

# The SIMS™

*NRHH Outstanding  
Member of the Year  
Edition*



**Cynthia Chen**  
**University of Washington**  
**No Frills 2004**  
**University of California**  
**Berkeley**





January 13, 2004

Hello NRHH Representatives and Selection Committee Members

As you begin reading my bid, let me tell you a little bit about myself. First things first, my name is Cynthia Chen; I'm a senior at the University of Washington studying Cellular and Molecular Biology and Criminal Justice. Some day I hope to be called Special Agent Chen and be working as an investigator for the forensic branch of the FBI. Until then I live my dreams out on my computer by playing Sims.

Sims are a series of games in which the player, in this case, me, gets to choose the actions and tasks that a particular simulated person does. In order to get a successful Sim the player has to commit a substantial amount of time and energy to them. In my case my Sim has grown to become an outstanding Sim doctor. This is the type of commitment that has led me to choose the Sims as my bid theme.

In the past year the University of Washington chapter of the NRHH has been a success because of the time and energy invested by all of its dedicated members. One of the goals this year was to see our chapter grow and truly become the recognition group that everyone was familiar with. We wanted to make a name for ourselves.

As you read through my bid you will learn that my position within NRHH as the Associated Director of Recognition and Inductions has played a key role in the chapter's many achievements. You will also read of my many other leadership achievements. I hope you enjoy my bid and thank you for considering me for NRHH Outstanding Member of the Year.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Chen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cynthia Chen  
NRHH Associate Director of Recognition and Inductions  
RHSA Programming Director



# Knowing the Code

CAC - Cuisine Action Committee - An RHSA committee that works with Housing and Food Services to ensure that students have their culinary needs met

DAWGs - "Dorm" Acclimation Welcoming Group - A group of students that assists new and returning residents move into the residence halls at the beginning of the year

NWRLLC - Northwest Residence Life and Leadership Conference - a conference held at Western Washington University last year, it includes schools from the northwest as well as Idaho and Canada

OTM - Of the Month Award - NRHH's monthly recognition program

PACURH - Pacific Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls

RA - Resident Adviser

RBD - Associate Director of NRHH/Recognition.

RHSA - Residence Hall Student Association

TLHC - Terry Lander Hall Council - Terry and Lander are two University of Washington residence halls



# Finding a Location Building a Foundation

When looking for a place to live, location is the most important aspect of the house. For my Sims I choose a relatively conservative yet functional house. I build them the strongest foundation I could and watch my Sims use that foundation to achieve goals that I set for them. Location and my ability to lay a great foundation is what has helped my Sims become bountiful members of the Sim society. It is also what has helped me become the leader that I am in the residence halls.

When I first began my college career at the University of Washington it was location that directed me down my current path. It was my location on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Terry Hall that has ultimately led me to where I am now and to this bid for NRHH outstanding member of the year. My community and most importantly my RA, provided me the support and leadership that strengthen my personal foundation. With encouragement from my RA, I became a TLHC floor representative, four years ago. With the strong foundation that I began building my freshman year, I have achieved more than even I imagined I was capable of. Despite my lack of foresight, I don't think Lee, my first RA, would have been surprised. She was always very supportive of me. She has since died of Cancer, but she will forever be my guiding light.

## My Leader Foundation

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Freshman Year  | Floor representative for TLHC  |
| Sophomore Year | TLHC Budget and Finance Director<br>DAWGs Volunteer  |
| Junior Year    | NRHH Associate Director of Recognition and Inductions<br>RHSA Representative<br>RHSA CAC Co-Chair<br>DAWGs Coordinator |
| Current        | NRHH Associate Director of Recognition and Inductions<br>RHSA Director of Programming                                  |



# Finding a Job Starting a Career

As I have mentioned before my Sim is an accomplished doctor. However, I didn't mention that she started as a medical technician getting paid minimum wage and working 12am to 8am. Everyone must start somewhere and work her way up before finding a career.

I started as a floor rep, but in the past year, I truly feel that I have found a "career". Last year due to a vacancy in the NRHH executive board I was asked to become the new NRHH Associate Director of Recognition and Inductions. At that time, I didn't even know such a position existed, but with enthusiasm I full heartedly accepted it.

Working closely with the rest of the executive board, we set a goal to increase our recognition. We started out small by recognizing the rising leaders among us, and helping them build their leadership foundations.

To do this one of the things that I helped the NRHH continue was the "Liters of the Week" program. Liters of the Week are weekly awards that we give to two student leaders on campus. The leaders can be nominated, by anyone, and the winners receive a certificate and a two-liter bottle of soda. The NRHH executive board was thrilled with the positive response that was received from the winners as well as the nominators. We were also able to get our names out to the general student body, because we announced our winners at the RHSA general council meetings.

Besides continuing the "Liters of the Week" I helped NRHH start the Ra Ra, RA of the month award. This award is given to two RAs a month. The RAs are either nominated by their peers or by their residents. The Ra Ra, RA of the month award winners are given pom-poms and a pizza party for their staff. This award was also developed to help with our OTM submissions because we include the winner's submission, which coincidentally is 600 words long, in our OTM pool for the month.

I have also developed many recognition items that are for members only. I feel that this helps provide an incentive to become an NRHH member. This last year I put spring care packages for all of our members. All 50 or so of our members received a care package that included snacks and drinks during spring quarter finals. I purchased, put together, and delivered all of these packages. I also organize a social/inductions banquet each quarter that I have been on the executive board. Autumn quarter 2003 we had a spaghetti social and only 5 of our members were unable to attend. This winter quarter we are having a taco social.

**Leadership is my current career and I love my JOB!**



# Milestones Life's Pivotal Moments

Sims like real people, have those pivotal moments that change their "lives" forever. For my Sim the first milestone she reached was getting married. She flirted, courted and finally she proposed.

As for me, I am far from getting married, but I have reached many milestones in my leadership life. By far the most important moment of my leadership life was planning the annual leadership banquet.

Every year our school has an end of the year leadership banquet to celebrate the year's accomplishments and to award the outstanding leaders of that year. Part of my position within NRHH was to help plan the banquet. This included planning the menu, putting together the guest list and finding the decorations. With over 200 people in attendance that was not an easy task. On top of all the bare basics, the NRHH, decided to have a slide show. So, there I was with two weeks left before the banquet looking for pictures, music and equipment to make and show a slide show. Needless to say I was a little beside myself those weeks.

In the end things worked out, it was two hours of eat your heart out fun and excitement. The slide show was great too, everyone laughed, and some people even cried.

The moment that was pivotal for me in my leadership was being awarded the bronze pin. Being one of only eight people to receive it really made me feel that I truly had become a skilled leader within the residence hall community.



# Finding Balance Having a Social Life

Sims, in order to be happy, must balance fun and socializing with work. My Sims enjoy dancing, watching TV and playing on their computer. If the Sims do not get enough fun, they become depressed and bad things happen.

Having balance is also important in my life because besides being the NRHH Associate Director of Recognition and Inductions, I am also RHSA Programming Director and a research assistant in a pharmacology lab. I keep myself busy because I feel each of my jobs contributes to the others. I have learned to be a true leader with NRHH. Then expanded that experience to help others through my programming position. I also applied my new leadership skills to become a better scientific researcher.

NRHH has helped me meet people within and outside of my school and through them I have gathered more experiences. I met leaders when I attended conferences, this year's PACURH at UCSB and last year's NWRLLC at Western Washington University, and through these conferences I have shared my ideas with fellow leaders.

In the past year I have also had the benefit of working with the PACURH Director, AD/AF and RBD because they have been involved with NRHH and RHSA in past years. Having them as leadership role models benefited me as well as the entire campus.

Finding a good balance between work and play is important, but finding work fun is the most rewarding.

# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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*Housing and Food Services  
Residential Services*

January 14, 2004

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Ms. Cynthia Chen

To Whom It May Concern:

Cynthia has worked under my advising as the Associate Director of Recognition and Inductions for the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) at the University of Washington (UW) since October of 2002. Her responsibilities in this position include providing information to eligible residence halls students about the application process for the UW's NRHH membership, coordinating induction ceremonies and the end of the year leadership banquet, working with her fellow executive board members to provide recognition to students and staff who positively contribute to the residence hall community, and working with her fellow executive board members to provide programming for NRHH members and the general residence hall population. During the past year, Cynthia has worked hard in coordinating the end of the year banquet for 2003, providing timelines and distributing information for quarterly inductions, and working with fellow executive board members to provide a very successful social for the UW's NRHH membership.

At the conclusion of each academic year there is a leadership banquet for the UW's residence hall system. This banquet is designed to recognize all of the excellent individuals that have positively contributed to the residence hall community and to induct new members into the NRHH. Cynthia was the primary organizer for the 2003 leadership banquet. She worked with one of her advisors to determine an appropriate menu with UW catering, send invitations to approximately 200 individuals (making sure not to leave anyone out), and decorate the banquet space. This was done beautifully. To demonstrate her dedication, Cynthia arrived a few hours early to work on the decorations and make sure everything was ready to go.

Cynthia's commitment to the NRHH is excellent. She has been present and enthusiastic throughout her time as an NRHH member. Cynthia is supportive of her fellow executive board members, attending their programs, and fulfills her own responsibilities. Additionally, Cynthia is currently the Programming Director for the UW's Residence Hall Student Association (RHSA); even with this added commitment, Cynthia has made an outstanding contribution to the NRHH. Cynthia is definitely deserving of the recognition for the NRHH Outstanding Member of the Year.

Sincerely,



Kristen Harrell  
Resident Director  
Mercer Hall and Stevens Court