GREETINGS PARENTS & FAMILIES!

JANUARY 2022

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. This year, we have made it a priority to embrace all Parents and Families by spreading awareness about certain aspects of our office. In this newsletter, you will find introductions of our professional and student staff, updates, and announcements of new and exciting things happening in our office this month!
MEET THE STUDENT STAFF

**Head Residents**

Head Residents (HRs) work closely with the Area Coordinators to support our Resident Assistant teams. They have all of the same responsibilities of a Resident Assistant with the added role of serving as the leader of each of our residential communities.

**Resident Assistants**

Resident Assistants (RAs) are integral members of the RLH Team. There is one in every community and they are responsible for supporting our Residence Hall & Apartment communities. RAs are a resource to assist students with personal and academic problems, are regularly organizing social and educational programs, and perform various administrative functions.

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**Spider Residential Experience**

The Spider Residential Experience is a curricular approach to community engagement. Through this, Residence Life & Housing will foster a holistic environment where each resident has the opportunity to engage with our five residential learning goals: Holistic Self-Exploration, Cultural Competency & Inclusivity, Leadership Development, Academic Excellence, and Community Engagement & Social Responsibility.

**FIR Program**

The Faculty in Residence Program, formerly known as the College Fellows, has been developed in response to the Board of Trustees' call for initiatives that enhance education and the student experience. The FIR program pairs faculty members with residential communities to plan and implement activities with the goal of linking student’s learning in the classroom to what students experience in life.

**Spider Chats**

SpiderChats provide RAs the opportunity to meet and connect with each of their residents individually to build a foundation of support. These conversations take place in a space that feels comfortable for both the resident and the RA. Depending on the needs of a specific student or population, RAs may be requested to facilitate an additional Spider Chat throughout the semester to follow up with students or check-in with them.
MEET OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

PATRICK BENNER
Director

The Director of Residence Life and Housing is responsible for the management of undergraduate residential communities for the University and for the development of educational programming within those communities. Develops a strategic plan and envisions the future for the department that offers the opportunity to build by inviting all staff members to affirm their mission, articulate their values, and develop a shared vision around the important themes that will inform their priorities in the years to come. Creates goals and initiatives that will help the Department of Residence Life & Housing achieve their aspirations for the future.

MOLLY LEWIS
Associate Director

The Associate Director assists in providing the leadership and direction of the department while helping foster a positive living and learning environment for our students. The Associate Director is primarily responsible for the oversight of the residential experience and programs, assists in the administration of the student housing program, develops and implements departmental operations, coordinates assessment efforts, and establishes learning outcomes and implementation strategies for the department.
The Assistant Director of Housing manages the housing assignments process for both entering and returning students. The Assistant Director also manages the room change process and housing application processes for all semesters during the academic year.

The Administrative Coordinator for Residence Life & Housing maintains budgets, manages database information, and coordinates multiple staff schedules. The Administrative Coordinator also assists eight professional staff members with various tasks, projects, and responsibilities. The Administrative Coordinator serves as a front-line communicator with faculty, staff, students, and parents. This position serves as the center of our operations as it provides administrative coordinating for all of our programs, functions, meetings, and planning.
Meet The Area Coordinators!

Area Coordinators have primary responsibility for the management of our residential communities. Area Coordinators work to establish an environment that will allow their residents to accomplish their academic goals and to participate in co-curricular personal growth experiences. Area Coordinators seek to develop a sense of community in each residential community in their assigned area of responsibility. Area Coordinators also assist with addressing academic, personal, and social concerns of the students, and facilitates programmatic experiences. Through various connections, Area Coordinators are key contributors to many areas within the Division of Student Development and the University community.
RA Application
Our 2022-23 Resident Assistant application is currently open and accepting applications until January 31st at 11:59pm. This is a 20 hour a week position where your student will learn new skills, develop community, help create a safe and comfortable living environment, and support residence hall and University policy. More information about the position and application process can be found here: https://residencelife.richmond.edu/residence-life/Support/resident-assistants.html

Roommate Agreement
Is your student and their roommate struggling with living differences? We have a resource for that! Our Roommate Agreement Form is a great resource to provide structure to difficult conversations about differing living styles. https://richmond.presence.io/form/roommate-agreement

Housing Selection
- February 7 - Housing application open
- February 7 - Roommate portal opens
- March 7 - Housing deposit due by 5 PM
- March 11 - Housing application closes

Want to stay connected?
Follow us on Instagram @richmondrlh