

First Year Experience: Andrew Bell

Submitted by Goodnow Hall

April 21, 2000

For most students their first year at college involves either hesitation to get involved by trying new things, or giving a small portion of energy to a multitude of organizations in order to find the right one. Andrew Bell is clearly not the typical first year college student. The residence halls immediately received Andrew's dedication as he chose to utilize his skills as a student leader. Despite failing at his initial attempts to receive a position on his hall's HGB, Andrew did not throw in the towel. Instead, he simply sought out alternative areas to become involved.

Personal Values and Ethics

Andrew is an incredibly committed individual who takes responsibility not only when volunteering himself to do things, but also taking responsibility to make sure that the task gets completed to the best of his ability. His stick-to-itiveness has helped through the hard times when someone has wanted to give up. The respect, appreciation, and compassion that Andrew has for people has been a positive model for others to follow. Andrew's commitment, hard work, and dedication have been a big driving force behind this year's HGB. Also, his high self-esteem helps him achieve his everyday challenges. Furthermore, the integrity and honesty that he has demonstrated has truly been amazing.

HGB/ARH Involvement

Andrew Bell has shown remarkable leadership through his involvement with the Goodnow Hall Governing Board (HGB). Although Andrew did not occupy a voting position on the HGB of Goodnow Hall, his involvement was above and beyond that of many voting members. Andrew became involved with the HGB through his interest in serving on the Community Service Committee, one of the hall's standing committees. Andrew was chosen by the other members of the committee to be the President of the Community Service Committee as well as the liaison between their group and HGB. Andrew began to attend the weekly hall governing board meetings and from there his involvement with HGB grew.

One of the most problematic issues which Goodnow's HGB faced this past year was attendance. Although Andrew, due to not being a voting member, would face no repercussions for missing meetings or using excessive proxies, his attendance was exemplary. Despite his status as a freshman, Andrew set a positive example for senior HGB members. Additionally, Andrew's conduct at the meetings was noteworthy. His extensive knowledge of parliamentary procedure and the quality of his commentary during discussion made Andrew an asset at every meeting. Hall President Jess Decker mentioned:

Andrew's ability to pay close attention to details has been an important asset to our HGB. He is extremely organized and thorough when he commits to doing work on an HGB sponsored event. His eagerness to be involved has aided me numerous times. When I ask for volunteers to help with a project, I can be certain to count on Andrew to raise his hand. When he volunteers to be on a committee I know that the end result will be a success.

The first project Andrew participated in as a non-voting member of HGB was "Paint It Purple," a community service project for homecoming. It was an activities fair held outside for children in the Goodnow front lawn. Children, who came after school, let out were able to play games, make crafts, do puzzles, play in the sand, and enjoy cotton candy or snow cones. The event was a cooperative effort between the Goodnow and Moore Events Coordinators. Nasrina Burnett, Goodnow Events Coordinator stated, "Andrew was such a vital part of putting "Paint It Purple" together. The rest of the Goodnow HGB didn't seem to have any time to help out. Andrew was one of the people that I knew I could count on." Andrew's involvement with HGB continued to grow after that initial project.

Goodnow Hall had the good fortune to have the main lobby redone this past summer. The Goodnow Hall Governing Board and Community Assistant (CA) staff made the decision to put together a ceremony to honor the individuals who had worked so hard all summer. Andrew stepped up to accept the responsibility of heading the committee to plan the event. Andrew pulled the CA staff and HGB members together and was able to plan the event, despite the fact it had to be done swiftly and cheaply. Andrew's ability to rise to the occasion and accept responsibility, made the Grand Reopening Ceremony successful.

When Andrew wasn't heading a committee for HGB, he continued to do other various projects for Goodnow Hall. Andrew, a frequent "Of The Month Award" submitter, helped create and maintain the Goodnow web page, as well as being a member of the Tour Guide Team. He also helped with Goodnow's "Drink With Staff" program, Open House, writing the Hall Of The Year Bid, and selling yearbooks. These contributions were done

without any outside source encouraging Andrew to devote his time to them. Setting these activities apart is the lack of recognition given to those who do them. Andrew, however, clearly does not do things because of potential recognition.

At semester break, Goodnow lost one of our ARH Representatives when Aaron Kennedy became a Resident Assistant (RA) in Haymaker hall, leaving an empty position on HGB. Andrew offered to take on the duties of the position until elections were held again. The HGB took Andrew up on his offer due to elections being a mere two months away. Andrew began to attend ARH meetings and was an active participant in the formulation of the KSUARH smoking policy. When elections came around, Andrew ran for and won a position as an ARH representative. Andrew was a crucial part of the transition process involved as the new HGB took over. Although Andrew had not planned on running for an executive board position with ARH, his plans changed after being approached by another ARH member who had noticed his leadership skills. Andrew was elected to the position of ARH Vice-President. It might seem the Goodnow HGB was facing the loss of an important member...but not with Andrew! Despite the time he devotes to his ARH position, Andrew still has energy to attend every HGB meeting. While Andrew will not be one of next year's voting members, it is clear that he will continue to be an asset to the Goodnow Hall HGB, as well as the ARH Executive Board.

Despite receiving his position on ARH, Andrew was still one of the most important people in the Goodnow Hall Constitution revision process, which recently took place. He offered four hours of his time to help with revising the constitution. He also volunteered to create an electronic version of the old constitution so that the revision process would be easier. Andrew also worked with the hall president to prepare the typed material for presenting the changes to the general body of the Goodnow Hall HGB. By bringing his laptop to the meeting and digitally making corrections, Andrew was key to completion of the project.

As the spring semester draws to a close Andrew is focusing on his goals for the upcoming school year. He has expressed a desire to focus on improvements for ARH as well as continued participation in the Goodnow Hall Governing Board. Andrew will continue to contribute his leadership abilities and dedication to both organizations during his next year at Kansas State University.

Community Service Activities

As the Community Service Club President, Andrew was in charge of coordinating a variety of service efforts. He began with conducting a food drive for the Flint Hills Bread basket. He did a great job of encouraging residents to participate by offering “Floor Wars” points to the floor with the most donations. As Christmas time began to near, Andrew collected toys and donations for “Toys For Tots.” In order for the magic of Christmas to reside in Goodnow, “Toys For Tots” was emphasized heavily. In February, Andrew got residents involved in making Valentines cards for patients at a local hospital and for soldiers stationed overseas. Andrew also coordinated a group of residents to visit a retirement home. Despite the busy schedules of college students, twelve residents took time out of their days to bring some cheer to senior citizens. Andrew’s most recent community service project was to conduct “Penny Wars” in Goodnow. The floor with the most points were able to see their RA’s perform humorous feats, such as wearing a costume all day on campus or being subjected to flying whipped cream. The money was raised for “Habitat for Humanity: The House That K-State Built.” Because of his hard work and dedication, this particular community service project won an “Of The Month” award for the month of March.

Floor Involvement

Andrew Bell has been a central part of Goodnow sixth floor from the beginning of the school year. Clayton Bolinger, one of Andrew’s fellow sixth floor residents had this to say:

I remember back to the beginning of first semester when my roommate’s computer was having trouble. Neither of us knew how to fix it, so we set out to find a Computer Science major to help. Our RAs had put our names and majors on our doors, so we knew exactly where to get some help. One of the first people we went to was Andrew. He was thrilled to help, even though he had schoolwork to do. After several hours, the computer was finally saved. Andrew had found three different terminal viruses within the computer.

Before long, Andrew became the guy that everyone called on when they had PC problems.

This was just the start of his floor involvement. Shortly after the start of the school year, Andrew ran for floor president. Unfortunately, he did not win the election, but he didn't let this discourage him from taking an active role on the floor. Throughout the year, Andrew was one of the few who regularly attended floor meetings. One of the things he initiated through the floor government was putting together money to buy Evelyn, the floor housekeeper, a gift in appreciation for all the things she has done for the floor. He worked hard to encourage everyone to contribute towards the gift. On occasion the floor president asked Andrew to proxy at HGB meetings, which he gladly accepted. Andrew also took it upon himself to improve the living conditions on the floor by writing several work orders for things such as cleaning out shower drains and repairing the water fountain. He also led his floor to a victory in "Penny Wars," a program put on to raise money for "Habitat for Humanity: The House That K-State Built."

One of the more prominent things Andrew has done included helping the residents impeach their floor president. After being approached by a group of residents who wanted to know if, and how, they could remove their floor president. Reading the hall constitution to understand the procedure for impeachment, he brought his findings back to the residents. At the request of his fellow residents, Andrew helped print and distribute petitions for the impeachment of the president. It required one third of the floor's signature to impeach, which was achieved. Andrew, with the help of other residents, distributed material to help his floor become better informed about the facts of the impeachment. The information that he provided represented both sides of the situation. Finally, a meeting was held to remove the president, but the motion failed. After the trial, Andrew tried his best to make sure there were no hard feelings. He still worked with the president and life continued as normal. Andrew did his best to maintain objectivity throughout the whole process.

Andrew has helped make his floor more of a family. He often accompanies large groups of floor residents out to eat or to a movie. When back in the residence halls, he often can be found in one of several rooms watching TV or just chillin' with his friends. Sometimes he can even be found playing video games on the network with several other residents on the floor. Christina Romeu stated, "Andrew goes out of his way to make the floor a big family. He says hello to everyone and is willing to help a floor mate in need whenever he can." Without Andrew bringing his floor together, they would be more disconnected and many people would never have formed valuable friendships.

Conferences

Not only has Andrew been energetic with hall activities, but he has also attended many national and regional conferences to further his leadership, communication, and networking skills. After quickly adjusting to college life, Andrew made the decision to attend MACURH 1999 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a representative of Kansas State, he made the most of it. He volunteered to chair the GiveAway Committee, a group of students who pass out little knickknacks to other delegates and organize a swap-shop. One specific program at MACURH that caught his attention was called "Naked At The Interview." The program was aimed at informing delegates concerned about interview strategies, ways to answer those tough questions, and how to be relaxed and composed. Andrew currently is working on his own program for the hall closely resembling "Naked At The Interview." He hopes to pass on the information gained from it to all those interested. According to Andrew, the conference "further expanded my knowledge of the structure of the residence halls." Fellow delegate AJ Cecil commented, "Andrew was always so excited whenever I saw him, I could tell that he was gaining so much leadership experience from this conference." When asked about his opinion of the conference, he responded, "It was a great experience. I formed relationships with other leaders on campus and gained ideas about what is happening at other halls across the region. I had a lot of fun." Andrew enjoyed the regional conference so much, he currently is searching for funds to attend NACURH 2000 this May. He hopes to be as involved with NACURH as he was with MACURH. Andrew already has a running start towards that goal, as he is again Chairman of the GiveAway Committee.

Having grown up in and benefited from the 4-H program in so many different levels, Andrew is looking for ways to give back. One way he is accomplishing this goal is through the National 4-H Technology Conference at the University of Maryland. As the Logistics Chairman for this year's conference, Andrew is the glue that keeps the conference together. He is responsible for creating, distributing, and tabulating the registration process, as well as coordinating check-in/check-out. Andrew also has the chore of creating and maintaining publicity for the forum, including web pages, e-mail lists, and mailings. The logistics chairman also has the task of keeping the flow of information constant between committees, a job that is vital to the success of any program.

Being as involved with national and regional conferences as he is, it is amazing how Andrew can put so much time and effort into the minute details for our hall. All his hard work and energy is greatly appreciated.

Scholarships, Awards and Honors

Andrew, having been very active in high school as well, received many scholarships at the local, state, and national levels. Tescott High School rewarded Andrew for his hard work and involvement with a Student Council Scholarship. The residents of the city honored the community-minded intellectual with the Tescott Lions Club Scholarship and the Lincoln County 4-H Scholarship. After being accepted to Kansas State University, he was further privileged by receiving a Leadership Scholarship from the university and a Kansas State 4-H Scholarship. Andrew was also a deserving recipient of the Coca-Cola Scholarship. This prestigious honor was only given to 250 out of 137,000 top high school seniors nationwide. These generous tokens of appreciation have allowed Andrew to attend Kansas State University. Without them, many people, including those in the hall, university, and those lucky enough to meet him across the country, could not have learned what it is to be a true leader.

As mentioned previously, Andrew was elected as one of Goodnow Hall's ARH Representatives for the 2000-2001 school year. After a brief period of attending weekly meetings, Andrew was elected ARH Vice-President. Truly an honor, it shows what an impact a person like Andrew can make to an organization in a short amount of time. It also shows how much faith students have in Andrew as a leader.

Last, but certainly not least, Andrew was nominated as the hall's Student Of The Month for February. Vladimir Yevseyenkov acknowledged Andrew's efforts as a student.

As an incoming freshman this year, I believe that Andrew Bell is one of the most responsible, outgoing, and positive role models in Goodnow Hall. He sets high goals and doesn't stop until he achieves them and has been a vital asset to the sixth floor. He not only stays positive, but also has a big influence on people.

The hard work and effort by all, including Andrew himself, paid off. It is currently awaiting review at the regional level.

Regarding the numerous awards and recognitions Andrew has received, HGB Treasurer Justin Mencl put it best. “It seems like he is always getting some kind of recognition, either from the hall or the university. He continually has an application waiting to be filled out, his list of awards just keeps growing.”

Andrew Bell is the embodiment of everything that this award was meant to honor. After reviewing his involvement, accomplishments, and awards from his first year in the KSU residence halls, it is apparent that his experience clearly stands apart from the norm. He is a spokesman and representative for his peers from the local to the national level. Andrew has gone above and beyond even the greatest expectations of an experienced student leader. The most important aspect of Andrew’s first year experience is that there is more to come...