Two RHA members are ‘on the ball’

By Mike Caputo

Two board members of the Residence Hall Association (RHA) were “on the ball” last weekend at a regional conference held in Bowling Green University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Senior Ryan Dick and junior Tara Maerling earned the “On the Ball” Award for overall performance and the Case Study Award during the business session of the Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (CAA/CURH) held Friday, Feb. 10, through Sunday, Feb. 12.

Upon check-in, Dick and Maerling were assigned a topic on which to design a case study, to be presented the following day, which ended up being an award-winning project.

“Tara and Ryan were up much of the night brainstorming ideas and editing their content,” said Area Director and RHA Advisor Dennis Renno, who accompanied Dick and Maerling on the trip.

According to Renno, the scenario that was assigned to Dick and Maerling stated, “You are an executive, you have just been elected to a new position, but unfortunately the person in your position previously left you with nothing.”

Dick and Maerling’s mission was to explain how the new executive could perform well while lacking the resources to do so. Dick, the national communications coordinator (NCC), explained that it helped that he had a personal experience with a similar situation stated in the case study topic.

“This situation happened here at Rider, as I was left with nothing as the prior NCC, quit midyear,” said Dick. “Plus, Tara is a great writer and we were able to share a lot of our history who we were, who we are and who we will become,” she said.

According to Epps, people have the responsibility to share their history with future generations, to “build up a platform for those who come after us.”

“It is our personal histories that make the collective history, and I never underestimate the power of the individual and their history to make an important mark on the world,” said Epps.