GREETINGS PARENTS & FAMILIES!

SEPTEMBER 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. 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!

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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.

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.

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 First Year communities to plan and implement activities with the goal of linking student's learning in the classroom to what students experience in life.

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 themes: Holistic Self-Exploration, Cultural Competency & Inclusivity, Leadership Development, Academic Excellence, and Community Engagement & Social Responsibility.
P A T R I C K  B E N N E R
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.

A S H L E Y  O W E N S
Associate Director

The Associate Director of Residence Life 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.

T A Y L O R  W A L S H
Associate Director

The Associate Director of Residence Life & Housing manages the housing assignments process for both entering and returning students. Taylor also manages the room change process and housing application and selection 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 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.

Leslie Jacobs
Administrative Assistant

The Coordinator for Residence Life and Housing is responsible for providing support to residents and their families as they make housing decisions. This position assists in fostering the overall residential experience for all on-campus students. The Coordinator for Residence Life and Housing also lives on campus and serves as part of RLH's Coordinator-on-Call rotation.

Jacob Lowman
Coordinator for RLH
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.

Lexie Johnson
Gray, Keller, South, Law

Emily Dimaria
LoRa Robins, Westhampton, North

Jocelyn Hermosilla
Moore, RH #2, Wood, Atlantic, Pacific, RH #3

Jo'Nae Olds
Marsh, RH #1, Lakeview

Emily Paradise
Gateway, UFAs, Dennis, Robins
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.

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
The transition to college may be a difficult journey, and not just for first-year students. It is a time filled with an overwhelming amount of change from new environments and roommates to new challenges with exploring majors and new ideas. As a member of the Spider Family, you play a crucial role in providing additional support to your Spider. Please see the topics below for ways you may assist in supporting your student.

### Student Involvement

Moving to an entirely new place, or even a new residence hall on campus may be an overwhelming experience, but it can be made easier with a sense of community. When supporting your student through the residential experience, encourage them to take part in the following tips and tricks:

- Utilize the Open Door Policy.
- Sit in the Study Lounges to do homework, if that works for their learning style.
- Encourage participation in the Spider Residential Experience.
- Recommend your student to join the Residential Experience Advisory Council or participate in the Hall Mural Competition (First-Year Halls Only).

### Roommate Concerns

If your student is having concerns about a roommate, you may provide support by being an active listening ear for them. Sometimes that may be what the student needs most, is for someone to listen and try to understand. If your student still needs additional assistance, consider the following:

- Help them understand the power in communicating directly with their roommate about issues/conflicts.
- Talk through with them ways to address specific issues and the best times to discuss concerns.
- Refer them back to their Roommate Agreement!
- Encourage mediation with their RA.

### Policies & Services

- **RLH Policies:**
  [https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/policies/index.html](https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/policies/index.html)

- **Room Change Process:**
  [https://residencelife.richmond.edu/housing/RLHRoomChangeProcess.pdf](https://residencelife.richmond.edu/housing/RLHRoomChangeProcess.pdf)

- **Housing Services:**
  [https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/services/index.html](https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/services/index.html)

- **Contact Us:**
  [https://residencelife.richmond.edu/about/index.html](https://residencelife.richmond.edu/about/index.html)