Fall 2014 will mark the 17th award process for the Joseph M. Mitchell Memorial Scholarship Award. To date, we’ve awarded a total of 16 $1,000 scholarships. The Mitchell Scholarship has been a way to remember our friend Joe, former Manager of Assignments and Assistant Director of Resident Life, who passed away in 2005. Through the celebration of his life and work, we have been able to recognize and support students who not only overcome personal hardships to succeed in their academic career, but find time to give back to their families and communities.

For our Fall 2014 award, a Resident Life staff member has provided a gracious gift to create an award in memory of Michelle Humanick. Michelle passed away in July, 2010 from a weather-related accident. Michelle served 15 years with the Department of Resident Life, and was a beloved colleague, friend, an extraordinary designer, and the founder and first Manager of Resident Life’s Design and Publications unit. Michelle is remembered for her special talents for befriending, guiding, and mentoring students and full-time professionals with whom she worked. This scholarship will be awarded through the Mitchell Memorial Scholarship and will provide a one-time scholarship of $250.

This recognition of Michelle and her impact on the people around her aligns with the spirit of the Mitchell award. We hope that continuing the scholarship work will celebrate the lives and memories of Joe and Michelle. We will continue to honor them by helping students through their times of hardship and reducing the barriers to their success at our university. This sentiment is evident in the impact the award has on our recipients. As Brittany Cheng, our Spring 2014 recipient, wrote “By receiving the award, you have alleviated the burden of taking out loans in order to finance my education, which, in turn, allows me to focus on my studies and work that much harder to get good grades. Your generosity and kindness has renewed my spirit for the upcoming semester and inspired me to get back into being involved in giving back as well. Because of the award, I have more time to dedicate to causes other than a part-time job, such as community service.”

We are so grateful for the support this scholarship fund has received over the years. This generosity has allowed us to recognize and support students like Brittany. If you would like to make a contribution, please visit www.josephmitchell.umd.edu and click on “Making a Donation.”

To learn more about Michelle and the impact she had on our campus community, please visit www.reslife.umd.edu/Announcements/Memorials/Humanick/

**Where are they now?**

**Spotlight on UMD DRL Alumni**

Recently, we caught up with several UMD DRL Alumni to learn a bit more about them and what they’ve been up to since graduation. We hope you enjoy learning a bit more about your fellow alumni!

**David Todd**

**What year did you graduate from the University of Maryland?**

May 2013

**What positions did you hold in Resident Life while at Maryland?**

What are you up to currently?

I am currently in my first year in the College Student Affairs Administration, M.Ed. program at the University of Georgia. I work as a Graduate Assistant in UGA’s LGBT Resource Center and am a part-time Practicum Intern in the Office of Student Activities and Organizations. This summer I am headed to Northeastern University in Boston, MA as a NODA Intern for their orientation program!

Favorite Memory:

My favorite memory from Resident Life was definitely training week(s) every year! I know some RAs grumbled about how long it was, but I loved the competitions/team-building activities within and between staffs during training week. It really bonded our staff to prepare skits, compete in random events, etc., and I think it built a great foundation to work as an RA team for the rest of the academic year. My favorite competition was definitely finding the little blue plastic army men hidden around North Campus!

Lessons Learned:

During my time in Resident Life, I learned a lot about working on a team, diversity and inclusion related to underrepresented populations, creating effective/intentional programming, administrative/conduct skills, and how to build/affect a positive community! I often reflect on my experiences as an RA in my program’s curriculum and in my work as a Graduate Assistant; these experiences really prepared me for the (para)professional work I am engaging in now.

Christine, Liz & Ed Kenny

Christine Kenny

What year did you graduate from the University of Maryland?

2010

What positions did you hold in Resident Life while at Maryland?

I spent three years as an RA in Elkton, one summer as a summer RA in Cumberland, and one summer as a Community Assistant in the Denton Community Office.

What are you up to currently?

I am currently a Social Worker working with seniors in Washington, D.C. to provide them with the resources they need to continue to live independently in their homes.

Favorite Memory:

Elkton After Dark was created to provide residents with alcohol free activities on typically heavy drinking nights. These building-wide events such as capture the flag on the mall, craft nights, Super Bowl parties, mocktails, and international themed potlucks were some of my favorites.

Lessons Learned:

The first lesson I learned was that even the most bizarre of escalated roommate conflicts, such as fighting over air freshener scents, could be resolved. However, the lesson that has had the greatest impact is how to be a leader among my peers. As a natural introvert these skills have been essential not only as an RA but also in my professional life after college.

Liz Kenny

What year did you graduate from the University of Maryland?

2003

What positions did you hold in Resident Life while at Maryland?


What are you up to currently?

I am a lawyer for the Public Defender System for the District of Columbia, Mental Health Division, and in my off-time I’m exploring all 4 quadrants of D.C. by bike.

(Three UMD alumni siblings discuss their common RA experience)
Favorite Memory:

Returning to my floor in Cumberland after hearing from other
RAs that there had been a huge soap fight on my floor, and find-
ing that my residents had cleaned up all the evidence of their fun.

Lessons Learned:

I learned how rewarding it can be to help other people identify
and achieve their goals. I also learned to be patient with other
people as well as big organizations...definitely something I need-
ed to start learning at UMD because I'm still working on it!

Ed Kenny

What year did you graduate from the University of Maryland?

2002

What positions did you hold in Resident Life while at Mary-
land?

RA in Centreville - 3 years, Summer RA in Old Leonardtown, GAC
in the Denton Community - 2 years

What are you up to currently?

I work for the University of Maryland Division of Student Affairs
Development and External Relations Office. Focused specifically
on grants and scholarships, I work to cultivate philanthropic sup-
port for Division priorities.

Favorite Memory:

Though I enjoyed spending time with my residents, my favorite
memories involve my RA staff. My closest friends to this day were
fellow RAs. There is something unique about the demands of the
RA position that draws amazing people.

Lessons Learned:

Holding my peers accountable to community living standards
was a challenge yet it taught me lessons in management that
serve me well today. I also learned from the RA experience how
important it is to uphold a personal standard of integrity 24/7. As
RAs, we represented the Department and University at all times,
not just while in our hall or on duty.

The UMD Resident Assistant Scholarship Fund

In October 2013, the Department of Resident Life announced
the creation of the Resident Assistant Scholarship Fund to
support those students employed with us as RAs who display
financial need related to their undergraduate education. The
Department of Resident Life collaborated with UMD’s Divi-
sion of Student Affairs Office of Development and External
Relations to create this scholarship, which will help support
the financial need of Resident Assistants. Since the RA schol-
arship fund was created, more than 45 generous donors have
made contributions to the scholarship. If you’d like to consid-
er making a contribution, please visit RA scholarship.umd.edu.

Alumni News Notes

Zaneeta Daver was selected to be the Assistant Executive
Dean for the Spring 2014 voyage of Semester at Sea. This will
be the 20th anniversary of her sailing as a college student in
1994.

Mike Fried successfully defended his dissertation in Higher
and Post-Secondary Education at New York University.

Danielle Nied recently published an ASHE monograph with
Dr. Karen Myers and Dr. Jaci Jenkins Lindburg titled Allies
for Inclusion: Disability and Equity in Higher Education. The
book is available for review on the publisher’s, Jossey-Bass,
website at http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/pro-
ductCd-1118846117.html

Former RA and current Resident Life staff
member Kelly Ridings
and her husband
Daniel welcomed
new baby Finnegan
Oliver Ridings to their
family on March 10th,
2014. Their future
Terp is doing well at
home in his UMD-
themed nursery!

Steve Sushner and his husband, Adam Kirschenbaum, wel-
comed Danielle Gillian Kirschenbaum into the world on No-
vember 25, 2013. Danielle’s twin three year old sisters, Alexis
and Samantha, are hoping she eats a lot so that she can grow
big and play with them.

Continued on page 4
Keiko Zoll and her husband Larry (Theatre MFA, 2007) welcomed their amazing little dude, Judah Takeshi Zoll, on May 12, 2013 - Mother’s Day, no less! Despite his very surprise five-week early arrival while Dad was in Japan for work and Mom was in New Jersey for her baby shower, Judah is a crawling, chatty, happy little guy! You can read his entire “this book practically writes itself” birth story, as well as keep up to date with family updates, at http://teamzoll.com.

UMD Resident Life Staff Transitions

The Department of Resident Life at the University of Maryland is thrilled to welcome the following staff members to our team:

Joshua Beeson, Coordinator for South Campus Administrative Operations

Amanda Bogdan, Assistant Coordinator for North Campus Administrative Operations

Jillian Causey, Graduate Administrative Coordinator for South Hill

Ashley Cotton, Administrative Assistant for South Campus

Linda Dye, Public Inquiry Coordinator

Tiffany Harris, Resident Director for Cumberland Hall

Chris Mertens, Graduate Coordinator for Educational Programs & Outreach

Sarah Mruz, Resident Director for South Campus Commons 3&4

Carlos Sepulveda, Graduate Coordinator for Rights & Responsibilities

Karlena Walker, Resident Director for Leonardtown

Please join us in congratulating the following Resident Life staff members on their transitions to new positions in our department:

Philemon Atieku, Graduate Administrative Coordinator

Jordan Carter-Reich, Administrative Assistant for Ellicott Community

Eyoel Delessa, Graduate Assistant for Syn*Quest Collaborative

Katrina Edwards, Program Management Specialist for Human Resources

Tiffany Gaines, Assistant Director for Housing Partnerships

Lee Hinga, Cambridge Community Director

Christina Lee, Graduate Coordinator for Human Resources

Linh Nguyen, IT Manager for Network & User Support

We invite you to:

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/UMDreslife

Follow us on Twitter: @UMDReslife

Visit our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/umdreslife

View us on Instagram: instagram.com/UMDReslife

Visit the DRL Alumni site for updated information:

www.reslife.umd.edu/alumni/

Staying in touch

If you have news you’d like to share for the next newsletter, or need to update your contact information or know of other UMD Resident Life Alumni who haven’t yet joined our network, please contact Dennis Passarella-George at dgeorge@umd.edu or 301.314.7484.

Dennis Passarella-George, Associate Director for South Campus

Emily Peightel, Graduate Assistant for Rights & Responsibilities for North Campus

Kelly Ridings, Manager for Housing Partnerships

Announcements and Updates

Maryland Day 2014 is April 26th! We hope you’ll join us for a fun day filled with activities for the whole family. Please also stop by the DRL Alumni and Staff Ice Cream Social from 1pm – 2pm in the Queen Anne’s Hall Multipurpose Room! For more information, visit www.marylandday.umd.edu

Congratulations to Dr. Amy Martin, Associate Director of Resident Life for North Campus, and Dr. Anna Bedford, Graduate Coordinator for South Campus, who both successfully defended their dissertations this Fall!

Construction of Prince Frederick Hall continues on-schedule for our August 2014 opening. You can see updates and information, including time-lapse construction camera videos, by visiting http://reslife.umd.edu/princefrederick/