We are approaching the end of Winter Term and I hope you’ve had a great one!

It has been many, many years since UHDS had a department newsletter, and I am excited that there is energy from the department to increase communication and desire for information sharing. I will use this space to provide you updates on initiatives and priorities at the University level and share with you topics that provide context and inform your work as we serve our students and campus community.

Strategic Planning:

Both the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Finance and Administration (UHDS reports to both Divisions) are currently underway in Strategic Planning. These strategic plans will help guide UHDS in focused delivery of programs and services, aligning our work with key priorities that will advance divisional contributions towards OSU’s Strategic Plan 3.0. The OSU Strategic Plan 3.0 provides UHDS a tremendous opportunity to be positioned “at the table” in advancing student success, and as the Divisional strategic plans take shape, we will continue to see the importance our work is to accomplishing university and divisional goals.

The Student Affairs draft plan was presented at the February 23rd all-division meeting.

Retaining Students and Helping Them Thrive:

We continue to have a number of realities that require UHDS to take new opportunities, adopt new mindsets, operate at a highly effective and efficient level, leverage the talents of every employee and remain committed to executing our vision – helping students THRIVE. During times of strained resources, new pressures and changing demands, evidence of the “right behaviors” will provide us the momentum we need to succeed.

Our behaviors must:

- Drive program and service development to attract and retain sophomore and above residents
- Serve the unique transition and community needs of our transfer students
- Retain more students throughout the year
- Produce meaningful and measurable contribution to the success of first year students
- Increase participation in our dining centers by all members of the OSU community

If you have any ideas that can better serve our customers and campus and/or use our resources more effectively, please share. The innovation showcase we had at our All Department Meeting shared just a few examples of UHDS staff members executing the “right behaviors,” and I am excited for the energy that is building here in UHDS!

Dan Larson
Executive Director, UHDS
WINTER TERM QUESTION:
“What is your favorite winter memory working on campus?”

As an RD, I enjoyed getting the residents together to watch The Golden Globes, The National Championship Football Game, The Super Bowl and The Oscars in that order. It’s just fun to have students around enjoying what I would consider U.S. traditions that a wide variety of students seem to enjoy as well. How long have you been at UHDS or at OSU? I have been in both UHDS and OSU for five years! Any other fun info you would like to share: I am a sucker for karaoke. I love to sing, usually in private, but every so often you may hear me softly singing a song around Central UHDS.

- Brandi Douglas, Interim Assistant Director, Diversity Initiatives and Programs

Two years OSU experienced a ‘snow-pocalypse’ which shut down the campus not once but twice that season. My favorite memory is seeing everyone in the UHDS team work together to support students through this time. In one hall, an RD coordinated student volunteers to keep snow off the walkway so a student in a wheelchair could go to the dining center. To me, this is the essence of community at Oregon State; we work together beyond the expectations of our job description to improve the student experience. How long I have been at OSU and UHDS: This is my third year working at OSU and UHDS.

Fun info I would like to share: On January 6, 2016, God blessed my wife and I with our third child, Benjamin Makanaakealoa Medeiros.

- Ben Medeiros, Assistant Director, Residential Education for Living-Learning Communities & Academic Initiatives

SPRING TERM QUESTION:
“What was the best book you read in the last year and why?”

Send your responses to Sherrie.godell@oregonstate.edu by April 15, 2016

Do you have a great question for your colleagues and coworkers? Send your entry for the Summer Term Newsletter Question to Sherrie at the address above.

UHDS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES:

Over 200,000 disposable to-go containers saved from the landfill since the program’s creation in Fall 2015. Thank you to everyone for making the Eco2go re-useable container program a success. We have added new exterior return locations at the Valley Library, Dixon Recreation Center, outside of Covell Hall and outside of the ALS building. Full details are available at http://uhds.oregonstate.edu/eco2go.

Food2You Pizza Delivery service hit the ground running at the start of Winter term. Year to date, sales totaled $150,000. Pasta entrees and sub sandwiches were added to the menu in January and February. Congratulations to the Food2You team.

SNAP purchases are now accepted on campus thanks to the work of an OSU/UHDS team led by Tara Sanders and Steve Hoelscher. This makes OSU one of the few college campuses in the nation to participate in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Staff Recognition and Achievements:

Weston Prisbrey, Student Conduct and Community Standards Graduate Teaching Assistant, was recently honored with two awards at upcoming conferences. He was awarded the Region V National Conference Scholarship for NASPA. Additionally, Weston was selected as one of two on-site graduate assistants as part of the conference committee at the Association of Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA) 2016 annual conference.

Welcome New Staff Members:

- Tracy Getz, Marketing & Communications Mgr, Central Office
- Jennifer Rouse, Marketing & Communications Mgr, Central Office
- Patricia Torres Becerra, Custodian
- Heather Stanley, Cook 2, Marketplace West
- Joel Monroe, Cook 2, Marketplace West
- Jennie Brault, Food Service Worker 3, Marketplace West
- Vincent Allen, Cook 1, McNary
- Angelo Santos, Cook 1, McNary
- Kimberly Leubbert, Cook 1, McNary

Congratulations:

New Assignments/Promotions

- John Moore, Food Service Coordinator
- Christy Chen, Cook 2
- Jennifer Lee, Food Service Worker 3
- Caitlin Yacas, Cook 2
- Lora Sylvester, Cook 1
- Loretta Taylor, Custodial Service Coordinator

Campus Updates:

Oregon Paid Sick Leave Law: Oregon has become the fourth state to mandate that employers provide their employees sick leave benefits. If you have staff members who have become eligible for paid sick leave please see your manager or Unit Leader for information and direction, or visit the training site here: http://live.oregonstate.edu/video/paid-sick-leave-training

Update on Cascade Housing Project:

Construction is underway at OSU Cascades in Bend! We will be providing housing and dining to the OSU Cascades community beginning next fall, and our residence hall and dining facility will both open before the start of Winter Term 2017. You can watch construction at http://webcam.oregonstate.edu/cascades/.

Submission Call Out:

The Spring edition of the UHDS department newsletter will be published the first week of May. Please send your contributions to sherrie.godell@oregonstate.edu by April 15. Thank you!