About the Author: At the time of this research Wade Novak is a senior in sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is new to the research community and enjoyed his interaction with the Ethnography of the University Initiative. He hopes that this initial step will lead to further involvement in research related to the field of sociology.

Keywords: Segregation, Diversity, Residence Halls, Cross-Racial interaction

Abstract: My research was an attempt to explore the informal segregation present in undergraduate residence halls at UIUC. Over the course of my research I discovered that this picture is anything but simple. After finding out that self-segregation to some degree exists, I altered my research to explore two avenues: the housing admission process and diversity levels in the dorms. I wanted to a. find out what influences a student’s housing preferences, and b. whether or not diversity existed in residence halls. Through ethnographic data gathered in the form of interviews I attempted to understand student opinions on this informal arrangement.

Initial Exercises:

Question: Does there exist segregation in University of Illinois public undergraduate residence halls? If so what are the causes? What are the solutions? Is it even a problem to begin with? All of these questions floated around during the course of the semester and in my research I attempt to at least address the previous issues.