



# SPIDER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 • NOVEMBER 2023



## GREETINGS PARENTS & FAMILIES!

The Office of Residence Life & Housing believes that a student's support system has an integral role to play in the success of their overall college experience. We have made it a priority to embrace all Parents and Families by spreading awareness about certain aspects of our office. In our newsletters, you will get to know some of our best RAs, find out how your spider can become an RA, and how to support your Spider through getting involved, staying on campus during the break, and more!

## SPIDER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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# RA Spotlights

*Daniel Polonia*

RA- Marsh Hall

**Major:** Leadership Studies and Communications

**Minor:** WGSS

**Activities Involved In:** Sols, 8:15 Employee, ICC Student Rep, Tour Guide, URWELL Peer Educators, Sols, *Will* Program

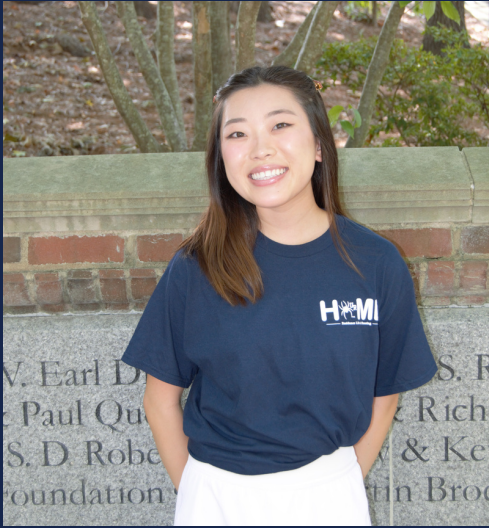


**Advice to Parents:** Hi Parents! I know the residents at UR are doing well, and I hope you guys are too! As a student and RA, I can see how it's easy to worry about what your kids are going through. My parents have definitely overestimated how tough certain situations can be to navigate, especially from afar. Luckily, you can start to ease up, they got this! Keep checking in, but also respect that they are learning how to do things their own way – even if it might be a little different than you thought!

**Advice to Students:** For me, I try and notice when I am feeling a little overwhelmed and communicate that with a friend or trusted staff/advisor! I love being involved and active on campus, but I always have to remind myself to have some me-time! So here's your reminder! Spend some time alone and figure out what works best for you. For me, self-care and rest looks like laying down in my room and FaceTiming my cousins or friends from home. It also looks like watching a comfort movie/show! Encanto or Steven Universe always help me out on a rough day :)

**What I like best about being a Spider:** I think I have to say that my favorite part about being a Spider are the extracurriculars available to us. Being in the URWPE and SOLS allowed me to learn so many skills that helped me organize my time! Additionally, being able to work with professors and staff in the Equity Summit and ICC helped me make meaningful connections that I feel I may not have made elsewhere. These opportunities also opened the doors to amazing communities of upperclassmen and fellow 26' spiders that made me feel I could call UR home. Join that club! Read Spiderbytes! Look around THC! I didn't regret it at all.

# RA spotlights



## Lauren Yim

RA-Gray Court

**Major:** Psychology and Health Studies

**Activities Involved In:** Co-leader of UR WELL Peer Educators, Well 100 Peer Instructor, Health Policy 100 Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant with Dr. Nonterah's EQUITY Research Lab, Alpha Sigma, Kappa-Women in Technical Studies Soreity, AASU (Asian America Student Union)

**Advice to Parents:** Remember that college is a huge change for your child; friend groups are changing, classes are challenging, and all in all, there is so much uncertainty. I find myself calling my parents about the future and often questioning if I'm on the "right" path. It is weird being a student because sometimes you feel like you're already behind even before you start something. All in all, please extend your child some grace and be a listening ear they can rely on. We really are grateful for all of your support even if we forget to express it many times.

**Advice to Students:** There is a running joke on campus that we live in a bubble, and this can feel true at times. With the seemingly never-ending amount of work each day, sometimes the "real" world seems far away. Your life can feel so big and overwhelming, but when reality kicks back in, you realize how small things can be. So find ways to break the bubble. Call your parents. Check in with friends from home. Find ways to serve your community. Go off campus and do something fun. Remember that life outside of campus doesn't just stop, so don't ignore it.

**What I like best about being a Spider:** What stood out to me the most when touring UR was how friendly everyone was and how this was a community I could see myself in. And since becoming a Spider, I have found this to be true. I have met so many people here who go above and beyond for students and thus have had a profound impact on me. The support from faculty to friends have allowed me to foster and explore different passions while building my own self-confidence. I can now envision myself as a leader and have been able to dream bigger than ever before.

DO SOMETHING

# EXTRAORDINARY!

CHECK OUT HOW...

Apply to become an RA!  
Application Closes January 31st!

1

## Step One: Attend An Info Session

November 14th  
6:00 pm  
THC 305

December 6th  
4:00 pm  
Virtual

January 25th  
6:00 pm  
TBA

(Link on Website)

*Attending an info session is mandatory for candidacy. If you cannot attend any of the options, please contact [residencelife@richmond.edu](mailto:residencelife@richmond.edu).*

2

## Step Two: Complete Application

The application is now live and can be found on our website. Complete applications are due by January 31st, 2024 at 11:59 pm to be considered for the position.



3

## Step Three: Attend RA Interview Orientation (Feb. 2nd, 2024)

At Applicant Open House, you'll meet RAs from each community type to learn more about first year and returning student communities in addition to expectations of the Interview Process. Details will be sent post application submission!

4

## Step Four: Interview Weekend (Feb. 10-11, 2024)

The final stage of the RA Recruitment & Selection process is an individual interview with the Residence Life & Housing Team, consisting of both professional staff and student staff members.

Position offers will  
not be made until  
February 16th, 2024.



Questions?  
Contact Us At:  
[residencelife@richmond.edu](mailto:residencelife@richmond.edu)



# HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SPIDER!

## SPIDER RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

1.



*Marsh Hall, Building-Wide Event*

The Spider Residential Experience (SRE) is our initiative to build community within the residence halls here at the University of Richmond focused on answering the question: What do we want students to learn as a result of living on campus at UR?

Be sure that your Spider checks out individual programs implemented by their RAs and Faculty In Residence, in addition to Building Wide events for the whole community to engage!

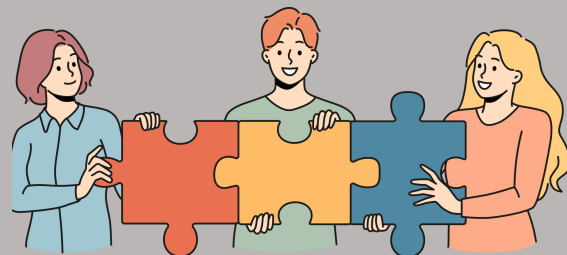
## STAYING CONNECTED WITH RLH

2.

While it is important for supporters of Spiders(that's you!) to stay in connection with our office, it's even more important for Spiders themselves to stay connected with us.

Remind your Spider to:

- Speak to their RA or Area Coordinator with any housing questions/concerns
- Read any/all communications from our office to their Richmond email inbox.
- Attend our Feedback Fridays to share opinions on our services!



# IS YOUR SPIDER STAYING OVER WINTER BREAK?

If your Spider has been approved to stay during winter break, check out some resources for your spider while they are here!

- [Check out the Dining Hall Schedule here for the break.](#)
- [Need to study? Check out Boatwright Hours.](#)
- RAs are on duty 24/7 during the break. See signs in the hall for number.

3.



## Winter Break Stay/Early Arrival Form

All Spiders must plan accordingly as the residential areas close at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, and will reopen at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Between these dates, access to your Spiders' residential area will be removed. Residence Life and Housing offers three opportunities for Spiders who are traveling internationally or need to stay on campus during winter break, Winter Break Requests (Late Stay/Full Break/Early Arrival). Please refer to our website at this [link](#) and read it in its entirety for eligibility requirements and to identify which request your Spider should complete; all requests must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. on November 21, 2023.**

Late Stay: (12/20/2023 – 12/22/2023)

Winter Break: (12/20/2023 – 01/12/2024)

Early Arrival: (01/08/2023 – 01/12/2024)





# Hall Highlight



## Lora Robins Court (LoRo)



Lora Robins Court is a first-year residence hall that houses nearly 300 students. Called LoRo by most community members, this traditional style hall is made up of three “pods.” These pods allow for residents to have more privacy, and are made up of double rooms with hall bathroom access.

LoRo also houses first-year Endeavor students, which is a Living-Learning community designed to make the first year transition seamless. Endeavor strives to connect students with their peers, faculty, campus, and local community.

**The NSTP staff and RLH’s own Emily DiMaria, Area Coordinator for Lora Robins, worked together to present “Setting up Sophomore Year” to LoRo’s current residents, allowing them a first look at planning ahead and tips for success. Residents enjoyed tips from the experts and Red Eye cookies!**



# 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.

## Campus Partners

- Facilities: Students can submit work orders for any facility concern.
- Disability Services: If you feel that there is a barrier to access due to a disability please contact Disability Services.
- Support Services: Students can contact Support Services for furniture concerns.

## Important Links

[RLH Policies](#)

[Housing Services](#)

[Student Conduct Process](#)

[Room Change Process](#)

[RLH Break Policies](#)

[Contact Us](#)



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