From the Director...

Dear River Crossing Residents:

Nice temperatures are finally here. At least, we can finally see the grass. **I hope you all had a great year living in Housing** and that you found some new friends, had some great classes, and learned some fascinating stuff in classes or from your experiences on campus. **I also want to congratulate our graduates.** It is my goal to see every one of our residents leave with a degree. So, there are several of you leaving housing this summer with bachelors and masters degrees that I have known for three years. I’m very proud of you. I know it was hard work and you have earned some rest and fun in the sun this summer. Take advantage of it!

For those of you coming back next fall or staying with us this summer...more is coming! **We have a lot of great plans in the works for you** and next year’s housing experience will be just as dynamic and exciting as this year.

Best wishes,

Paul
A couple years back I was asked a question that I am sure almost every college student has had to answer to: What are you majoring in? The first time I was asked this, my answer was, Biological Sciences. I always thought I was going to go to dental school, and one day become an orthodontist, of that I was sure. I had it all planned out, or so I thought. Where I would go after IU South Bend, what I would do after dental school, little did I know… I hated science and everything related to chemical equations and balancing electrons. I realized I didn’t want to spend part of my life in a lab. For some students, their comfort zone is working in a lab. For me it’s working with people.

After my first semester at IU-South Bend I made my first and most drastic change of majors (of course out of three total that I would have made before finalizing my career path). I decided I wanted to become a Math Teacher. After a long and painful battle with Calculus, I realized that the time for my second change in majors had arrived. I wouldn’t say that this was easy for me. Throughout my Education major, I really was working with other students to critically analyze novels, studying literary theory through which one social controversy, sions with other of race, and most importantly, working with people. This time I stuck around for a while with English Education. Something happened along the way though. In the Fall of 2011, I became a Resident Assistant for River Crossing Campus Housing. As cliché as this may sound, the R.A. experience completely changed my life forever. Like you are already probably expecting, I changed my major a third time, only that this time things were different. I changed majors this Spring 2013—my last semester. They say third time is the charm though, and so was the case for me.

I will be graduating this May with my Bachelors of Arts in English and a Creative Writing Minor. I have to admit that taking 15 English credit hours ranging from the 200 to 400 level in order to finish by this May was not an easy task. I am honored, happy, and proud to say though that my experience as a Resident Assistant was the cause of my change in major. A long journey indeed, but well worth it. Like I once heard at least 2 other professionals say, I realized that I was enjoying my job more than my classes. After meeting with our Director of Housing & Residence Life Paul Krikau, I learned about a career that I had never before heard of: Higher Education.

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Thanks to all the great staff members in our housing team and the new knowledge I had acquired, I decided that higher education was where I wanted to be. Soon after, Paul began helping me prepare for the journey of my new goals. I am happy to say that this coming Fall 2013, I will begin the Masters Degree program in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education at Ball State University and will be working through a graduate assistantship as an Assistant Residence Hall Director. Living in housing, and not simply living, but working for Housing and Residence Life, will without a doubt be one of my most memorable experiences of my undergrad career. It was thanks to my job as an R.A. that I realized where my heart was and decided that I wanted to continue on this career path. I realized how important housing and residence life programs are. As an R.A. I felt the impact that I had on my residents, in working to help students living on campus succeed academically and in their leadership development. I once read a quote from a blog called PostSecret, which anonymously publishes secrets sent through post cards, that read: “The only reason I’m alive today is because my R.A. asked me at just the right moment, ‘Are you okay?’” That quote summarizes in a nutshell how much being an R.A. means to me. It is more than a position where you get your room paid for, it is a position where one has the opportunity to change lives.

“So what… Why should I care about some random guy’s story?” you might be thinking. To that I answer, you shouldn’t. **What you should care about is to know that if I can do it, than so can you.** There’s nothing special about me. I am just like any other college student. I changed my major three times, I withdrew from classes, I fell hard to the floor at times, I procrastinated, I attempted to pull all-nighters, but the keyword here and the take away is persistence. Always remember that the power to accomplish something, anything, is in you and only you. Don’t give up after the first try. Through these words, I’m not looking for recognition of any sort. In fact, I am actually honored and very happy to say that these accomplishments are not all mine. I am here thanks to the great support first from my parents & family, and after them, the amazing support from the many services Indiana University South Bend has to offer. And so I leave you with this: **don’t ever give up on your dreams.** Don’t get discouraged. Some doors of opportunity might close, but I guarantee you that others will open. Never be scared to go to your R.A. We are just college students very similar to you. We’re not superheroes, although I can assure you that at times we like to believe we are. But seriously, your R.A. can help you find an answer and even if they don’t know it, they will ask for you. And always persist!! Persist on your goals. Hard times will come. I wish I could say otherwise, but unfortunately life happens, and some long journeys wont be avoidable. The important thing though is to never give up. Work hard towards your goals and it will pay off. And finally have fun and make smart choices:

“**To find what you seek in the road of life, the best proverb of all is that which says: ‘Leave no stone unturned.’**

-Edward Bulwer Lytton

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**Mail Forwarding**

Don’t forget to forward your mail when you leave for the summer....

- Come to the front desk to pick up a change of address form

or

- Go to the USPS webpage: [https://www.usps.com/manage/forward-mail.htm#2](https://www.usps.com/manage/forward-mail.htm#2)

**Have a Great Summer!**