The Semi (08-01-1999)

Fuller Theological Seminary

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Commuters’ Remorse

If I could, you know I would.
If I could, I would ... live in Fuller housing.

With apologies to U2, I appropriated this line from the song “Bad,” which speaks of mine and other commuters’ wish to live closer to the seminary. Every time we get stuck in traffic driving to and from the campus, every time we roam around the parking lot praying for a space, every time we are unable to attend chapel because of distance and time, we cannot help but say, “If only we lived at Fuller.”

The Fuller experience should go beyond lectures, required readings and blue books. It is not just learning about the latest Jesus quest (Are we on four or five? Sorry, I lost count.), trying out the freshest inner healing theories, and tracking down the most recent outpouring of the Spirit throughout the world. It is also about meeting people, hanging out, complaining about Dodgers’ and Angels’ woes and checking out what’s playing at the Laemmle Theatres. It is about being neighborly, not just note taking.

All of these things help build that elusive commodity called community. We all say we need it and everyone has an opinion on it, but most of us really do not know how to cultivate it. Living near one another helps. We need to be around each other in and out of class, on our good behavior and bad, and in agreement and not. That is the only way we go beyond the surface and dig deep into each other’s lives. That takes time.

Unfortunately for many of us, we cannot commit more to Fuller. Family responsibilities and church duties make it impossible for me to live closer to campus and spend more time with fellow students, staff and faculty. The competing communities came to clash during the intramural football season last year. I had looked so forward to playing and enjoyed the first two games even though we lost. However, I had to give up that personal luxury as responsibilities beckoned.

I do feel that I am missing out. I may get a degree, but not the full seminary education. Being a commuter student is not ideal. But if I could not commute, I probably would not be a student. — Ed

Home Sweet Home

Despite the difficulties in getting their Fuller housing, DJ and Heather have come to love their apartment at Corner Stone.

By Sandra Furukawa

In April 1998 when Heather and DJ Reed began preparing to come to Fuller, they had a lot going on in their lives. Although they both worked and lived in Chicago, they were to wed July 18 at Heather’s home in Lancaster County, Penn. Following a week-long honeymoon, they planned to stop by Chicago to pick up their things and start driving to Fuller on Aug. 3 to start their new life together. Finalizing much of their plans during this stressful and chaotic time fell on Heather’s shoulders. DJ, who was to start in the M.Div. program, had been in touch with Fuller, but Heather took over the moving arrangements. (She is not as laidback as DJ.) They do not recall whom they spoke with at Fuller, but they remember that person assured them that they would be guaranteed student housing even though they had turned in their application late. (It arrived at the Housing Office on June 1.)

Unfortunately, Heather and DJ were told wrong. Fuller student housing is not guaranteed and so applying late put them on the bottom of the waiting list and lessened their chances. Currently we manage about 450 residential units, while more than 1600 students signed up for classes on the Pasadena campus last fall. Our units are primarily reserved for students, with some exceptions for the residents who came with the building when the seminary acquired it and Fuller staff members (usually former student residents) active within their communities. Complications arise when residents no longer meet the eligibility requirements but petition to stay in Fuller housing. This is why graduates must vacate no longer than two months after graduation: The units are needed for incoming students.

Heather had called to see if their application had been received and was told by a staff member that their chances for obtaining housing were good because they were willing to start paying rent on Aug. 8, a month and a half before classes start.

H O U S I N G continued on page 4
The Macaroni Grill: 2 out of 5 stars
925 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia

I was thinking of re-naming my column Dieting With Dan but did not wish to put myself in the weight loss category competing with my ex-girlfriend Jenny Craig or Susan Powter (the angry bald-headed infomercial woman), probably along the way, because she has not had any form of fat in the past 10 years! A 20-lb. loss in half a year does not make me an expert on weight loss to say the least.

Anyway, I am still eating and going to restaurants on occasion and had a very nice surprise of receiving a complimentary gift certificate to review The Macaroni Grill in Monrovia.

The place was swanky enough and the waitperson staff were having a pep rally of some sort from the manager before they started their busy day. I think they were yelling something like “Hip Hip Horray, we’ll make them buy appetizers and desserts today,” even if I have to carry it home in a doggie, sorry (kitty) bag. At some restaurants today, it is not enough to have a meal but you need to up the ante with the extras so the waitpersons will be able to fund their next Happy Hawaiian holiday from your meal alone.

We gave in and ordered a spinach & cream cheese dip to start out. After what seemed like hours (the blood sugar was low and I was becoming very cranky), our mechanical wind-up waitress came out with this spinachy, creamy concoction that we were supposed to dip into. It was virtually tasteless and an entire day’s worth of fat in one bite. Susan Powter would definitely have one more thing to be angry about here! I was about to shave my head right there at the table in protest. I mean if I am going to give up one day’s worth of fat grams on something, it better be really really good and good this was not.

We were sitting near the kitchen in an almost empty restaurant and the food was really really slow coming out. Was the microwave broken? Finally, after what seemed to be an eternity, our mechanical wind-up waitress headed in our general direction with what appeared to be two plates of food. My blood pressure was starting to go down, sugar was stabilizing (from the mere sight of food) and my pulse was slowly returning to normal. Our meal was here.

I ordered fettuccini with shrimp. Guess what? Even more cream! Was Candid Camera here about to pop out from behind the fireplace? After the second or third bite, I was so creamed out, I needed the paramedics to come out and make sure my arteries would be able to pump the rest of the afternoon. This is not your ordinary cream they use, this is some serious Wisconsin high-grade stuff! My chubby friend knew that as much as I like cream that even this was too much for me. He ordered the garlic chicken, no cream but enough garlic to keep vampires out of the San Gabriel Valley for the next two months. He loves garlic like no one else but he should have renamed that dish chicken-flavored garlic instead of garlic chicken. We had mentioned the over-abundance on the cream and spices to the waitress but she needed to be wound up again and did not pay us much attention. We were a bit taken aback by her lack of concern to say the least and a quick mention to the manager did not seem to matter either.

I would say a better choice would have been to buy two Marie Callender frozen deluxe dinners and saved about $20. I did not even want to see the dessert menu. They probably would have tried to sell us a cream pie! I had enough cream here at one sitting to last a lifetime. I have heard from friends that this establishment is hit or miss and we definitely had a miss. The food was not terrible by any means but overly saturated with creams and spices and not lovingly prepared by any stretch of the imagination. As Consumer Reports magazine sometimes says in its articles, adequate, but there are better choices.

Until next time, may your tummies be happy and your heartburns be few.

Financial Aid
Federal Stafford loan interest rates have dropped by more than one-half percent for loans disbursed July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. These are the lowest rates in over 10 years. The current in-school, grace period or authorized deferment interest rate is now 6.32%, down from 6.86%. The interest rate during repayment is 6.92%, down from 7.46%. Students will save $5.40 in interest for every thousand dollars borrowed with the new rates.
Intentional Neighbors

Henry H. Kim

Everyone seems to be seeking "community" in their everyday lives, with programs to build intentional communities coming from groups as diverse as Disney and Microsoft. So what does community mean in the world today? What does it mean to live in an intentional community, especially at Fuller? One of the intentional communities at Fuller is Allelous, where Fuller students, staff and families, as outlined in the Residential Community brochure, make a commitment "to share their life in Christ more fully as an integral component of their education and formation at Fuller Theological Seminary."

“My parents didn’t know what to expect when I went to live at Allelous, and it was a bit of mystery to me too,” explained Chris Pack, who has lived in Allelous for a year.

Allelous seems to be what people have expected it to be and more.

“Living in community has been better then I expected,” said Jennifer Ventrease. “I felt that I was going to be more crowded, but it has been just about right, with people giving me the room I feel I need while still being in community.”

Allelous offers its members help, which other types of living cannot match. Jennifer, who has been in Allelous less then two months, said, “I think that Allelous has been warm, friendly and a great place to be, as I have gotten adjusted to a new city.”

It also has great benefits for those who have lived in the community for a long time. Terry Larin, who’s family was one of the first be a part of Allelous, explained, “I have been really impressed by how much my daughter, who is four years old, has gotten out of the community. She has a lot of other children to play with, and as parents we have been blessed because the community is so close knit that I can trust anyone in the community to watch her.”

Allelous also offers some challenges. “There are two areas that are particularly difficult. One is that you get so close to people in the community and they move away because of the transitory nature of Fuller. The other is that you get so close to your neighbors and when you have a problem with them, these problems are compounded because of this closeness you feel to them.” said Terry.

Keith Foster explained these challenges are also opportunities to build community. “One of the most difficult things is that the community reaches decisions by consensus. So we try to hear everyone’s thoughts on an issue and this can be difficult at times, but in the long run it helps us build a better community.”

The one overall theme that carries through every conversation with an Allelous member is the safety and support which the community offers. “I feel really safe here even though we are not walled off from the neighborhood,” said Jennifer.

The costs and benefits of living in a community like Allelous was summarized by Terry when he said, “It seems to me that the New Testament demands that we live in good relations with each other, and it is easy when you do not live in close proximity with your neighbors to ignore your responsibility for reconciliation with them. So, living here in Allelous, because of our closeness, the difficulties are greater, and the challenge to live the Christian life becomes that much greater, but it gives you a better opportunity to live in Christ.”

Henry H. Kim is the Production Editor for the Semi, a Master of Divinity Student, and a member of the Allelous community for the past eight months.

English Conversation Classes for International Spouses

Do you want to improve your conversational English? Then you may be interested in the English Conversation Classes coming this Fall Quarter. For a low rate, there will be one hour spent in class and one hour with a conversation partner each week. Child care will be offered. (Persons interested in serving as conversation partners may call the ESL office at 584-5630.)

I’m Shin Hwa Lee Park. I’m from South Korea. I came to California from Michigan one year ago because my husband, Chanho, wanted to study at Fuller. I’ve been in U.S.A. for four years, but my English is not good. I went to an adult school for one year at Michigan. I was very happy to learn English. Now I’m happy too, because I can learn English again. I appreciate that Fuller provides ESL to students’ wives. That will be a big help to us. I’d like to especially study conservation. My listening and speaking skills are worse than reading and writing. I’d like to talk fluently to native English speakers some day. I’m looking forward to taking ESL.
started. She also was told not to worry and they would be offered housing “when the time comes.” The week of Heather and DJ’s wedding—two weeks before they were to leave for Fuller—they still had not heard from Fuller Housing Office. They began to get concerned. Then irritated. Then angry. It did not make sense that a month before they were to move in, the Housing Office still had not told them where they were going to live—or, for that matter, if they even had housing!

Unfortunately, neither DJ or Heather had been able to read the informational materials sent with the housing application; the materials had gotten lost in the chaotic shuffle of that period. However, both had lived in campus housing at other schools and assumed that the application process and experience of living in Fuller’s student housing would be similar. That is one of the biggest misperceptions people make about seminary housing. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our housing situation is unique and no other school we know deals with extended family members living with children, single parents, and individuals couples with children, couples without children, single parents, and individuals with extended family members living with them. In addition, our units are not built for or by Fuller but were purchased or leased as the seminary grew—thus we have modern apartments, historic buildings, converted houses and smaller bungalows. Some are on campus, others just a block or two away, and a few 10-15 minutes away by car. Trying to describe and categorize our units is a challenge.

Also, students do not realize that the Housing Office cannot tell them what housing is available more than a month ahead. We do not have a set move in/move out schedule like other schools that close their residence halls for the summer. Often our residents will live in their units year-round for the two to seven years it takes to complete their degree. Thus, the residents sign leases and are required to notify us only 30 days before moving out. (It is ironic how 30 days is too short of a notice to people on the waiting list but too long for those planning to vacate.)

The Housing Office is not subsidized by the seminary. Because Fuller is multidenominational, we do not receive funding or sponsorships from churches. Thus, we must operate as a business and meet the needs of our customers (residents) while keeping our costs down and not raising our prices (rents). This is one of the reasons we have a waiting list. If we provided housing to all eligible students seeking seminary housing, we would not only have to obtain apartments and houses for those students but also maintain a few empty ones in case more students came. We do not have the funds to do that.

When Heather and DJ called the Housing Office the week of their wedding, the same staff member told them that housing remained unavailable and that they should call back the following week. “You don’t understand!” Heather remembers exclaiming. “We’re going to be on our honeymoon next week and we need a place to stay when we get back!” But there was nothing to do but go and call again when they returned, just a week before they were to leave for Fuller. Again, they were told that there was no housing and to call back before coming to Fuller.

By this time, DJ and Heather had postponed their departure to Fuller two days. Heather talked with another housing staff member and was told about the community listing, which had about 12 leads that turned out unsuccessful. The Housing Office compiles a listing of alternative housing available in the community and surrounding areas. Although our rents are generally about 2-28 percent lower than non-Fuller housing, special deals are available outside of Fuller. Some people offer free or low-cost room and board in exchange for child care and personal assistance, while others rent rooms in their homes. Considering it ministry, some landlords provide low-rent housing and purposely “swallow money” to help Fuller students. Although we do not personally recommend or guarantee the housing, we provide the listing to meet the housing needs of all Fuller students.

During this time, Heather was interviewing for a job with the Residential Community Office (ResCom), unaware of its connection to the Housing Office. While on the phone arranging a third interview, Heather mentioned her predicament to Katie Price Foster, the associate director for ResCom. Heather explained that she did not know when she and DJ would arrive at Fuller and still had no place to stay once they got here. Recalling her own

Fuller Housing Demographics

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Fuller residents</td>
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<tr>
<td>not including family members</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents living alone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents with a roommate</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents who are single parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married without children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married with children</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children in Fuller housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents with vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents with two vehicles</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residents moved in during 1997</td>
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<td>During June-September 1997</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Fuller residents</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

Based on housing records of July 10, 1998
Question of the Week: If you live (or lived) in Fuller housing, what impact has it had on your seminary experience?

What are your fellow Fuller community members thinking? VOICES can help you find out. Each week the SEMI will ask a question. If you have a question you would like asked in VOICES, call 584-5285 or email semi-editor@dept.fuller.edu.

Michelle Stawart Cole, SOT, MAT
When I first came to Fuller a year ago, I was reluctant to live in Fuller housing. The '70s carpet and the lack of cable were strong liabilities. However, the high cost of living in Pasadena helped me decide to move into Koinonia. Despite my initial misgivings, I have loved living on campus! The coordinators are helpful and my neighbors are great! Within just a few days of moving in I had made several new friends who shared my love of the Lord.

Chris Orwig, SOT, M.Div.
It has been a place of healing with community, fellowship, accountability and friendship. It has been really good for me. It is my first experience living in a real Christian community where people have shared what they have had in common with feeling of care for each other.

Neil Stafford, SOP, Psy. D.
I have only lived in Fuller housing for a short time, but it is already having positive effects on my Fuller experience. One obvious benefit for my particular residence is that I live so close to school I don’t have to drive. A second, and more important benefit, is that I feel safer living in community. My anxiety level has decreased because I feel I have people in my community who care about my well-being.

Lucy Burham, SWM, I.C.S.
I only lived in the community for three months, but I loved the time I spent in the community. I loved the community events we did. The only problem I had during my time in community was a flea infestation, which housing came and sprayed a few times.

Deepak Babu, SOT, M. Div
After reflecting on the question, I have concluded that it is moot. Until Fuller ceases to be a commuter seminary and becomes residential, the Fuller housing impact is more or less like most other apartment complexes.

Denise Overholser, SOT, M. Div.
I actually had a positive experience. We lived in a solid community and had socials together. We shared common access to things like vacuum cleaners, drills and other items that I did not have or want to buy. The people, especially the community coordinators, helped me when I needed it with things like my computer.
A Touch of Southern Hospitality

By Michael L. Westmoreland-White

As I can testify, Fuller Seminary has the gift of hospitality. I was warmly welcomed by the entire Fuller community during my recent stay as Visiting Adjunct Professor of Christian Ethics teaching a two-week intensive course during the Summer Quarter. I owe special thanks to Ms. Jeanette Scholer, Director of Academic Programs of the School of Theology. She paved the way for my trip to Pasadena by coordinating all the details from airline reimbursement to arranging for my syllabus copies to be ready by the start of the first class.

I stayed at the Fuller Guest House on Locust Avenue. I was extremely impressed by the accommodations. The Fuller Guest House is run as a hostel for visitors to the seminary: prospective students, families of students, students from the various extensions taking required on-campus hours, registered guests for special conferences, and visiting instructors for intensive courses like myself.

The staff, whom I learned are mostly student workers, were efficient, kind, and courteous. Guests have free access to an exercise room that includes Nautilus and StairMaster equipments and free weights. There is also a whirlpool in which I gladly soaked my tired feet after walking tours of Pasadena. The Guest House includes a small commissary and a laundry room as well as irons and ironing boards which guests may borrow.

When I arrived, I found that I had been settled in a suite of rooms that were easily the match for many hotels in which I have stayed on business trips. The bedroom closet was very spacious, the bed was comfortable and the kitchen well-equipped. I arrived to find that Ms. Scholer had arranged for lunch materials to be left in the refrigerator. All during my stay at Fuller, similar courtesies were extended to me.

Fuller can be proud of its Guest House and its gifts of hospitality. It speaks well of the Christian culture of California's premier evangelical seminary. I spoke to several other guests during my stay and we all agreed that the accommodations and spirit shown us encouraged us to desire to return to Fuller in the near future.

Michael L. Westmoreland-White, Ph.D., taught “Christian Discipleship in a Secular Society” at Fuller Theological Seminary’s Pasadena campus July 19-30. Westmoreland-White, of Kentucky, will return to Fuller in Winter and Spring quarters to teach ethics courses.

HOUSING

Katie talked to David and, two days later, at the end of her phone interview with David, Heather received three housing options. Less than a week later, Heather and DJ were finally at Fuller, moving into their very first home together. Heather and DJ were not moved up to the top of the waiting list because of inside connections. They were offered apartments that were unsuitable and set aside in the rush of preparing other apartments for incoming students. Heather and DJ's apartment had a leaky roof and, knowing this, they moved in on a temporary lease. The roof was fixed a few months later.

Although this was not the case with Heather and DJ, it is not uncommon for individuals to want us to break our rules or bend our policies to make an exception "just for them." Experience has taught our staff that we cannot afford to do that: We must follow our rules and uphold our policies to be as fair and consistent as possible with everyone. Some may think that special arrangements were made for Heather and DJ but that is not the case. We had apartments in reserve that needed repairs and were not moved up to the top of the waiting list. This is definitely not always the case and in many situations we just do not have housing for those who apply late or just walk into our office without applying at all.

Having worked at ResCom for a year, Heather says, "I actually contemplated not pursuing my job opportunity to work for the Residential Community Office because I wasn't sure I could handle working in what I thought was such a disorganized office. [She says laughing.] But I decided that it was worth a try and that I

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similar experience when she came to Fuller, Katie offered to talk with David Smith—whom Heather knew only as the person she was to interview with next—and see if there were any options. Heather learned that David is the Director of Student Housing and that she was interviewing for a position in the Fuller Housing Office.

If we liken the Fuller Housing and Residential Services departments to a coin, the ResCom and Housing Office are its two sides. ResCom focuses on community life and community-building while the Housing Office covers office operations and management. Although both are under the guidance of the Director of Student Housing, ResCom is headed by the Associate Director for Residential Community, who also reports to the Director of Student Services.
Meet You at CLC

By Douglas Kinoti and Mikiko Kumasaka

Have you ever wanted to have a meeting for your group and were unable to find an appropriate room on campus? A room that is warm and homey where you can fix a cup of joe and put your feet up and relax? Or, have you ever wanted a place to meet where kids can be watched while you meet with others?

Well we’ve got a place for you! Two new Community Life Centers are opening this summer in the midst of residential communities. The center at 289 N. Madison Ave., a quaint yellow house with a spacious backyard that accommodates a children’s play area, will open Sept. 1. The other is in Koinonia on 262 N. Los Robles. At Koinonia, which has already opened, there is a living room for small groups to meet. During the Winter Quarter there will be a larger room to accommodate larger groups. Both Community Life Centers are within walking distance of the campus.

These centers are opening based on our need for “common spaces for our common life to enhance our common mission.” They are expanding from a residential base, in an attempt to strengthen and integrate Fuller’s “strong center” on the main campus. An essential and exciting aspect of the centers will be the intense collaboration and partnership with multiple campus offices, especially Residential Community, Housing Services, Office of Christian Community, and all other Student Life offices.

Community Life Centers will fundamentally serve student residents and their family members while providing an attractive infrastructure for commuter students. The centers will serve other seminary members such as staff and faculty as appropriate.

Community Life Centers will be available for ASC, OCC, and other programming sign ups and a site for faculty interaction. Other possible programs could include: spouse support, occasional childcare, after-school and summer children’s programming, parent education, English as a second language (ESL) classes, spiritual formation retreats, Bible study, prayer groups, literature groups, and artist groups.

So next time you are thinking about a group meeting—think Community Life Centers. We are looking forward to serving you.

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Housing

24 hours. ’That kind of stuff. That just made us feel a lot more comfortable. I really love living in Fuller housing. And we love our apartment!’

The Housing Office staff has taken deliberate measures to make sure that what happened to Heather and DJ does not happen again. It is not an easy thing to do—stories of things gone wrong never seem to go away but often get passed around and exaggerated with every telling—but we are working together to serve and support our residents. That is what we are here for!

Sandra Furukawa is the Communications and Marketing Coordinator for the Fuller Housing Office. She first worked as the front desk receptionist and has seen a lot of changes in the department in the three years that she has worked there. She really enjoys the camaraderie of the staff and the fun they have together.

graduation status. In addition, our department has been reorganized to focus on our plans to turn the portion of Oakland Avenue between the campus and the freeway into an enclosed, grassy area similar to the main campus, with new apartment buildings and recreational areas.

“You can live outside Fuller housing but you don’t have the neighbors. You don’t have the community sense. I think you’re missing something—I really do. I think there is something to living in Fuller housing,” Heather says. “I can go a couple doors down to borrow a cup of sugar and not feel strange about that. That kind of stuff. Or people in your class live downstairs or next door and you are able to study together. Living in Fuller housing also helped cushion the culture shock that we experienced when we came to Fuller. The Housing Office provided us with resources and our neighbors talked to us: ‘Do you know where to go for groceries?’ ‘This place is cheap.’ ‘This place is open

Mikiko and Douglas are ready to serve.

Please call Douglas Kinoti at 405-0154 or Mikiko Kumasaka at 792-4464.

Mikiko Kumasaka and Douglas Kinoti are in charge of coordinating reservations and programming at CLC. Mikiko graduated with an M.Div. in June and Douglas is in the M.Div. program.