

ANDREW BELL

***RESIDENT ASSISTANT
OF THE YEAR
MARLATT FALL
STARDATE: 2002-2003***

***MISSION: TO BOLDLY GO
WHERE NO RA HAS GONE
BEFORE***

OF THE YEAR – RESIDENT ASSISTANT: ANDREW BELL

One of the most important things that a Resident Assistant can do is to set up an environment in which learning, socializing, and an overall sense of community can take place. One of these environments exists on the second floor of Marlatt Hall. The main reason that this has taken place is because of Andrew Bell, the senior RA on second floor. Andrew has gone above and beyond the duties of an RA. He has been a model not only as a resident, but as a leader on campus. Throughout the year he has unselfishly dedicated himself to making this a great year for all that have been around him. This is why Andrew Bell deserves to be named “Resident Assistant of the Year”.

CAPTAINS LOG: PROGRAMMING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Interacting with residents and developing an interconnected community is one of the most important duties that a Resident Assistant can do. Andrew started to instill a sense of community on second floor with **move in weekend**. He met with the floor leaders (floor president, Intramural chair, and various other floor leaders) to develop a game plan for the year, including such things as: getting people off their computers and participating in events, winning the newly developed Marlatt Floor Wars, and bringing everyone together as a community.

Andrew first set up the **Study Buddy Sign up sheet** to get people to take advantage of being on an Engineering academic cluster floor. The sign up sheet enabled residents to meet others on the floor who were taking the same classes. This led to a more communicative and social floor by bringing people out of their rooms and doing homework together. On one of the poles in the lobby, Andrew put up butcher block paper and left the simple question: **What would you like to do this year?** Everyone responded by writing their hobbies to see if anyone else did the same. Numerous items were brought up such as contact sports, computer games, and card games. This allowed everyone to once again to get their feelers out and find out what life in the residence hall could offer them. This was just the beginning of a wonderful community in which people could prosper.

The Marlatt HGB’s first big event was the **Welcome Back Barbeque**, in which Andrew and other floor leaders gathered around 50 people from the floor to take part in the long standing Marlatt Hall tradition of walking over to West and serenading the women of West Hall. The group then returned with West and started the barbeque, where the Resident Assistants of Marlatt served food to a tremendously long line of residents. During the duration of the barbeque Andrew stood out, by running constantly, serving food, and getting more food for the ever growing line. Andrew was one of the few RA’s that served for the entire duration of the barbeque. He then helped with the clean up. This showed exactly the dedication Andrew had for the year to come.

To get the word out about upcoming activities such as HGB events and intramurals, Andrew set up a **listserv** for the floor to make it easier to distribute information on events increasing the communication between residents. The listserv really stood out when the Marlatt HGB started **Marlatt Floor Wars**. Andrew set a goal for the floor to win the Marlatt Floor Wars, so he always put forth his best effort to get

residents to participate for points. One such event was Aaron Kennedy's challenge to try to raise money for the **Multiple Sclerosis 150 bike race**. Andrew thought of collecting pocket change from members of the floor. By doing this, the floor was able to raise a substantial amount of money for the MS 150. Another such event happened when Marlatt and Moore's philanthropy was to restock the **Flint Hills Breadbasket**. Money was raised by collecting pocket change, and in total over \$65 was raised to go buy canned food. The money collected bought over 100 pounds of food for donation for the Breadbasket.

The Marlatt Floor Wars also put forth events such as the **photo scavenger hunt**. During the photo scavenger hunt, the floor president asked everyone through the listserv what times would work best to take pictures of the sites across campus and Manhattan. When the times were decided, Andrew rounded all the floor residents together to get the most points possible. He was the main reason that second floor had so much participation and ended up winning. The event wound up being a great way for residents to meet with others on the floor and to find the important sites at and around Kansas State University. This event was so successful and fun that Andrew set up a program based upon it.

During the long Labor Day weekend, Andrew teamed up with Kim Osenga from second floor Marlatt's sister floor second floor West, to make a **photo scavenger hunt** that was based on campus. The scavenger hunt was very successful. Upwards of 30 people participated despite several people having gone home for the holiday weekend. Participants were formed into two groups and sent out with digital cameras to find the buildings based on cryptic descriptions of what the buildings housed or what department was housed in the building. This was a great way for the sibling Marlatt and West floors to get together and meet.

Another couple of events that Andrew put together to bring people together were the **"HALO: Combat Evolved" tournaments**. HALO is a game for the X-box console, of which numerous people on the floor own. Andrew thought that it would be advantageous to use the networking capabilities of the X-box consoles and hook them together so that multiple people could play at one time. The first HALO tournament was held during the Labor Day holiday. Four X-boxes were connected together so that 16 people could play at one time. The event attracted people from Haymaker Hall, and the play that ensued, lasted for hours. A fun time was had by all that participated. Seeing how successful the first HALO tournament was, Andrew decided to make a larger tournament open to more people. The second HALO tournament attracted many more people. To make this a huge event, he invited several of his HALO buddies from off campus as well as anyone from the other residence halls that would like to play. Several people from Marlatt and Haymaker Halls tried their skills to proclaim themselves HALO champion. On that Saturday, seven televisions and seven X-boxes, all were gathered and scheduled for use by Andrew.

Three X-boxes were set aside for beginners. The others were set up for the more advanced players. Points were awarded for kills, assists and points taken away for deaths. The tournament lasted from 1 p.m. to about 11 p.m. and consisted of way too much fragging for any sane person. In the end, the tournament was called a draw because there was just too much going on to crown one person HALO champion. It was a huge success, because of all the involvement. Relationships were kindled because of a common interest in a video game.

This interest in HALO transferred to the occurrence of **HALO nights** within the floor. Andrew decided since everyone loved the tournaments, there should be more HALO playing. As a result playing HALO Monday nights after staff meetings became a constant throughout the year. The Monday nights became not enough, and more nights were scheduled to take advantage of the love for the game that ensued. This is just an example of how Andrew has brought the floor together to make a cohesive group.

Andrew also worked toward a better community on a larger scale. He was very active in attending **Hall Governing Board** and **Association of Residence Halls** meetings. He attended **Marlatt HGB meetings** to update the board on his **Ethernet initiative**, which looked into the possibility of increasing the bandwidth of the halls in order to make the internet faster for academic usage. The initiative was started because of the resident's complaints on how slow the internet was. He worked hard on this because of his familiarity with the routes to be taken, whom to talk to, and because it relates to his future career choice. The initiative took nearly two months of constant communication and meetings between Andrew and several university networking gurus to decide exactly if and how the Ethernet could be improved. The final decision was to upgrade the troublesome Marlatt hall to a higher bandwidth and to increase the bandwidth to residence halls not utilized by the rest of the university after 10pm on weekdays and on weekends. Andrew also attended other HGB meetings throughout the year to keep informed of what was going on in the hall. Numerous **ARH meetings** were attended by Andrew. He brought along residents to score guest points for Marlatt Hall. Andrew never had to attend ARH meetings; he just did it to keep himself and his residents informed of upcoming activities.

Continuing his dedication and willingness to get people involved, Andrew posted **signs for open HGB positions and open ARH positions** in hopes of stimulating freshmen to get involved. The production of these posters, encouraged several people to apply for open HGB positions, ending up with Adam Fisher (second floor resident) being elected **Marlatt Social Chair**. Andrew's wanting freshmen involvement didn't stop there. It continued through to the spring semester in which he urged floor leaders and residents to run for open ARH positions. This led to Jeremy Dreiling being elected **ARH Campus Issues Coordinator**. Not only did Andrew get freshmen involved in student government, he also got people involved in the **SGA Presidential Elections**. During the elections, several people from the floor heard the candidates' speeches and decided to back the pair that sounded the best. Andrew was also backing that candidate and wanted to get people involved. The floor came together and made several signs for the campus and for supporters of that presidential candidate. Several of the residents even made and put up signs in their own windows to get involved.

Andrew got residents involved through activities that either the hall or ARH presented. Throughout **Homecoming week**, Andrew was always on the listserv and going door to door to get people to participate in Homecoming activities. There were numerous residents from second floor Marlatt for every single event. He even coaxed people to go to "Pant the Chant" and the Homecoming parade, which hasn't been done in the past by second floor Marlatt. Even though Marlatt and Moore didn't win, Andrew poured all he had into Homecoming, and getting people involved.

For **Marlatt Hall Casino Night**, Andrew sent out numerous e-mails on the listserv to spread the word about how fun and exciting the event would be. A multitude of

people from Marlatt especially second floor, showed up. When there happened to be a shortage of dealers and an over abundance of people, Andrew put down his winnings and wanted to help out by being a dealer. The event turned out to be a huge success, partly because Andrew sacrificed his fun so that more people could participate.

One of Andrew's programs that was fun and worked well was **Battle of the Sexes** with West Hall. Andrew and Kim got together again to put on a social program that would get two halls together for a fun evening. Several people attended the event which pitted the opposite sexes against each other in a board game to find out what the males knew about the females, and to see what the females knew about the males. The game was a fun romp through what should have been general knowledge, but several questions brought about answers that were quite humorous. This was a very good way to get two opposite sex halls together for an enjoyable evening for everyone involved.

Another program in the works is the **Tour of the Nuclear Reactor**. A resident on the floor approached Andrew with the idea of informing people about nuclear reactors and nuclear energy in general, followed by a tour of the reactor present at KSU. Not many people have a good concept of what goes on and how safe nuclear energy really is, but this program is surely one that will bring all informative answers to light. Andrew was looking into setting up a tour of the TRIGA Mark III reactor present in Ward Hall, and possibly seeing the reactor in action. It is going to be one of the best educational programs of the year.

When the pending war with Iraq was in the works, Andrew made a bulletin board to lead to some interesting discussion. The "**Do you support war with Iraq?**" board included several articles which covered the issue from every angle possible so that residents could get a feel for what the world was thinking. Everyone on the floor had their names on pins which could be moved to represent their thoughts on the pending war. When people moved their pins around, this brought forth several constructive discussions about the conflict. Andrew also used the war with Iraq to display **support for our troops**. Everyone on the floor had different ideas about the thought of war, but when the war started, everyone was in agreement that we should support our troops. Andrew took this to the next level and had several people from the floor make signs to go to a major street, and voice their opinions on the war. This was carried out on Thursday April 3rd and is planned to be done on another occasion later in the semester.

OFFICER ACTIVITIES: GROUPS AND HONORARIES

Besides being active as a Resident Assistant and social leader, Andrew was also involved with several groups and honoraries. The **National Residents Hall Honorary** consists of the top 1% of leaders within the residence halls. Andrew has proved what a leader he is. He isn't just a member of NRHH; he's also the Vice-President and head of the Awards and Banquet Committee of the Little Apple Chapter. Being the Vice-President of the NRHH chapter, Andrew was in charge of recruitment of new members. He spent long hours creating invitations for each new potential candidate. After the invitations were sent out, Andrew set up and coordinated the interview process for the potential candidates who made it through the first part of the selection process. As the chairman of the Awards and Banquet Committee, he was in charge of every aspect of the Leadership Banquet such as: decorations, invitations, reservations, reserving a banquet

room, and picking up awards. This daunting task has been taken care of superbly so far, with nearly 300 invitations sent out, the flash presentation for the halls made, and the oversight of the OTY process; he has been a true role model for the tasks set before him.

As well as NRHH, Andrew has also been involved in **Blue Key Senior Honorary**. Blue Key is an honorary which focuses on developing and promoting leadership among the Kansas State University community. To be considered for Blue Key, one has to be actively involved in leadership, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, and have senior status. Other criteria membership is based on are: commitment, dedication, high integrity, and the desire to serve others. Andrew is the Vice-President of Blue Key and in charge of several aspects of the organization. As Vice-President, he serves as the Treasurer. He also is involved as one of the leaders of the EDADL 212 Leadership Concepts Discussion class which is required for a leadership minor here at K-State. In addition, Andrew also led the Blue Key Self-Development Small group. This group works to develop members of the group into better leaders, and a way for members to find ways in which to develop themselves to become great leaders.

OFFICER EVALUATION: WHAT THE SHIPMATES HAVE TO SAY

Andrew Bell is one of the few RAs on staff that seems to be able to do everything at once and do everything with quality, efficiency, and unmatched caliber. The common phrase, "A jack of all trades, a master of none" definitely does not apply in this case. He is an approachable, honest person who has established himself among one of the top role models for his residents to emulate. Andrew Bell is a one of a kind! - Michael Chew (Marlatt RA)

When you walk through the second floor lobby of Marlatt Hall it is not uncommon to see Andrew in his room with residents just hanging out or playing video games. Andrew's door is always open and he is always willing to talk or help out with whatever is necessary. It is obvious that Andrew cares about the residents and has worked hard to build a strong community on his floor. Andrew is very knowledgeable of hall policies and has offered his assistance to me on several occasions. He is supportive of the staff team and willing to help in any way that he can. - Charlie Johnston (Marlatt RA)

As a first year RA, I was impressed by Andrew's drive and enthusiasm in relation to his residents. His continued interest in his residents was an excellent example for me to follow. Whether he was working to get better internet connections for Marlatt, or just getting his residents involved, his effort was a reflection of his overall dedication to being an RA. - Jason Black (Marlatt RA)

Andrew Bell is one of the few individuals here at K-State that you will find really has no free time by choice. A lot of us may claim that we don't have any time to do the things that we want, but a lot of that has to do with school work, or obligations such as work. Andrew on the other hand handles a larger work load than I'll ever think of having class wise, but then fills up the remainder of his time helping others and being with his residents. If Andrew is home, his door is open. If he is gone people can reach him on his cell phone, and he will return any call that shows up on his caller ID. He has made it a point to work on as many projects for Housing and Dining as will be thrown his way. From the Ethernet to organizing the entire banquet that this award will be presented at,

Andrew Bell is the man. He makes himself available, and he is fun loving and easy to get along with. Rarely will you find an RA who is as approachable. It is a great pleasure to get to help out with Andrews OTY. He deserves all the credit he receives and then some.-Eric Neilson (Marlatt RA)

Andrew has made this a better year and encouraged us to get to know each other in different events, such as through the scavenger hunt at the beginning of the year. He would go out and get as many people as possible. It acted as a great ice breaker to get to know him and all the others on the floor. Plus he always has his door open to anyone on the floor to go in and talk or play a couple of games of Halo. - Adam Fisher (Second Floor resident)

Andrew has been a great role model for me. His involvement in organizations and leadership has helped to make him a great model for everyone. My freshman year has been strengthened by his leadership and modeling. – Bryant Newby (Second Floor resident)

He is willing to participate in conversations in the lobby (rather than observe or close his door). Halo was a lot of fun, even just watching people play--and if someone "needs to kill something," he accommodates! He always welcomes people into his room. – James Claussen (Second Floor resident)

Throughout my year in the residence halls, I have found Andrew Bell to be helpful and friendly. I first met him when I was an incoming transfer student in the fall of 2001. Then I have gotten to know him better throughout this past year since he has been my RA. Since I have gotten to know him I have found him to be a great friend to have. He has always been willing to listen to me and talk with me when I have seen him in the residence halls and on the campus. Not only does Andrew share this willingness with me but also shares it with fellow students and residences he knows. Also, he invites his residences to play Halo usually every night after dinner or later at night as a way to relieve our stress and frustrations with homework and classes. Along with his friendliness, I have found him to be helpful. Andrew helped me the greatest when I was applying for the Engineering Ambassador position. He gave me ideas and helped revise the questions I was required to answer on the application. Without his help, it would have taken me longer to answer the questions than what I did. Overall, Andrew is a good person to get to know and I'm glad I have gotten to know him and become friends with him. – Mike Williamson (Second Floor resident)

In my years as a resident, I have never seen a more dedicated RA than Andrew Bell. Throughout this year, I have been very impressed with his dedication to his job as RA. Within the first week, Andrew had learned almost every resident's names. It was outstanding that at the first floor meeting he knew almost everyone by first name or nickname. The first meeting set the tone for the year to come, because Andrew got ice cream to get people to socialize instead of just leaving or not attending.

Andrew has also set up a large number of friendships by getting the floor to interact. As a floor we always eat dinner at the "Marlatt 2" table, and to further interactions, Andrew always invites people to play HALO after dinner to vent frustrations caused by the homework or class load. Andrew also treated the lobby as his front porch. Whenever people were in the lobby studying, Andrew would always take a break from what he was doing, and talk with those that were studying. If he had an excess of food from a meeting he went to, he always offered it to the people in the lobby. Andrew is the

type of guy that is never too busy to stop and say “hi”. If you stopped in his room to say “hi” or get candy, he would always stop and make time to chit-chat. Andrew is quite the friend and model resident. When someone asked me to write this bid, I was glad to be writing it about someone who really deserves it. - Todd Braddy (Second Floor President)

Andrew Bell has been more than an exceptional RA this year; he has been a moral individual who motivated, encouraged, and promoted involvement in Kansas State University, specifically among his floor residents. Andrew Bell didn't just perform the routine duties of an RA. He established himself through connecting at a personal level with his residents. To do this, he exemplified the strongest will of a leader – leading by example! He led his residents to participate, to develop friendships with fellow residents, to create an overwhelmingly positive social environment and community amongst the floor. Andrew created and organized numerous floor activities that interested his residents. However, it wasn't just the activities that connected Andrew to his residents; it was the small things he performed socially and daily. He made it a special routine to dine with his residents as a ‘social group’ every evening. Also, he was visible! Yeah...every RA is visible, but not nearly as much as Andrew! You see him everywhere, doing some duty or task to better the students at K-State! Literally 24 hours a day, his door is open. As a resident you don't have to have a problem or concern to talk with him. In fact, it is now common for residents to drop by for short conversations, even if they are lured in by the candy! Andrew Bell's impact on his floor residents is immeasurable and indescribable! It is truly amazing how one individual is capable of connecting with 85 different residents who are diverse in so many aspects of life! Most importantly, beyond the tasks as an RA, Andrew Bell has developed strong friendships with his residents which will last for years to come! His absence after this year is something that K-State, the residence halls, and his residents will never be able to replace! – Jeremy Dreiling (Second Floor resident)

Andrew Bell has been the greatest influence on me since I arrived here at Kansas State. My freshman year I didn't get involved on campus or in the residence halls, and I think most of that stemmed from the fact that my RA was never around and never publicized events or ways to get involved. But from the first moment I met Andrew, he has let all of us know when events are taking place and has planned ways to help us who live in Marlatt to get involved. He also has the unique ability to recognize people who are potential leaders, and act as a mentor for them. This year, second floor in Marlatt had the most residents in leadership positions in the entire hall, whether in HGB, ARH, NRHH, or as former residents in RA positions on campus. This surge in floor leadership is the direct result of Andrew recognizing strong leaders on the floor, and then motivating those residents to find ways to utilize their skills. For me personally, as I prepare to be an RA myself for next year, I know that a lot of the things I do will be patterned after, or adapted from the things I saw Andrew do over the last year. He has always had an open door policy and has always been willing to postpone whatever work he has been doing to talk to a resident who stops by, even if it just to say “hi” and chat for awhile. He eats with and encourages as many residents to eat as a floor so that everyone can get to know each other and develop a greater sense of community. Andrew also made a great effort to know the names of all of his residents within the first week so that he would be able to personally greet them whether passing in the hallway, on campus, or just stopping by to say hi. And finally, he has tailored his programs to the needs of his residents. Not just any

program will work in Marlatt, so ideas must meet the needs or interests of a larger number of residents. His programs have done just that this year, namely the HALO tournament and the SGA election efforts, which countless residents have attended or helped out with these efforts.

I truly believe that because of the job Andrew has done on second floor this year, he is truly deserving of the award for RA of the year. Everything he has done: building excellent rapport with his residents, customizing programs to meet the needs and interests of the residents, and helping residents recognize their skills and abilities, and then assist those residents in strengthening their skills, and doing all of this without ever asking for anything in return or so much as a grumble, exemplifies Andrew's skills and abilities as an RA here at K-State. - Brad Kaufmann (Second Floor resident)

Andrew is quite possibly the "model RA." This year Andrew has gone above and beyond the duties set before him. He not only finishes the challenges set before him, he completes them so that they are completed to his impossibly high standards. By doing this he has set himself apart as an RA. The residents and staff all agree that Andrew is very deserving of this award because of his programs, social events, and involvement not only in the halls, but with campus as well. We believe that Andrew Bell is most deserving of the title Resident Assistant of the Year for Kansas State University.