

A summary of events and other activities of the Faculty Dean of Residential Commons (FDRC) for 2011-2012 are listed below. Each of the events brings students and faculty members together and contributes to one or more CLASS themes: professional development, personal development, leadership development, media and the arts, communiversity. Descriptions of the events including approximate attendance numbers are below the theme lists. The FDRC facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faculty-Dean-of-Residential-Commons-FDRC/152976194741640?v=wall>) contains other information relating to these events.

Quick List of Events co-Organized by Faculty Dean of Residential Commons:

- Career/Life Advice in Blitman (1)
- German-speaking lunch (3)
- Student/Faculty lunches (12)
- The Dean's Pockets (3)
- Mt Hadley Hike (1)
- EMPAC: Meet the Performer (1)
- International Thanksgiving Dinner (1)
- Hockey Night (1)
- ECAV Sports Night (2)
- Ultimate Frisbee (1)

Activities supported by Faculty Dean of Residential Commons:

- Participated in Louis Trzepacz's TED Talk on Oct 11 in Norris.
- Promoted and participated in Union After Dark
- Plan to promote and participate in Armory After Dark (May 4)
- Member of intramural basketball team with 6 students and one staff member
- Currently faculty liaison for Track and Field
- Currently faculty liaison for Basketball
- Participated in pick-up basketball with young people from the local community

Event Descriptions in Chronological Order

Fall 2011

German-Speaking Lunch.

Synopsis: Give students the opportunity to keep their high school German skills alive.

When: Aug 30, 2011.

Who: 5 faculty

1 staff

Possible improvements: Invite students. It appears there would be enough interest.

Student/Faculty Lunches in Sage Dining Hall (organized with Todd Schill).

Synopsis: Give students the opportunity to get to know a few faculty and staff members personally, and a good free meal.

When: 6 Thursdays throughout the Fall 2011 semester.

Who: 12 faculty from all schools.

24 students.

Todd Schill.

Possible improvements:

The Dean's Pockets (organized with Randi Mogul).

Synopsis: Focus on breaking social barriers between students and faculty through lunch and games.

When: Sept 23, 2011.

Who: 4 faculty

About 25 students

3 public safety officers, including Frank Sorriento.

5 Res Life staff.

Possible improvements: Advertise with simple signs just outside the Union pointing people to the Game Room and saying "Free food."

Hadley Hike (organized with Vincent Meunier and Ziv Kennen).

Synopsis: Two-hour hike of moderate difficulty on Mount Hadley, north of Saratoga. After the hike, we stopped in a café for coffee and treats.

When: Oct 1, 2011.

Who: 6 faculty + 2 significant others

10 undergrad students, 1 grad student

2 res life staff

Possible improvements: Nothing really. It all went quite well. Uncommon Grounds in Saratoga Springs was a bit crowded.

German-Speaking Lunch.

Synopsis: Give students the opportunity to keep their high school German skills alive.

When: Oct 4, 2011.

Who: 1 faculty

1 student

Possible improvements: Don't hold this event after work.

EMPAC: Meet the Performer: Shivalingappa (organized with Liz Slagus).

Synopsis: Faculty and students discuss about traditional and modern East Indian dancing, then attend a performance of Namasya and Swayambhu by Shantala Shivalingappa. Then on Oct 18, 6 faculty and 24 students attend a reception and dinner for the artists.

When: Oct 15, 18 2011.

Who: 6 faculty.

About 40 students.

1 EMPAC staff (Liz Slagus).

Possible improvements: Liz Slagus is part time. Since my schedule is full and Liz Slagus' is part time, our communication bandwidth was too low. I need to work with people who are full time. Better communication with students: students didn't know they were supposed to meet faculty prior to the show. Not a single student came to the dinner/reception for the artists.

The Dean's Pockets (organized with Robin Foster).

Synopsis: Focus on breaking social barriers between students and faculty through lunch and pool.

When: Oct 28, 2011.

Who: 8 faculty.
About 20 students.
One public safety officer.
4 Res Life staff.

Possible improvements: Well, the games I bought for this event were no longer in the storage closet in Mothers. A couple students asked where the games were? I will likely lose them for the next Dean's Pockets.

Thanksgiving Dinner at the Alumni House (organized with Louis Trzepacz).

Synopsis: A traditional Thanksgiving dinner for students and faculty who don't know the tradition well. Discuss similar traditions in home countries.

When: Nov 8, 2011.

Who: 6 Faculty plus 4 spouses and 4 children.

12 grad and undergrad students

1 residence life staff - Louis

Possible improvements: The chocolate cake was not too good. Choose a different desert next time.

EMPAC: Behind the Scenes: Dionysia (organized with Liz Slagus).

Synopsis: Faculty and students meet the Poor Dog Group before their show on Nov 11. During this time, students explain to faculty what they learned about the Poor Dog Group's performance methods that they learned during a performance workshop on Nov 5..

CANCELLED

Hockey Night (organized with Sachi Ena).

Synopsis: Student/faculty mixer.

When: Nov 15, 2011.

Who: 20 Faculty with significant others.

8 students.

Possible improvements: I should have more students than faculty. Somehow, I have to reach out personally to them. With faculty and students, it seems that a personal touch is needed. Also, I think I should focus on doing this by departments of schools. Having a common background may help increase participation.

German-Speaking Lunch.

Synopsis: Give students the opportunity to keep their high school German skills alive.

When: Nov 29, 2011.

Who: 5 faculty (including family members)

2 students

2 staff

Possible improvements:

Student/Faculty Sports Night (organized with Amy Pettengill and Sachi Ena).

Synopsis: Badminton, basketball, frisbee, and soccer were played in the practice gym of ECAV.

When: Dec 9, 2011.

Who: 5 Faculty.

20 undergraduates students.

5 graduate students.

3 residence life staff.

1 athletic staff

Possible improvements: Spend more time cajoling faculty to participate. Try Volleyball.

Spring 2012

Student/Faculty Sports Night (organized with Louis Trzepacz and Sachi Ena).

Synopsis: Volleyball in the practice gym of ECAV.

When: Jan 27, 2012.

Who: 3 Faculty.

15 undergraduates students.

1 graduate students.

3 residence life staff.

Possible improvements: Spend more time engaging faculty. There was a last-minute time delay of 30 minutes, but the delay was pick-up basketball. We had the gym reserved, so this should not have been allowed.

Student/Faculty Lunches in Sage Dining Hall (organized with Todd Schill).

Synopsis: Give students the opportunity to get to know a few faculty and staff members personally, and a good free meal.

When: 3 Tuesdays and 3 Thursdays throughout the semester.

Who: 12 faculty from all schools invited.

24 students invited.

Todd Schill and me.

Possible improvements: A few faculty members and students cancel, but I don't think there is anything we need to do differently.

The Dean's Pockets (organized with Randi Mogul).

Synopsis: Focus on breaking social barriers between students and faculty through lunch and pool.

When: March 8, 2012.

Who: 2 faculty.

2 students.

3 public safety officers.

4 Res Life staff.

Possible improvements: This was by far the worst turn out ever for this event. Two things combined to reduce attendance. First, the weather was fantastic. Second, my reminder email to the faculty (sent from my google mail account) was stopped by RPI's email spam filter, so it did not reach the faculty. Things that might help are to publish in RPI reddit, to use sandwich boards at the entrances of the Union, and to put posters on the wall and windows of the Union directing people to the game room. Other forms of advertising were used (Poly, concerto, morning mail, flyer distribution), but they were not very helpful.

Career Advice in Blitman (organized with Shannon Hitchcock).

Synopsis: To give students new perspectives on tough career and life choices that lie ahead.

When: March 20, 2011.

Who: 6 faculty (Berman, Willemain, Abouzed, Hughes, Ozisik, and me)

About 20 students,

1 Res Life staff.

Possible improvements: Nothing. Feedback was fantastic.

Faculty/Student Mixer: Ultimate Frisbee (organized with Louis Trzepacz and Sachi Ena).

Synopsis: Focus on breaking social barriers between students and faculty through ultimate frisbee.

When: March 8, 2012.

Who: 3 faculty: Bystroff, Schwank, me.

About 15 students.

1 Athletics staff

2 Res Life staff.

Possible improvements: