



SPIDER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 • SEPTEMBER 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 meet our new staff members, learn about Housing Processes, how to support your Spider through transitions, and more!

SPIDER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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MEET

our new staff!



Keilah Shannon

Keilah is our new Area Coordinator for Gray Court, South Court, and Keller Hall! Keilah is a Charlotte native, and an alumna of Mississippi State and Clemson University. Keilah loves anything pink and has two cats: Tyger and Tortellini, who live with her on campus. We are very excited to have Keilah on board for the 23-24 year!

Kayon Johnson

Kayon is our new Coordinator for Training & Development. A Louisiana native, Kayon is joining us from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he served as a Coordinator for the Intercultural Engagement Center at Guilford College. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, doing karaoke, and watching/making TikTok's. We are very excited to have Kayon a part of the team!



Learn more about the entire Office of Residence Life & Housing Team and our mission, vision, and values [here!](#)

MEET OUR STUDENT STAFF



HEAD RESIDENTS

The Office of Residence Life & Housing provides the unique opportunity for our returning RLH student staff to step into a new leadership experience through the role of the Head Resident.

Head Residents (HR) are responsible for leading a staff ranging from 4-10 Resident Assistants within their community. HRs are empowering leaders who foster community amongst the RA staff and connect the RA staff to the RLH Pro Staff. Similar to the RA role, HRs not only provide peer support and connection to the RA staff, but to their own residence hall/apartment community.



RESIDENT ASSISTANTS

Within the Office of Residence Life & Housing, we have identified and selected about 90 student leaders across the University of Richmond to serve as Resident Assistants.

As Resident Assistants (RA), our student leaders are responsible for supervising a community of about 25-60 residential students. RAs are typically the first point of contact for support your Spider and actively work to practice our values of building a positive, inclusive, and safe community.

**Stay tuned for updates about the
2023-2024 RA Recruitment
Selection Process.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STUDENT STAFF [HERE!](#)

RA Spotlights

Victoria Moullin

HR- Lora Robins Court

Major: Political Science

Minor: Entrepreneurship and French

Activities Involved In: Member of CCO (Coalition for Christian Outreach), Writing Consultant, French Club Ambassador



Advice to Parents: Even as a senior, the number of times I call my parents throughout the week is comedic. I sometimes call when I have literally two minutes to talk, rant to my mom/dad about a conversation I just had or a quiz I just took, not listen to a word they say, and hang up with a quick "Okay, I'm at the dining hall now, love you, bye!" I do not do this with the intent of being disrespectful, I simply feel busier than I ever have before and am trying to juggle too much at once. One of the biggest transitions between high school and college is that we get to structure our own time. This usually results in busy schedules with activities, meetings, and classes back-to-back. I would just advise parents to be patient and listen to your kids ramble. Of course, there is a time for advice and wise suggestions, but remember that sometimes we need to verbally process situations with someone we can let our guard down with because we know you love and care about us. Even so, do gently remind us that you, too, have a life, and perhaps would like to speak at some point during the call as well. That humbling nudge is necessary to help us zoom out and put our inward-focused views into perspective.

What I like best about being a Spider: My favorite part about being a Spider is the atmosphere of positive development. Everywhere you look on campus there is another flier for an incredible possibility to grow and advance your knowledge. Things like listening to a guest speaker, a panel discussion, traveling to a conference, attending an artistic performance; similarly, getting connected to the greater Richmond community through volunteer work, visiting a seasonal museum exhibit downtown, or a networking event. It is not difficult to tell that all of our faculty and administration want students here to thrive and expand their horizons. Professors often find opportunities for students that are personalized to their interests and will do anything in their power to help. It feels as though there are no limits to what we can do with the amount of resources and connections within the Spider web. I feel challenged and supported with any personal or professional endeavor that I desire to take on.

RA Spotlights



Na'Dyah Wynn

HR Moore/Dennis

Major: Computer Science and French

Minor: Math

Activities Involved In: Cercle Francais, Renaissance Society, French Assistant Teacher

Advice to Parents: Be patient with your students. They are starting a new journey as young adults and they are going through a trial and error period. They're going to make some mistakes, but they're also going to learn and grow. The most important thing they need during this journey is your support. There may be days where you don't hear from them or know what's going on in their life but you should trust them to come to you when they need help. Be the support they need behind the scenes and the safe space they will always have when they go home.

What I like best about being a Spider: In my senior year of high school, I decided to come to the University of Richmond because of the opportunities made available to me. I liked the idea of being able to find my passion before declaring my major. Coming to UR, I was pretty set on being a Computer Science major but the classes I took during my first two years gave me the chance to double major in Computer Science and French while completing a French Honors Thesis. I learned my passions while being at UR and have no regrets about the opportunities I used to get to this point in my life. The best thing about being a Spider is having a world of options at my fingertips to learn more about myself and the path I want to take.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR SPIDER!

1.

TRANSITION ADJUSTMENT



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.

HOMESICKNESS

2.

It is very common for students feel homesick in the first few months of the Fall Semester. This is truly the fear of missing out on the happenings at home. This may present in personality changes, anxiety, stress, sadness and struggles engaging/ getting involved. We invite you to check in on your Spider, encourage them highlight aspects of home in their space, schedule times to chat with loved ones at home, and get involved on campus!



ROOMMATE STRUGGLES

Sharing your space with another person for the first or even second time is a big transition for some students. Encourage your Spider to communicate. Communication is one of our most common struggles amongst roommate issues. All Spiders have access to the RLH Roommate Agreement. We advise that within the first month they sit down with their roommates and discuss topics like guests, study times, cleanliness, and quiet times. If your Spider would like, their RA can assist by facilitating the conversations. RAs also can assist if the struggles advance. If you have any questions regarding roommate conflicts or concerns, check out the next page!

3.



NEW AUTONOMY

4.

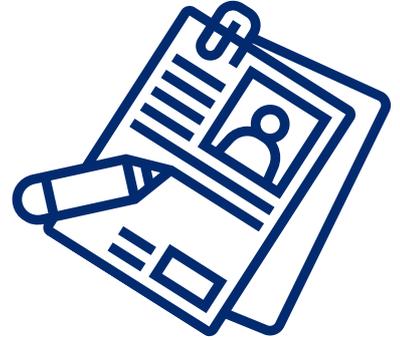


Your Spider has now embarked on a new journey into adulthood where for some, will be their first encounter with independence. There should however, still be a well balanced ratio of challenge and support for your Spider. This balance will also present in a safe amount of freedom with a healthy amount of trust. Therefore, talk with your Spider about your expectations with communication, the business side of their college experience, and how to stay connected. Lastly, it is important to understand that college can be the most transformational time in a young adults life. Your Spider will change, evolve, and grow over the next few years, but so will you!

Room Change Process

Here are ways you can support your spider with roommate conflicts!:

- 1) Tell them conflict is natural.
- 2) Ask them if they have spoken with their roommate (in person) about the situation.
- 3) Encourage them to talk to their RA to set up a mediation.
- 4) Help them brainstorm compromises and understand where their boundaries are.



Room Change Process

- 1) Mediation with the RA.
- 2) Allow time for the mediation to work.
- 3) RA will check-in with residents.
- 4) If necessary, student will complete the Room Change Request Form found in StarRez.
- 5) RLH staff will coordinate with the student to complete the room change.

Expectations for Room Changes

- Room changes don't happen immediately. RLH has to give any new roommates at least 48 business hours' notice that a new student is moving in.
- Room changes won't be to a single room, unless the student has an approved accommodation on file for a single.
- Room changes don't prevent new conflicts. Our goal is that students have the tools to communicate boundaries and address concerns.



Hall Highlight



University Forest Apartments

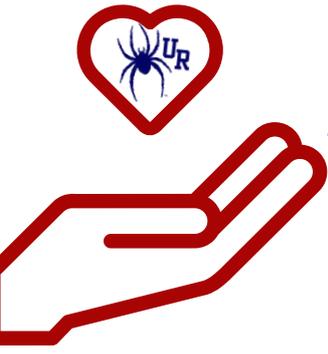


The University Forest Apartments (UFAs) are townhouse apartments with 2 bedrooms, housing 4 residents total per apartment. UFAs are for returning students, and offer a true “apartment” feel, making them very popular. These spaces offer privacy, outdoor patios, and tons of customizable space to really make your home away from home complete!

The UFAs are starting the apartment association -- a group of residents who work alongside RLH to build community and implement new initiatives for all apartments residents!

The RA staff for the UFAs has been hard at work already, hosting a fall festival (pictured above) in the first two weeks of this semester! This event included tons of outdoor activities and other games and, of course, good food!

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.

Fire Safety Inspections

Each year professional staff members conduct Fire Safety Inspections in every residential room. We look for potential fire hazards such as: candles, cooking appliances, decorations hanging from the ceiling, blocked smoke detectors, and other fire hazards. If a staff member confiscate items from the room, the items can be picked up when the student returns home next.

A student's first fire safety violation will be a warning letter they receive to their University of Richmond email address. A second violation will result in a \$25 fine, and a third violation will result in a \$50 fine. Any further violations will result in conduct charges.

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.

RLH Policies:

<https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/policies/index.html>

RLH Break Policies:

<https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/arrival-break-transitional-housing/index.html#end-of-springsummer-transitional-housing-end-of-yearend-of-summer>

Room Change Process:

<https://residencelife.richmond.edu/housing/RLHRoomChangeProcess.pdf>

Housing Services:

<https://residencelife.richmond.edu/policies-and-services/services/index.html>

Contact Us:

<https://residencelife.richmond.edu/about/index.html>



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