Opportunity Institute by completing 30 hours of programs and workshops focused on issues of equal opportunity. Megan serves as a volunteer for the Molly Hayes Glander Rape Crisis hotline holding the rotating response phone. She is also a certified Safe Zone member for the GLBT community. Finally, this past fall Megan volunteered to assist with NCSU’s delegation to the 2008 Women in Leadership Development conference at Duke University.

These are some of the many experiences and opportunities she has undertaken to work with and impact the students at NCSU. However, such a long list fails to capture those unplanned moments of impact for which I believe Megan excels. She makes time for her student staff whenever needed, providing individualized support on their academic and personal success. She also takes the time to build the personal connection with her staff such as taking them bowling, preparing a check-out breakfast, or their long, late-night “Rock Band” jam sessions. She has also invested a lot of her time and energy in developing a high performing, successful hall council. Even being composed of all first-year students, the group has put on a high number of quality programs in their first semester ranging from a hall-wide social to educational GLBT and cultural awareness programs. Additionally, it would be difficult to count the number of Megan’s help sessions with residents dealing with weighty issues nor the number of late-night roommate mediations with which she worked.

With high opinion I am nominating Megan Horan for SEAHO’s Graduate Student of the Year Award for the many ways and levels of involvement and impact that she has had on the students at NCSU. Undoubtedly, Megan Horan will continue to make a strong impact on future college students and in the field of student affairs. I believe SEAHO would be well-served to recognize such a great graduate and future professional.

Sincerely,

Keith Wickliffe

Assistant Director, TOTA

North Carolina State University