



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Journal Board is proud to bring you the Spring 2023 issue of *The Journal of College and University Student Housing*. While this was not a special theme issue, a theme emerged nonetheless—all the articles focus on outcomes and supports for diverse populations of students. We also have two manuscripts in this issue that received support from ACUHO-I: one (Volk et al.) was supported by an ACUHO-I Foundation grant, and the other (Taub et al.) was endorsed by ACUHO-I's Research Committee.

Each manuscript in this issue ends by outlining important implications for research and practice in our field; as always, we encourage you to read and reflect on the contents of this volume as we all process student needs and trends in housing accommodations. Think about the contents, share the information with others, and see where the conversation leads.

Deborah J. Taub, R. Bradley Johnson, Renae Barber, and Mack Ottens start off this issue with a follow-up on a study published by Taub and colleagues in 2016 about implementing gender-inclusive housing, which included consideration of how many campuses offer GIH, the locations and types of institutions offering this option, the types of housing facilities being used, barriers campuses have encountered, and GIH policies that have been developed. The second article, authored by Charlie Potts, explores the experiences of 28 second- and third-year undergraduate men living in on-campus housing to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected masculinity (generally in positive ways) and the socialization of college men. The findings of this study provide important insights into how the pandemic has served as a catalyst for evolving definitions of masculinity and gender expectations in residential settings on campus. Next, Fred Volk, Joshua Travis Brown, Daniel J. Gibson, and Joseph M. Kush add to the body of research by examining the role of residence hall architecture, roommate similarity, and academic performance in room change requests. The results of their study indicate that residence hall architecture has important effects on students' college experience, which can influence the development of social networks and form the context through which personal characteristics and roommate differences affect interpersonal interactions. The fourth manuscript was authored by Erik M. Hines, James L. Moore, III, Dakota W. Cintron, Paul Singleton, II, Monique Golden, Edward C. Fletcher, Jr., Jerrod A. Henderson, Tyron Slack, W. Corey Moore, David Ouimette, Michael Reid, Jr., and Donna Y. Ford. This

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article describes the creation of Jamii House, a residential learning community charged with improving the graduation rates of Black males at a research-intensive university in the northeastern U.S. Findings from this study demonstrate effective components of an LLC for Black males that can improve persistence, retention, and graduation rates and provide support and programming for a transformative collegiate experience for Black males. Finally, Angela L. Curl, Barbra Brottman, and Miranda C. Kunkel's mixed methods case study wraps up this issue, by examining the benefits and challenges of having an emotional support animal (ESA) while living in campus housing, from the perspective of the animals' owners and their roommates. The findings of this study can help students who are debating whether to obtain an ESA and whether to bring their ESA with them to college, and it provides an informative table that summarizes barriers and logistical considerations for students considering having an ESA in their residence hall.

As in every issue, we owe many thanks to the volunteers and devoted staff who contribute to the process of publishing *The Journal of College and University Student Housing*. Our associate editors carefully guide and mold the process, overseeing teams of talented and dedicated reviewers. Camille Perlman in the ACUHO-I Central Office provides guidance and support for our Board and volunteers and is an invaluable resource for all of us. Our copy editor for this issue (and many past issues), Christine Freeman, carefully, quickly, and professionally handles this important step towards publication. Ellen Gray shared her talents as the graphic designer for this issue. Finally, the reviewers provided thoughtful and insightful discussion questions for each article in this issue. I am confident there is something useful here for everyone who reads it. Enjoy the articles, utilize the discussion questions, and be thoughtful about how you can use and apply the information you learn from these pages.

Sarah Gordon, Editor

The Journal of College and University Student Housing

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