



SPIDER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 • FEBRUARY 2024



GREETINGS PARENTS & FAMILIES!

Happy February! The Spring Semester is off to a great start for Residence Life & Housing. In this edition, we will be highlighting upcoming events for your Spiders to attend, an introduction to our Faculty-In-Residence Program, and information on how to support your Spider through the housing selection process. In our next edition, we will be focused on you and learning more about how you would like to engage with us in the future. We hope you enjoy this edition!

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RA Spotlight

Emily Plaza
RA- UFA

Major: Computer Science and Business Administration with a concentration in Finance

Activities Involved In: Kappa Delta, Alpha Kappa Psi, Help Desk Student IT, Panhellenic Council (President) and Gateway Capital Management



Advice to Students: You have more time to get involved and have fun than you think. There will always be assignments to do or a test to study for so make time for the little things that you love. Say yes to every experience because sometimes those only come once in a semester and you don't want to regret missing interviews or tryouts for a club or organization you want to be a part of.

Advice to Parents: Be your child's number one cheerleader. Provide endless encouragement and support to boost their confidence in dealing with school responsibilities. Believe in the values you've instilled in them; it'll guide them in seizing every opportunity. Trust that you've equipped them with the tools for success and avoid second-guessing their chosen path. College is a time for exploration, learning from mistakes, and celebrating achievements. Your role is to be there for them through it all.

What I like best about being a Spider: I think the best part of being a spider is the close-knit community that you become a part of. When I was going through my internship process the number of spider alumni who were willing to help me out was overwhelmingly positive. I always feel like I have someone to turn to whether it be a peer or a professor. I feel like I am surrounded by people who want to see me succeed and help me to get there.

RA Spotlight



Carly Rougier

RA-Moore Hall

Major: Biology and Health Studies

Advice to Students: My advice to students is to remember that your path may not look like other people's and to prioritize your needs. Everyone's experiences coming to and going from Richmond are different, as well as their needs while living in a learning community. There can be a lot of pressure to complete certain things at specific times, and people around you may always seem to have it together more than you do. Stay confident in your ability to complete tasks with the strength that you have, and listen to yourself when you need to take a step back.

Advice to Parents: While it may seem that your Spider does not want to reach out to you, they most likely just need you to reach out to them first. Obviously this isn't just your responsibility but us students are busy and sometimes the outside world can escape us. Give us a quick call, even if we can't answer, and we will always love to catch up later! I personally love when my parents call, even if I can't answer at the moment. I will always call back because I really appreciate the chance to just rant about what is going on and to be reminded of their love and support.

What I like best about being a Spider: Something that makes being a Spider the most special to me is the continuous amount of support I receive from my peers, friends, deans, professors, staff, etc here on campus. Being a student can be really tough, especially when life is happening too. I have never felt under supported at Richmond, and I think the amount of clubs and other resources we have both for academic and personal interest reflect the support I feel every day.

Hall Highlight



South Court



South Court is one of our returning student residence halls that 162 students call Home. Originally built in 1948, South Court is a beautiful historic mark on the Westhampton side of campus.

South Court is home to Sophomore Scholars in Residence (SSIR), which is the continuing student version of the first-year Endeavor experience. SSIR students are part of a Living Learning Community that encompass community-based learning and includes coursework, collaborative projects, and travel both in and outside of the U.S.

The South Court RAs (pictured) have worked to build a strong sense of community within the halls this year, and have hosted Super Bowl watch parties, dream catcher making, Valentines card crafting, and more!

Upcoming Events

2/27

HOSTED BY
SOUTH/KELLER

Catch the Vibes: Paint & Sip
5 PM, South Court Living Room

2/28

HOSTED BY
RA KATE F.

Snacklebox & Movie
5 PM, LoRo Classroom

2/29

HOSTED BY
RA JOSHUA P.

UR Rock Climbing Experience
2 PM, RH2 2nd Floor Lounge

3/01

HOSTED BY
RA GURBANI M.

Sip & Paint
12 PM, RH3 2nd Floor Lounge

3/01

HOSTED BY
RA FIYIN T.E.

Let's Get Tropical: Mocktails
1 PM, LKVV 2nd Floor Lounge

3/01

HOSTED BY
HR TYRONE L.

Shell Painting
1:30 PM, Lakeview Classroom

3/01

HOSTED BY
NORTH COURT

NC BBQ & Movie Night
7 PM, NC Green

4/04

HOSTED BY
RH2/WOOD

Field Day
3 PM, Wood Circle

FACULTY IN RESIDENCE (FIR) PROGRAM



WHAT IS A FIR?

The office of Residence Life & Housing in collaboration with select UR faculty members combine forces to promote an intellectual community and encourage creating connections among peers, faculty, and staff to provide learning opportunities beyond the classroom to broaden the pursuit of knowledge. With a focus on the first-year community, the Faculty-in-Residence program is dedicated to fostering an environment inside the residence hall for both personal and professional academic development as students become acclimated with a college setting.

UPCOMING FIR TALKS

SOPHOMORE EXPERIENCE PANEL

Date: Monday, March 25th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Westhampton Living Room

Summary: RLH in partnership with the Faculty In Residence Program is planning an event that will feature a panel to discuss tips, tricks, best practices and advice to our first-year students as they gear up for their sophomore year.

Food and door prizes will be provided!

Meet Our FIR Team

Nicole Maurantino
Isaac Skromne
Colleen Carpenter
Swanson
Tom Mullen
Shannon Jones



Housing Selection Process 2024-2025 Academic Year

Important Info

There are a lot of different options for housing, and it can get confusing. We've highlighted ones we get the most questions about below:

1) Suite room v. separate room: A suite has 1 entrance to the hallway. Off the common entrance are the bathroom and the bedrooms. This type of space requires the beds all be filled by the roommate group. A separate room has a separate entrance to the hallway from the room it shares a bathroom with. These rooms are chosen individually and students don't get to assign the room they share the bathroom with.

2) Students must be able to fill the room, suite, or apartment in order to select it. This means that students who are looking for a double room can only select a double in the selection process.

[For full information on housing selection please see our website.](#)

Finding a Roommate



Students have multiple avenues to help them find a roommate. They can search within the roommate portal in the application. The application will suggest the top matches (based on the profile questions), or students can search for a roommate match based on specific profile answers.

RLH will also host 2 roommate mixers prior to the roommate portal closing. The next roommate mixer will be on March 6th at 1 pm in the Westhampton Living Room.

Encourage your Spider to use these options to help them find roommates!

Dates to Know

Mar. 4 - Housing deposit (or financial aid waiver) due by 5 pm EST.

Mar. 10 - Housing application closes

Mar. 17 - Roommate portal closes for apt. selection

Mar. 27 - Apt. selection

Mar. 28 - Roommate portal reopens

Apr. 3 - SSIR and LLC Selection

Apr. 8-12 - Res. Hall Selection



About The Waitlist

Students who miss deadlines (either the housing deposit or the application deadline) or don't participate in the housing selection process can choose to join the waitlist. Once selection closes RLH will send a notice to all students who had a time slot but didn't select a space. This email will include information about the wait list process.

Contact Information

804-289-8930
residencelife@richmond.edu

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SPIDER THROUGH HOUSING SELECTION!

DEVELOPING YOUR BACK UP PLAN!



Housing selection season can be a stressful time for students. As prepared as one is to select their housing it is always unpredictable. We encourage students to be prepared to not get their 1st choice. This can be a hard realization for students and cause panic during the selection process. Speak with your student about their backup plans for housing selection. We've included some helpful questions to ask your Spider below:

- What are your priorities for housing selection?
 - Help your Spider identify what is most important to them in their housing.
 - This could be living with a specific roommate, getting a single, or living on a certain side of campus. Understand there are a limited # of singles available.
- Do you have a plan in place if what you are looking for isn't available during your timeslot?
 - If your student doesn't have a plan help them brainstorm some ideas. They might have to break up their roommate group or add students to their roommate group to select a room. They might have to choose between their top choice in residence halls versus the room type they are looking for.
- Have they communicated with their roommate group?
 - Help your student ensure that everyone in the roommate group is on the same page when it comes to selecting a room.

HOUSING SELECTION “GONE RIGHT!”

BY: PETER HAWES (SENIOR/GRAY COURT RA)

“I lived in the UFAs my junior year.

I was really fortunate because I was asked by my cousin, with whom I’m very close but was also a year older than me, if I would join his apartment with his two other friends, two other seniors. In the fall of my sophomore year, he knew I was looking for a place to live the next year, but all my friends were going abroad and I had decided to stay at Richmond, which left my housing options limited. When he asked me if I would want to join them, I was so excited. These were all guys whom I deeply admire and I felt so honored they would want me to live with them.”



“Going through the housing signup process was easy.”

I remember it because my cousin was studying abroad in the spring on an island and the Caribbean. Even with the spotty internet and difficulty communicating with him, we had no problem navigating the roommate group process over groupchat, which is when a name emerged for our future apartment: “The Rig.” (We had jokingly decided to base our apartment’s decor off of that of an off-coast oil rig, industrial yellow piping and oil drums and all) After we had our roommate group set up in the system, I remember it was also easy to pick a place when the selection day came. We were able to nab a UFA by the practice fields, near where many of other friends were going to live. That year I spent in the Rig was probably my favorite at Richmond.”



POLICIES & SERVICES



Residence Life and Housing has policies in place to ensure safety in the residence halls, and to help encourage a sense of community. Students are responsible for knowing and following all residential policies.

We also partner with many offices across campus to provide students with residential needs, such as: Facilities, Disability Services, and Support Services. Each of these offices help us to keep the residence halls up and running.

Summer Housing Preview

- Summer Housing Application
 - Opens March 18th, 2024
 - Closes April 8th, 2024
- Summer Terms
 - Begin May 19th, 2024
 - End July 27th, 2024

Important Links

[RLH Policies](#)

[Housing Services](#)

[Student Conduct Process](#)

[Room Change Process](#)

[RLH Break Policies](#)

[Contact Us](#)



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