

# OCL TODAY

The official newsletter of UAA's On-Campus Living

On-Campus Living (OCL) is the partnership formed between the Department of Residence Life (DRL) and University Housing, Dining, & Conference Services (UHDCS). While DRL reports up through Student Affairs and UHDCS reports up through Administrative Services, the work we do is a true partnership and reliant on the other side. Together, we seek to provide a safe, comfortable, affordable, and educationally-focused space in which students can thrive both academically and personally while attending UAA.

## New Mattresses Coming to On-Campus Living

On-Campus Living has purchased new EnviroSpring mattresses for all of North Hall and Mac 1. The project will take place over the summer, and new residents moving in during the fall will be able to enjoy the nearly 300 new beds.

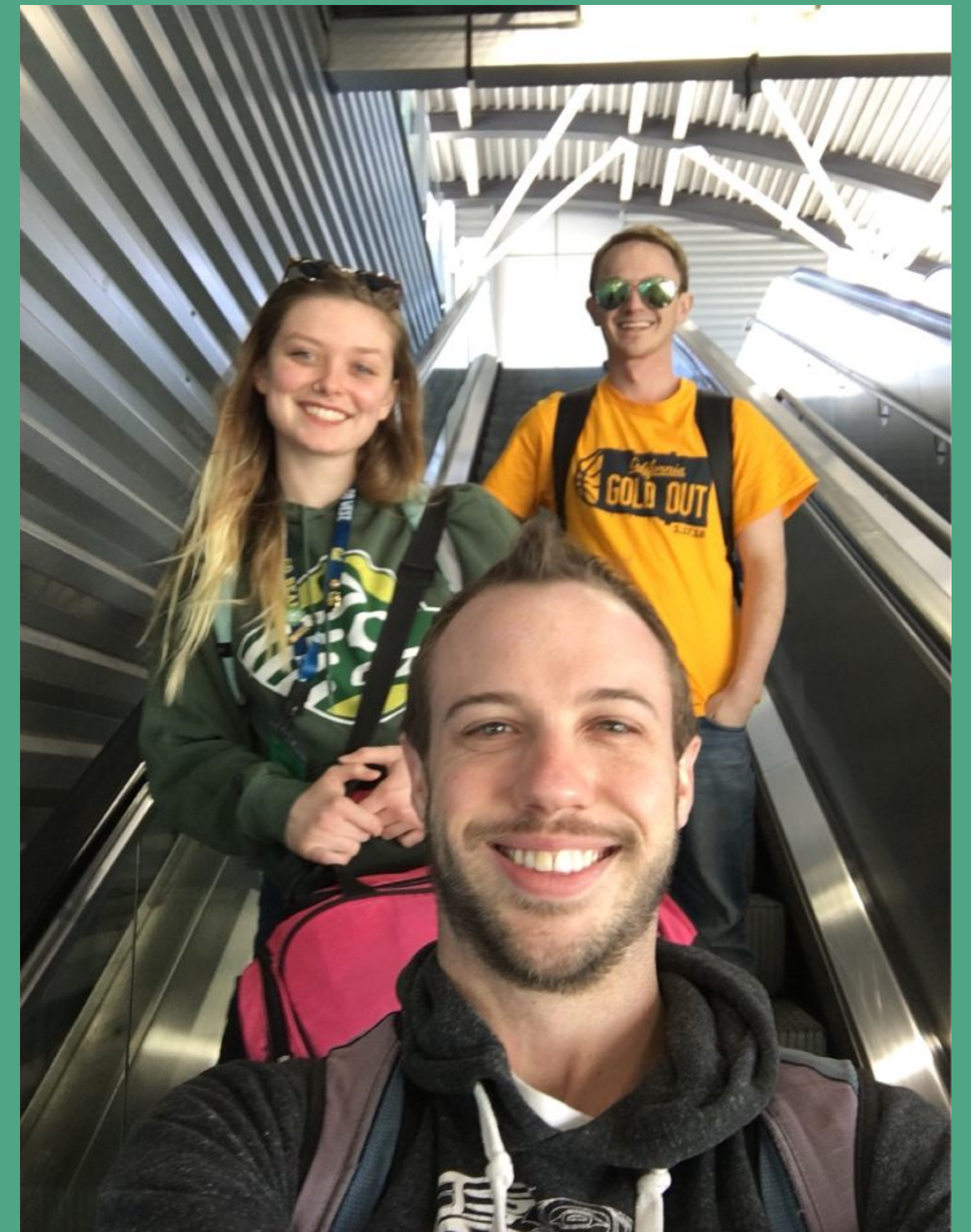
Designed to help reduce post-consumer waste, Somnum's EnviroSpring mattress is both durable and comfortable while boasting a 100% recyclable construction. The EnviroSpring's "dual-density" construction allows for both firm support and soft comfort by flipping the mattress from one side to the other. The EnviroSpring's unique, recyclable polymer/fiber core provides all of the comfort of a standard innerspring mattress, without adding weight from traditional steel innersprings.

The beauty of the EnviroSpring mattress is in its ability to be deconstructed after years of use and recycled into a brand new EnviroSpring mattress. We're very excited to introduce this mattress to the collegiate housing and sustainability decision makers.

## The Residence Hall Association: Giving A Voice To Residential Students

For some of our students the University of Alaska Anchorage is more than just a campus, it is home. This special relationship between students and their campus is coordinated by a group of professionals, but more importantly, it is governed by the students themselves. The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is a governing organization dedicated to enhancing the residential experience through advocacy and intentional programming. The structure of RHA includes an Executive Board, consisting of a five student board members and an advisor, as well as a General Assembly, consisting of student and staff representatives from each of the four residential communities.

RHA has advocated for a number of impactful improvements over the years, such as gender inclusive housing, residence hall lobby kitchens, improved dining hall options, concealed carry laws on campus, and much more! RHA also hosts a number of programs each year, including large, social programs put on by the Executive Board. In turn, the Executive Board and General Assembly fund resident and student staff member program initiatives submitted to them. Additionally, RHA provides funding for Residence Life staff members to purchase items meant to benefit the entire community in a meaningful way. The Common Space Renewal Fund has contributed significantly to the lounges, kitchens, and resources of the residential community.



RHA Advisor Ryan Hill snaps a photo with President Alexis Harvey and National Communications Coordinator Kris Morse during a regional business conference in Berkley, California. The trio attended the conference to vote on regional awards, and learn best practices and how to better serve students.



# RHA

*Residence Hall Association*

RHA is a fundamental part of the residential experience! To learn more about RHA or to contact the organization, please visit our website at <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/residence-life/rha/>

## Creating Strong Sense of Campus Safety and Belonging

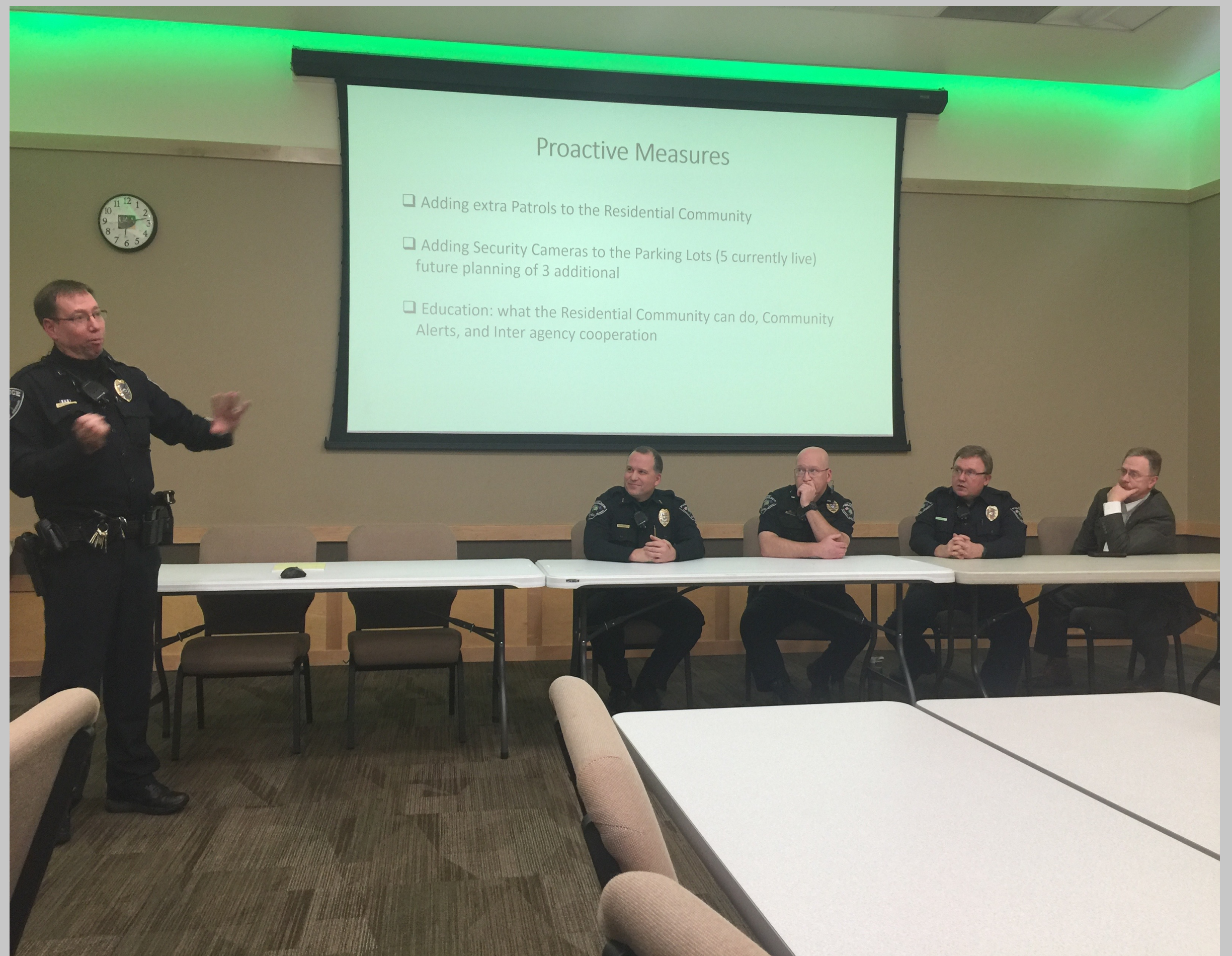
Residential student responses from the fall 2017 Quality of Life Survey suggest students living on campus feel both safe and welcome on the residential campus. This academic year nearly 96% of student respondents say they feel personally safe, and that their property is safe while living on campus. Nearly 93% say they feel welcome within the residential community.

We believe that one of the most important ingredients to this success is partnership. OCL partners with UAA's CARE team, University Police, Residence Hall Association, Campus Dining, New Student Orientation, the Dean of Students office, and a number of academic partners to create a safe and welcoming community.

On November 1st, 2017 UPD officers and UAA administrators took part in a safety town hall meeting in the Commons. Students in attendance asked questions about keeping vehicles safe, and University Police gave practical advice on securing belongings.

On February 16, 2017 UPD Officers, Anchorage Fire Department, and University Housing hosted a Safety Town Hall in East Hall. Students in attendance learned about fire safety, earthquake readiness, and campus emergency protocol.

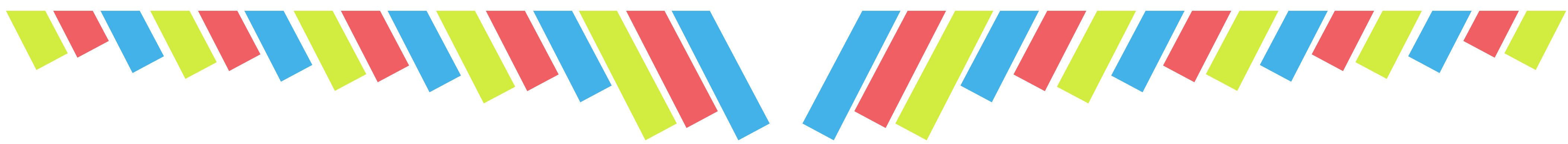
Continued conversations between students and first responders help create a sense of security on the Residential Campus, and give students valuable life skills in times of emergency.



UPD Officers and University Administrators discuss safety measures on Residential Campus during Nov. 1 Town Hall.



Anchorage Fire Department, Housing, and UPD discuss emergency preparedness during Feb. 16 event.

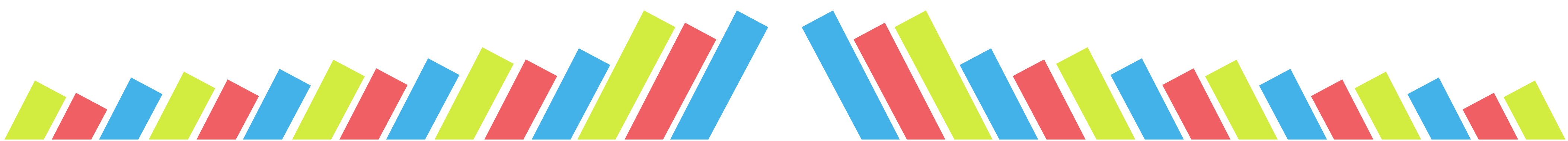


# Safe Zone Train the Trainer

Safe Zone is a training program that prepares university community members to advocate and educate on LGBTQ+ issues. As a trainer, you will be able to host training sessions for the community, increasing campus education around LGBTQ+ issues.

April 20th and 27th 12:00pm- 4:30pm

Spaces are limited: to RSVP email [uaa.oncampusliving@alaska.edu](mailto:uaa.oncampusliving@alaska.edu) letting us know you'll attend.



## Announcing UAA's Annual Drive-In Conference

The Department of Residence Life is partnering with Northwest Association of College and University Housing Officers to bring housing administrators from across Yukon and the Alaska region to UAA for a drive-in conference.

Date: May 18, 2018  
Time: 8:00am- 5:00pm



## Housing Assignments and Management at UAA is a Statewide Leader

UAA Housing has been utilizing Adirondack Solutions Inc. Software "The Housing Director" or THD to increase sustainability efforts within the Residential Community. Currently, OCL utilizes THD to manage occupancy, assignments, applications, cancellations, charges etc. The software pulls up to date student information from Banner, and provides an important lifeline for On-Campus Living staff to manage student information. Students are truly in control with THD, as it offers a self-service portal through UAOnline where students can apply for housing, request and connect with roommates, choose a dining plan, complete forms and more. In many ways, THD is at the core of our operations, and our staff is constantly looking for ways to best utilize the software to improve processes and convenience for students, as well as ways to improve sustainability by replacing paper processes with electronic forms.

This past fall, OCL staff implemented an online Check-in Form that students could complete before arriving for check-in in August, replacing a nine-page paper form that students used to complete upon arrival (a process we dreamed up in a Lean Six Sigma training last year). The new process was a hit – check-in was much smoother and quicker for students, and saved a whole lot of paper!

This February, UAA hosted a statewide THD Conference, with staff from Adirondack Solutions and Housing and Residence Life staff from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Valdez and Kenai. The conference lasted for two days, and allowed professionals to share ideas and best practices. Housing Assignments Manager, Camille Oliver, was able to present on the online check in form process she developed. Camille's efforts will help increase sustainability in housing practices across the state.



Pictured: Camille Oliver, Housing Assignments Manager, receiving the Bill Rose Memorial Award in 2017. Camille has helped make UAA a leader in housing operations through her paperless contract system.

## Housing Facilities, Maintenance, Operations Team Works All Hours to Keep Campus Safe

Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations (FMO) grounds crew, led by Byron Turner, have stayed busy this semester plowing snow from residential walkways. On nights that snowfall reaches two inches, Byron comes in at 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning to begin clearing the trails. FMO owns a Tool Cat and a plow truck which they use to clear the snow. Starting in March, FMO also scraped down parking lots in order to help spring break up. The process for scraping the parking lots is a delicate balance, and the grounds crew works diligently to ensure that students stay safe during the process. If the crew doesn't get it right, it could mean dangerous ice conditions for drivers, but the crew uses years of expertise to design a plan for removal that is safe and effective.



Pictured above: Byron Turner uses a Tool Cat to clear snow on a walkway.

Picture left: FMO plow truck starts early in the morning to clear paths for students.