

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



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A NOTE FROM STEVE

It is hard to believe that the spring semester and the 2021-22 school year are coming to a close. It has been a whirlwind given our responsibilities, on and off again, with regard to COVID.

Your response to helping our students stay here live was remarkable. Twice, we felt a sense we were coming out of COVID, and you responded in a way that got our students back to being active outside of the classroom.

I am glad that we are now able to return to having periodic Student Development Division newsletters. This will be a chance to share our news with one another. Thank you to Karen Turner and her student staff for putting these together.

I want to thank you all. I know it has been a difficult year. Some offices were really hit hard by the staff exodus from higher education. It is wonderful to see our offices now showing signs of staffing back up to full capacity.

As we move into the summer months, I hope you will find some time to relax, vacation, and have more time with family and friends.

I am proud to work with you all,

-Dr. Steve D. Bisese



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MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chaplaincy

On March 31, University of Richmond community members gathered in the Multifaith Room of the Wilton Center for “Loss and Resilience: A Community Gathering to Mark the Second Anniversary of COVID-19.” The celebrations of Ramadan, Passover and Holy Week were also undertaken by the Chaplaincy. A weekend of yoga and meditation retreat for students was also held, and a pilgrimage for Wyoming will be taking place soon. – *Jamie Lynn Haskins, Chaplain for Spiritual Life and Communications Director*



Academic Skills Center

“For close to 30 years, the Peer Advisors and Mentors have helped first-year student mentees integrate successfully into UR’s environment. The nurturing mentee-mentor relationships, engagement in one-on-one and group activities and academic and leadership training and development have contributed to first-year mentees becoming leaders on and off-campus, excelling in the classroom and returning to the university as second-year students... 98% of the mentees who entered as first-year students during the fall of 2020 returned as second-year students in fall 2021. UR’s rates were at 91%. PAM has now exceeded the University of Richmond’s retention rates for 25 years out of 29 years.” – *Hope Walton, Director of Academic Skills*

Disability Services

“The office of Disability Services is proud to announce that the search for a new Director of Disability Services was a huge success. Welcome to Dr. Cort Schneider, who will start in mid-May. We appreciate all who participated in the interviews and provided helpful feedback.” – *Julia Kelly, Accessibility Specialist, Disability Services*

Residence Life and Housing

“The tireless work and selfless acts by the RLH team over the last two years is to be commended as we worked day and night (and weekends and holidays and breaks) to support our students and University through the challenges of COVID-19 while still working hard to provide the best residential experience possible. The team, from 2020-2022, stuck together through thick and thin, but now some



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have/are moving on, and they will be dearly missed. 2022-2023 will bring familiar faces in new places and new faces, but RLH will continue to be progressive leaders in the field and in our work so that we can the best residential experience for our students.” – *Patrick Benner, Director of Residence Life and Housing*

Health Promotion

The Health Promotion department won the 2021 Cigna Well-Being Award for Excellence in “Leadership, Foundations, Tools and Participation Data” for our employee well-being programs and initiatives; the 2021 American Heart Association Gold Award for Workplace Well-Being prevention and education efforts; and the 2021 Campus Prevention Network Seal of Prevention, which recognizes high-impact digital prevention programs. These programs have proven impact on student retention, belonging, academic success and, increasingly, enrollment, as students evaluate institutions on their approach to safety, well-being and inclusion. – *Heather Sadowski, Director of Health Promotion*

University Recreation

“While I cannot say the last two years were fun for University Recreation (and generally we thrive on being the ‘fun’ place on campus), I can say we learned a lot, we worked together really well, and provided an opportunity to our students that few other departments could. And we did this being short-staffed as we lost (3) full-time employees during the pandemic; luckily, we have now filled all of those positions. I am grateful for a team that, while living through a pandemic themselves, was able to provide students an outlet to interact, in-person, with other students. We heard the concerns from students that they were craving social interaction, and we provided that. Through accessing the newly renovated Weinstein Center to exercise, participating in Sport Clubs and taking advantage of our in-person or online fitness classes, we were able to meet our student’s needs. It was truly a group effort!” – *Marti Tomlin, Director of University Recreation*



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STAFF HIGHLIGHT: Daniel Dho Roberts & Dafne Luna

By Madyson Fitzgerald

Daniel Dho Roberts joined the Student Center for Equity and Inclusion earlier this year as the new assistant director for APIDWA student support and multicultural programs. After joining the SCEI team, he said that he wanted Asian, Pacific Island, Desi and West Asian students to “feel represented.” He also wants to empower and acknowledge APIDWA voices and the wider University of Richmond community about their culture, he said.

The people that he works with is what Dho Roberts said he liked most about his job. It’s a lot of fun, and the students are driven and intelligent, he said.

“Makes me proud,” he said.



Dafne Luna joined the SCEI team as the new Assistant Director for Latinx Student Support and Multicultural Programs. After a big move — Luna had moved from California after never visiting the East Coast before — she said it was nice getting to work with people who not only were interested in what you were doing, but were also interested in doing the work for it.

“It’s been amazing,” Luna said. “I’m so glad I landed here.”

Luna said she wanted to bring more attention to Latinx culture in general: “A lot of universities focus on the celebrations, but I want to make it clear to students that they really belong here, too.”

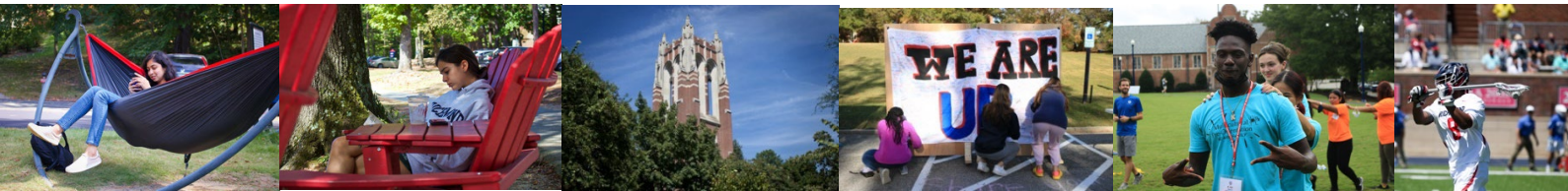
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CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

By Madyson Fitzgerald

The Student Development Office is happy to share in the excitement of the Class of 2022's graduation! We are so excited to see where the future will take some of the best and brightest minds we've ever encountered. As you walk across that stage on May 8 to receive your diploma, know that the faculty and staff here will always be here for you.

Graduation is only the first of many proud and successful moments in you all's lives. Congratulations today and best wishes for all your tomorrows!



SENIOR HIGHLIGHT: Andrea Freitas

By Madyson Fitzgerald

A little over two years ago, then-sophomore Andrea Freitas was approached by her roommate with an offer for a campus job as a budget specialist in the Weinstein Center for Recreation. Today, now a senior majoring in business administration with a concentration in finance, Freitas works with Karen Turner, assistant to the vice president for student development, as the team lead in the budget office of the Health and Well-being Unit.

Freitas said she will miss her relationships with Karen and the students in the office and that there was never a day she did not look forward to coming to work. Her position in the budget office had led to her post-graduate job with Amazon as a financial analyst, and while working as a budget specialist, she interned with Dominion Energy, and then Amazon, she said.

"I will say this job was a catalyst for everything that has come after," Freitas said. "As a person, you start working as a team, but then you start gaining confidence in your work, and being able to lead projects, and becoming a little bit more independent and self-assured that in whatever you're doing, you're doing correctly. It definitely has allowed me to stretch my wings, in a way, and engage in different experiences."



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CONGRATULATIONS STUDENT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION STUDENT WORKERS CLASS OF 2022!

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Tamar Accius | Sandeep Kumar |
| Eleazer Afotey | Anthony Lawrence |
| Amna Ali | Noah Lenker |
| Natnael Asmelash | Caitlyn Lindstrom |
| Gabriela Aulicino de Vasconcellos | Olivia Lomax |
| Nick Bambino | Ifetayo Maloney |
| Catherine Bayas | Zodok Martinez |
| Nina Belber | Maeve McCormick |
| Antonio Betancor Mateo | Emily Mendelsen |
| Rebecca Bivens | Carter Miller |
| Raven Bullard | Regenia Miller |
| Erin Burns | Iana Mezhibovskaia |
| Kaylee Butterworth | Kostro Montana |
| Johnny Chadoyan | Athony Moody |
| Lilly Colantonio | Sabrina Munro |
| Kayla Coleman-Trusdale | Amara Nwangwu |
| Marisa Daugherty | Mason Ortiz |
| Liam Day | Sai Poluri |
| Kayle DeAlto | Anna Postma |
| Rachel Decker | Matthew Robinson |
| LeeAnn Dempsey | Helena Rocha |
| Edward Dinh | Becca Rubenstein |
| Radia El Hallam | Miracle Santiago |
| Sarena Enright | Tracy Santizo |
| Ally Fallon | Kayla Schiltz |
| Joel Tabapssi Fokwa | Andre Shannon |
| Andrea Freitas | Miquell Shaw |
| Tiara Fulmore | Brianna Silva |
| Megan Geher | Mia Slaunwhite |
| Alyssa Hendricks | Julian Starks |
| Josh Higdon | Nysa Stiell |
| Amaya Jackson | Elizabeth Stilson |
| Camille Juliana | Drew Strong |
| Morgan Kasemeyer | Dylan Tezak |
| Sam Mickey | Will Troutman |
| Elle Jackson | Nicole Vasquez |
| Cameron Keeley- Parker | Max Wallach |
| Jaelyn Kemly | James Walsh |
| Ju Hye Kim | Meredith Wang |
| Eli Kline | Chaniece Williams |
| Stephen Kossuth | Kelab Zewedu |