

**Student Staff Member
of the Year Award:
Orion Meier
University of Evansville**



**GLACURH Regional Leadership
Conference 2017
University of Wisconsin -La Crosse**

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Fun Facts:

Orion is a senior biochemistry major!

Orion was secretary for the university's quidditch club!

Orion loves peach cobbler but heavily dislikes celery!

Orion does microbiology research with the university's biology department!

Orion has the best laugh! It sounds like a high pitched bark and lights up the whole room! If you weren't laughing at the joke, you were laughing at Orion's laugh!



Orion has a GPA of 3.90!

Orion is always extremely excited to see his residents!

Orion is from Chandler, Indiana!

Conference Experience:

NACURH 2017



Piecing Together the Residence Hall:

Orion has been a residential assistant (RA) since fall of 2016. He constantly strives to make sure policy is followed so that each of his residents can live their college life to the fullest and stay safe. He provides a friendly atmosphere for all of his residents, always making an effort to stop and talk to them. Orion plans floor events around their schedules, even if the time may not be the greatest for him, designs bulletin boards he knows his residents will enjoy and find helpful, and makes sure his residents know he's available if they need him. He always offers his assistance, whether it be during office hours or when he's off duty. This includes going out of his way to care for his staff by helping them with administrative work and program planning. Orion is an integral part of his staff and enjoys serving his team.



In Summer 2017, Orion served as lead summer assistant. Through this he not only served as a summer assistant, but took on the responsibility of immediate backup. As one of the only returning members of summer staff and one of the only ones on staff with experience in residence life, Orion would take initiative to help train the new members as they went along. He was always ready to drop whatever he was doing to help his fellow summer staff assistants. This led Orion to be the primary person for checking in and checking out for all conference, camp, and summer housing. He oversaw each of the residence halls and made sure each of them were in order throughout the summer. Part of this job also entailed Orion helping train the two new residential coordinators (RCs) for this year. Orion would offer his knowledge of how each of the buildings worked, help orient the RCs with their buildings, and advised them on their general responsibilities within the residence halls. He served as a liaison between the summer advisors and the rest of summer staff as well. It is because of Orion that everything ran smoothly over the summer.

With a new RC being hired for his building, Orion took it upon himself to help his supervisor adapt to the building. He walked through the building with her multiple times to help her get accustomed to its layout, informed her about various issues and problems that usually occur in the building, specified where maintenance issues that couldn't be fixed were in the building, when and how the building did administrative work, and the nature of what the RAs did for the building. Throughout the year, Orion would serve as his supervisor's shoulder to lean on, reminding her about emergency procedures, policy, administrative tasks that needed to be done, and discipline within the hall. He would always be there to answer her questions and would volunteer to lighten up her work load when he could. He even took over the majority of the building specific training for the two new RAs in his building.



Completing the Puzzle:

Orion, realizing that many of his residents didn't like eating alone, decided to schedule a daily hall dinner time. This way all his residents would know there is a set time that someone they know will be able to eat with them and keep them company. Orion knows his residents better as a result of his inclusive thinking and has improved the sense of community in the building.



There are multiple puzzles that Orion has set up in the basement of his building. He uses these as a community builder, constantly encouraging residents to join him in figuring out the puzzles. He then leaves them out in the basement, serving as a constant reminder to his residents of the connectivity within the hall.

Orion served as his hall's housing improvements representative in Spring 2017. Through this, he asked various residents in his building what advancements they'd like to see in the building and directly report those to the director of housing improvement. Orion made sure that the building was fully functioning and constantly looked for ways to benefit the community of the hall such as new furniture, new games, and the like.



As a delegate of the university's Summer Think Tank initiative, Orion served as a voice of residence life. He would offer opinions and give feedback for ways the university could improve through organizations and residential areas. He also was a part of the huge drive for the residence life's new student chosen theme. He helped voice the idea of "Purple and Proud," encouraging school spirit and integration between various parts of campus to support each other and take pride in the university. As a result more people wear purple, one of the university's school colors, and more people attend campus events.



Nowhere Near Puzzling Support:



Office of Residence Life

1800 Lincoln Avenue • Evansville, Indiana 47722
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October 6, 2017

To the GLACURH Board of Directors and CCs:

I am thrilled to include my recommendation letter for Orion Meier's nomination for the Student Staff Member Award. I have had the privilege to get to know Orion over the past five semesters in his role as a Resident Assistant (RA) in Hughes Hall and Summer Assistant in the Office of Residence Life at the University of Evansville (UE). Orion is one of our longest-running and most knowledgeable student staff members and I am incredibly pleased Orion is being nominated for the award!

During his long-running involvement within Residence Life, Orion has shown dedication and loyalty in almost everything he does. We have particularly small buildings and Hughes Hall only has four RA staff members, and with this comes particularly heavy duty expectations. So far, Orion has served roughly 2,100 hours of being on duty since August 2015, with an additional 760 hours of duty projected by the time he graduates this spring! If this does not demonstrate a dedication to your position, I don't know what else does!

As for his character, Orion is just an all-around wonderful person. He is funny and quirky, but also takes academics very seriously and role models what it means to be a successful student leader. Orion also stands out as one of the most professional RAs here at UE. His attention to detail allows him to excel during training, opening, and closings, arguably the most stressful and busiest times of the year. Most importantly, he cares about his residents and the building and does what he can every day to make Hughes Hall a better place.

Orion has also shown a willingness to challenge himself in his positions within our department. Last year, Orion intentionally focused on improving his creative approaches to areas such as bulletin boards and program marketing. He then took another step by applying and earning a leadership role within the Summer Assistant staff. This year, I have seen Orion develop and grow even further as he invited residents to nightly dinners in the cafeteria and is planning weekly game nights this month and movie nights next month. Because of this effort, he is especially in tune with his residents and an integral part of building community this semester.

Finally, Orion has shown a love and care for Hughes Hall that should not be overlooked. As one of the most die-hard "Hughesies" currently on campus, Orion has chosen to live in the oldest, least aesthetically pleasing building on campus, and the only residential hall without AC. Most non-Hughes students balk at the idea of even staying the night in Hughes, let alone dedicating three out of your four years to maintaining and caring for it!

Again, I am thrilled to nominate Orion Meier for the Student Staff Member Award! Please do not hesitate to get a hold of me if you have any questions!



Jackie Luedtke

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