



SPIDER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 • NOVEMBER 2025



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!

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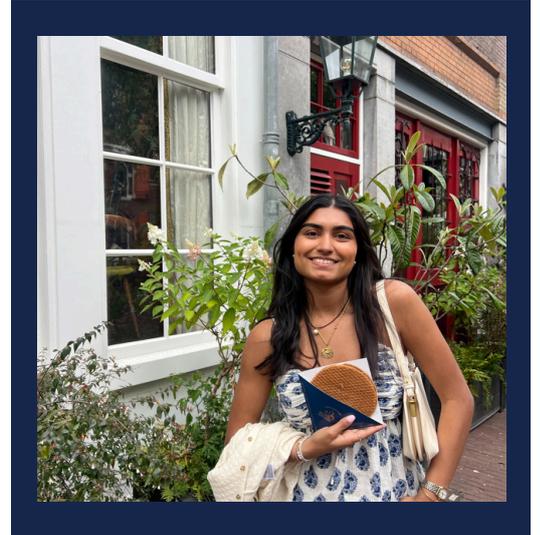
RA Spotlights

Naina Pai

RA - Gray Court

Major: Business Administration with concentration in finance **Minor:** History

Activities Involved In: Exec Board of AKPsi, Member of Kappa Delta, Radio Jockey on WDCE, UR Foodie, Tour Guide, & Texas Spiders



Advice to Parents: Stay in touch! College gets busy, and it's easy for students to let time slip by without checking in. Don't be afraid to reach out- even a short, "thinking of you" can make your student's day. My residents are always so excited when they get a spontaneous call from home or receive a care package.

What I like best about being a Spider: I truly love the strong sense of community at Richmond. From the moment I arrived on campus, I've never once felt alone; there's always a friend or a supportive adult I can turn to for anything I need. Walking to class each day, I know I'll cross paths with at least five familiar faces, and that makes even the busiest days manageable. That personal connection is what makes Richmond feel like home.

Staff Spotlights

Emily DiMaria

Area Coordinator



About Emily: Emily began employment with the University of Richmond in June 2022. She has been the Area Coordinator for Lora Robins Court and North Court since she arrived. She also oversaw Westhampton Hall for two years. In addition to serving as an Area Coordinator, Emily is very engaged in several other areas of the of the university including serving as a Well 100 instructor, a member of the advising cohort, a hearing officer and so much more. Her involvement extends beyond the university as the current chair for the VACUHO Student Leadership Conference. This month, at the Virginia Student Services Conference, Emily was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Pam Winfrey New Professionals Award!

Pam Winfrey New Professionals Award:

This award is given to a full-time staff member with four or fewer years of experience in Residence Life and Housing who demonstrates excellence in several key areas, including:

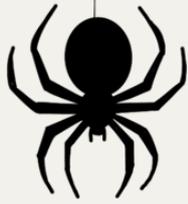
- Outstanding performance in their role
- Providing leadership in the development and implementation of new services or programs
- Demonstrating commitment to professional standards (e.g., ACUHO-I statements)
- Actively pursuing continued professional development
- Engaging in activity that is creative, unique, or innovative

Emily's dedication and outstanding work exemplify the spirit of this award!

Meet RLH & CAPS Grads!

Role within RLH

The Advanced Graduate Trainee position within Residence Life & Housing is dedicated to supporting student well-being across campus. This role partners RLH with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to provide an integrated response to student needs. In RLH the Trainee primarily serves emergency and crisis management through an on-call duty rotation. They also develop and implement wellness programming for students and creating monthly passive educational outreach. They assist with continuing education and training for the RAs focusing on mental health and well-being, ensuring a healthy, supportive living environment.



Taylor Cheski

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Role within RLH?

I am part of the on-call staff and I also provide continuing education to the RAs. I assist in providing support in event planning and adding in a wellness/mental health aspect.

Favorite part of working with residents?

My favorite part of working with residents is seeing the community that is being built within the residence halls. I love helping to put on events and see them be well attended.



Nyah August

Pronouns: she/her/hers

What I enjoy about my role:

I enjoy my role at UR because I get to see RAs make a real difference in the lives of others. Being part of that growth through trainings, education, and meaningful conversations has been such a rewarding experience. I truly admire the drive our RAs have to create positive change in the campus community, and their dedication inspires me to keep giving back. The most impactful part of my time at UR has been training the RAs and watching them grow into confident, compassionate leaders. I've especially loved the vulnerable moments during Behind Closed Doors, and getting a chance to know many of them in a smaller, more personal setting.

Favorite part of working with residents?

My favorite part about working with residents is seeing students outside of a professional setting and discovering the various dimensions of one's authentic personality.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SPIDER!

RECONNECTING AND PREPARING FOR NEXT SEMESTER

When your Spider returns home, give them space to rest and recharge after a busy semester. Try asking open-ended questions, like what class they enjoyed most or what they're proud of this term, rather than focusing solely on academics. Many students experience mixed emotions when shifting from campus life back to home, so offering patience, support, and flexibility can go a long way in helping them feel grounded.

As your Spider looks ahead to the spring semester, this is a great time to help them plan and feel prepared for what's ahead. Encourage them to review their class schedule, confirm housing assignments, and make a list of any essentials to bring back after break. If they'll have a new roommate, suggest they reach out and introduce themselves before returning – building that connection early can set a positive tone for the semester.

Winter break is also an excellent time for reflection and goal setting. Encourage your Spider to think about how they'd like to get involved or grow in the coming semester—whether that's joining or leading a student organization, exploring study abroad options, or seeking out campus employment opportunities like serving as a Resident Assistant or any of the New Student Leader Positions. Many applications for these experiences are open now, along with programs such as the Sophomore Scholars in Residence (SSIR) and Break is a great opportunity to work on applications! Talking through these opportunities now can help your Spider return to campus ready to engage, connect, and make the most of their Richmond experience.

IS YOUR SPIDER TRAVELING FOR BREAK?

Breaks are a great opportunity for your Spider to explore, have some fun, or continue learning outside of the classroom. Before your Spider travels away for any break, it may be important to discuss the following to ensure they are making the most out of their experience:

- Develop an open line of communication
- Discuss allow for your Spider to make travel plans their own
- Address any safety concerns and create safety plan (e.g., emergency contacts, group travel plans, check-ins, etc.)
- Respect their independence and desire to explore

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

See below for information about transportation opportunities over Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Break. Airport transportation will be \$20/way. There is no charge for transportation to Staples Mill Amtrak Station. See more on:

[UR's Break Shuttles Webpage](#)



IS YOUR SPIDER STAYING OVER WINTER BREAK?



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

- Dining Services
 - [Hours of Operations Webpage](#)
- Boatwright Memorial
 - [Libraries Hours Webpage](#)
- RAs are on duty 24/7 during the break. See signs in their hall for getting assistance.
- More information will follow via email for Spiders that remain during break.

Winter Break Stay/Early Arrival Form

All spiders who live on-campus must plan accordingly as the residential areas close at 12 PM on Wednesday, December 14th, 2025, and will reopen at 10 AM on Saturday, January 10th, 2026. Between these dates, access to your residential area will be removed. Residence Life and Housing offers three opportunities for students traveling internationally or needing to stay on campus during winter break (Late Stay Request, Winter Break Request, Early Arrival Request). Please refer to our [Break Housing Webpage](#) and read it in its entirety for eligibility requirements and to identify which request you should complete; all requests must be submitted by 11:59 PM (EST) on November 17th.

Late Stay: (12/17/2025 - 12/21/2025)

Winter Break: (12/17/2025 - 01/10/2026)

Early Arrival: (01/07/2025 - 01/10/2026)



***Your Spider doesn't have to remove belongings from their room during Winter Break.**

DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

CHECK OUT HOW...

Apply to become an RA!
Application closes on January 25th!

1

Step One: Attend An Info Session

November 13th
6pm - 7pm
THC 305

January 16th
3pm - 4pm
THC 305

January 22nd
6pm - 7pm
THC 305

2

Step Two: Complete Application

The application can be found on our website. Complete applications are due by January 25, 2026 at 11:59 pm to be considered for the position.



3

Step Three: RA Interview Orientation (February 6, 2026)

At RA Interview Orientation, you'll meet RAs from each community type to learn more about our communities in addition to expectations of the interview process. Details will be sent post application submission!

4

Step Four: Interview Weekend (February 14, 2026)

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 be sent out
on February 18,
2026.



Questions?
Contact us at:
eparadis@
richmond.edu

RETURNING STUDENT HOUSING SELECTION TIMELINE

FEB 2 ▶ APPLICATION AND ROOMMATE PORTAL OPENS

MARCH 4 ▶ HOUSING DEPOSITS DUE BY 5 PM (EST)

MARCH 11 ▶ HOUSING AND GFH CONTRACT DEADLINE
11:59 PM EST

MARCH 18 ▶ ALL ROOMMATE PORTALS CLOSE FOR APARTMENT SELECTION
All GFH groups must be finalized.

MARCH 25 ▶ APARTMENT SELECTION (9 AM - 5 PM EST)
Timeslots sent to groups of 4 Sr and/or Jr on or before 3/20

MARCH 26 ▶ ROOMMATE PORTAL REOPENS (9 AM EST)

APRIL 1 ▶ SSIR SELECTION (9 AM - 5 PM EST)
Timeslots sent on or before 3/28.

APRIL 6-10 ▶ RESIDENCE HALL SELECTION (9 AM - 5 PM DAILY)
Timeslots sent on or before 4/3

More information about deposit waivers, accommodations, studying abroad, roommate/housing selection, timeslots, GFH and more can be found at <https://residencelife.richmond.edu/housing/upperclass/>

WATCH OUT FOR EMAILS WITH INFORMATION ON
DROP-IN HOURS, INFORMATION SESSIONS, AND ROOMMATE MIXERS



LATE NIGHT BINGO!



Our 3rd Annual RLH Late Night Bingo was a huge success! We partners with the German Club and Health Promotions as a Oct-SOBER-Fest. We enjoyed a night serving donuts and German sofa while celebrating winning rounds of Bingo with residents!



YOU'RE INVITED



FIRST STOP
DONUTS

**NEXT STOP:
MEET YOUR FIR,
DR. SHANNON JONES!**



24 Sept 2025 | OUTSIDE OF
LORA ROBINS COURT
5:30pm - 6:30pm

FREE DONUTS, WELLNESS
TIPS & TRICKS, AND A RAFFLE!



YOUR FACULTY-IN-RESIDENCE PRESENTS WELLNESS FAIR



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

COME LEARN ABOUT ALL FORMS OF WELLNESS!
PHYSICAL - MENTAL - SPIRITUAL
& MORE!

FOOD, PRIZES, AND SO MUCH MORE!

MEET YOUR 2025-2026 FIRS:

DR. SHANNON JONES, DR. COLLEEN CARPENTER-SWANSON,
BILL BERGMAN, DR. ANDREW ALWOOD AND TOM MULLEN!



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, Support Services, and Disability Services. Each of these offices help us to keep the residence halls up and running.

Campus Partners

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

Important Links

[RLH Policies](#)

[Housing Services](#)

[Student Conduct Process](#)

[Room Change Process](#)

[Break Housing](#)

[Contact Us](#)



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