



THE
REAL
WORLD

Lawson Hall

Building Block Council of the Year

2008-2009

Introduction:

This is the true story... of seven strangers... picked to live in a house...work together and have their lives changed... to find out what happens... when people stop being polite... and start getting real... *The Real World*.

Meet the Cast:
(Structure/Make-up of Hall Council)

- Abby Ford President
- Lisa Lippe..... Vice President
- Courtney Klaus Treasurer
- Dominique Dixon Secretary
- Rachel Blisset..... RHA Rep
- Maggie Berry..... Recognition Chair
- Cherelle Gay IM Chair



Pictured from left to right from back to front: Lisa Lippe, Cherelle Gay, Maggie Berry, Courtney Klaus, Dominique Dixon, Abby Ford
Not pictured: Rachel Blisset

Special Collaborations with seven more Strangers:

3rd RA Karli Waters
4th RA Stevi Dillenburg
5th RA Claire Burns
6th RA Jennifer Brnusak
7th RA Abby Latek
8th RA Randi Rice
9th RA Katie Kubski

Producers:

Temetria Hargett..... Advisor
Katie Kubski RA Liaison
Stevi Dillenburg RA Liaison

Paparazzi:

The residents..... They're always watching!

They all move into their MTV house...



You think you know but you have no idea...

Opening the building in August was a major challenge for our three executive board members, especially since the building was still under construction and two of those execs had not served on a hall council before. Once the positions were finally filled late August, it was quickly determined that personalities didn't mesh well and levels of commitment were drastically different. The group struggled until November when two members of the executive board stepped down from their position. Thinking the problem was solved, one exec moved to Greek Court, and another withdrew at semester. So... we started with 3 execs, gained 7, lost 2, lost 2 more, gained 2, lost 1 to get the group of execs we have now. Changes within the executive board certainly affected our ability to be productive, stay focused, and plan appropriately throughout the year.



1st Semester Weaknesses:

Starting with only 3 members
RHA Representative Vacancy
Poor Focus
Publicity Chair Vacancy
Personality challenges
Poor Business Meeting Attendance
Slow start with programming ideas
Lack of advertisement

Un-Scripted:
(Goals)

1. **Have fun and interesting programs - We've met this goal! Our programs are listed in the next section...**
2. **Collaborate with other buildings on campus -We've worked with the South Quad buildings for our Halloween program, with Thomas and Taylor Halls for Sex in the Dark programs, and with other various buildings on campus. We've partnered with office buildings as well, including the HERC, Counseling Center, and Student Community Service Office.**
3. **Send representatives to conferences - We sent two residents to GLACURH and two residents to IRHA. The programs they brought were amazing!**
4. **Address resident issues - We've included resident concerns in business meetings including parking on campus, a Forum on Noise, building temperature, and pest control for lady bugs!**
5. **Participate in Homecoming – we won first place, res hall division!**
6. **Have fun! – Our experience has been great and sometimes we get off track... we use “cha-cha” as our code word to catch ourselves when we're getting off track.**

Personal Achievements:

Courtney learned to cupid shuffle
Lisa stepped up and became involved in the community
Abby has had a successful president experience as a freshmen
Maggie learned to pop, lock and drop it!
Rachel is really quiet normally but the experience helped her open up
Dominique was the MC for so you think your RA can dance
Cherelle celebrated her b-day with the exec board, her friends!

We're not camera shy:
(Favorite Programs)

- 🌿 **Homecoming** – we showed our school spirit and Lawson pride by participating in the walking float, window decorating, door decorating, floor decorating, and selling t-shirts. We won 1st place, Residence Hall division!
- 🌿 **So you think your RA can dance** – we had the most attendance ever for a program with over 100 people. It showed that the RAs can be fun and silly and helped break down the barrier between staff and residents.
- 🌿 **Sleepover** – we watched movies in the basement, providing weekend entertainment. It was truly a girls' night in!
- 🌿 **Murder Mystery** – our hall director was murdered! The residents saw the caution tape and chalk outline in Temetria's office and interrogated each RA to find out the culprit... Abby Latek!
- 🌿 **Improv Night** – this was one of our IRHA programs. It was a fun social program that allowed participants to step outside their shell to act out "scenes" very similar to what you'd see on "Who's Line is it Anyway?" We laughed so much!



(Favorite Programs continued...)

- **Craft Night – practice for Siblings’ Weekend, residents were able to make picture frames with craft sticks and other decorative materials to commemorate their year in Lawson Hall.**
- **RHA Spring Retreat participation – especially because of our transitions with so many different exec members, the retreat helped bond the new exec board and refocus for the spring semester. The community service aspect was the best part!**
- **Beyond Words – a diversity program, we were pleased to present knowledge on Chinese Adoption rates for baby girls because we are an all-female hall. We certainly learned from making the experience for the exhibit.**
- **Rapid Fire – not a stand-alone program, we did hot seat in the beginning of a business meeting to increase attendance. It worked and we laughed a lot!**
- **Campus Cleanup – planned for April 4th as a community service event**
- **Genetics of Race Presentation – planned for April 8th in collaboration with the Social Justice and Diversity Committee.**
- **This I Believe – an inspirational program presented by one of our GLACURH attendees. It helped motivate our residents to end the semester strong.**



Action!
(Improvements)

Once the exec board was finally established in January, we noticed a few distinct improvements we made:

Made an effort to open communication between execs
Brainstormed more for more program ideas
We work off each other's strengths – step up and fill in when possible, cooperate
Stay committed to ideas presented – follow through

Communication was much easier within the group because we finally had a group of people who enjoyed hall council and being a part of the exec board. We were able to establish friendships with one another and spend time together outside of the hall council role. Because we liked each other even when the cameras were off, cooperation was much easier and we were willing to help each other in our respective positions. Although we had programming ideas last semester, we got the hang of it and realized what was needed to make a good program, especially after seeing the success of So you Think your RA can Dance. With the help of our RA Liaisons, we developed the Murder Mystery which was also a great success. Brainstorming sessions for ways to engage residents were good and we followed through. Attendance has varied... we've had some business meetings with only 2 residents and our highest attended program had over 100 people!



2nd Semester Strengths:

Comfortable with each other (established friendships)
More open-minded with ideas
Good communication
Better programming ideas
Able to have fun established a sisterhood
Cooperation with publicity
RHA retreat, bonding in the spring
Suggestion Box

Real World Learning: (Academic Initiatives)

To encourage academics within Lawson, we had several initiatives in place:

- Each RA had an academic initiative,
- RAs gave out study bucks when they were on rounds; prizes funded by Hall Council, &
- Lawson Ladies – our SSA, Rachel, sponsored this initiative to recognize our residents for academics, community service, and any other great thing they wanted to share.
- Study tables are offered 6-8pm Sunday-Thursday as a quiet place for residents

The All Stars: (Recognition)

Floor of the Month...
August/ September – 9th
October – 4th
November – 8th
December/ January – 3rd
February – 7th

Lawson Lady Day – we recognized our residents for living in Lawson. Each resident got a Lawson Hall ink pin and we filled our lobby and academic buildings with signs and flyers letting them know that they're the best on campus!

**Louise's Retirement
President OTM
Advisor OTM
Students OTM
Lawson Spirit Days**

Confessionals:

(Why do you love hall council/ the exec board?)

“It's a way to get involved and get to know people” – Abby

“We make friendships that will last a lifetime” – Maggie

“We've made plans to hang out once a month” – Lisa

“Programming offers a way to get away from the stresses of homework and tests” – Rachel

“Because we love to cha-cha!” – Dominique

We are a unified team and we work well together – Cherelle

“I feel comfortable with everyone here and these are people I can talk to personally” –
Courtney

End Credits... Fin
(Letter of Support)

March 23, 2009

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for Lawson Inc. because these ladies have definitely worked hard this year. The challenges they mentioned were real! I am so pleased to see how they have progressed and made the position fun. The Lawson Executive board is a connected group of ladies and they manage to make time for each other outside of their duties to the hall, even celebrating one of our exec's birthdays together! I think it says a lot that they did not lose their motivation even if there were only a few people in attendance for some business meetings and even through the many exec board member transitions. They strove to tackle the problems head-on and continued to try even harder than before!

They've definitely unified as a team and because of that we've been better able to represent and serve the Lawson community. Student issues are definitely a concern and we are working on ways to continue addressing those concerns. Our publicity efforts have definitely improved, helping us realize better attendance, but we know we can reach more residents with continued efforts. The Lawson executive board has definitely made me proud and I hope they are bestowed the honor of Building Block Council of the Year.

Sincerely,

Temetria Hargett

Big Spenders: (Budget)

LAWSON HALL COUNCIL BUDGET 2008-2009

<i>Remainder From 2007-2008</i>	\$3,372.90
<i>2008-2009 Activity Fees</i>	\$3,260.00
<i>Current Budget Maximum</i>	\$6,632.90

	BUDGETED	SPENT	REMAINING	
Programming	\$1,103.00	\$535.04	\$567.96	
Hall Improvements	\$319.13	-\$86.91	\$406.04	
Donations	\$200.00	\$136.00	\$64.00	
Recognition	\$150.00	\$67.56	\$82.44	
Office Supplies & Desk Money	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	
Opening 2008-2009	\$1,000.00	\$514.61	\$485.39	
Executive Board Discretion	\$200.00	\$40.00	\$160.00	
Hall Council Reserve for Fall 2009	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
2 (N/A)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3 (KARLI)	\$230.11	\$26.94	\$203.17	
4 (STEVI)	\$230.11	-\$13.86	\$243.97	
5 (CLAIRE)	\$230.11	\$9.32	\$220.79	
6 (JENNIFER)	\$230.11	\$111.51	\$118.60	
7 (ABBY)	\$230.11	\$55.61	\$174.50	
8 (RANDI)	\$230.11	-\$35.89	\$266.00	
9 (KATIE)	\$230.11	\$55.38	\$174.73	
SSA (Rachel)	\$150.00	\$8.75	\$141.25	
Homecoming	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	
Study bucks/Academics	\$0.00	-\$190.13	\$190.13	
d	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
e	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
f	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
g	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
h	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
i	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL BUDGET =	\$6,632.90			
TOTAL SPENT =		\$2,133.93		
TOTAL REMAINING =			\$4,498.97	
TOTAL REMAINING (Double Check) =			\$4,498.97	= Checkbook Balance