



Wednesday, February 18th, 2026

RHA springs into semester with Hearts and Harmony Ball



Wednesday 18th, 2026 - The Maryland Residence Hall Association (RHA) organized its first campus-wide Spring event this past Friday, February 13th, with the Hearts and Harmony Ball. Students from all across campus attended a night of music, food, and dance in a Valentine's Day

decorated Grand Ballroom Lounge. The Ball featured a photo booth with accompanying props as well as a Maryland Dairy station where attendees could enjoy vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup and sprinkles. Throughout the course of the event a raffle with winning prizes was also announced; three lucky students were able to get either a UMD mug or a Lego Rose set.

"Food was great as well as the decor," stated Jill Murphy, an Engineering major who attended the ball. "Having song requests was also great."

In addition, after snow delays the RHA was able to hold its first Senate of the semester. Senators approved Michelle Ameyaw as this year's election chair with a vote of 13-0-1. Ameyaw, a Biological Sciences major and former 2024-2025 RHA Vice President, is now working to facilitate the election process as an unbiased non-member of the RHA. She is currently working on the first step in the elections process by starting nominations for next year's Executive Board.

The deadline for these non-binding nominations is Friday, March 13th by 11:59 p.m. For more information about the elections process, visit Article VII of the [RHA Bylaws](#). Click [here](#) for the nomination form!

Since the start of the semester, the RHA has also hosted its Spring Leadership Training Day on Sunday, February 8th. New members were able to get essential guidance about their positions while old members were able to learn more about how to take more initiatives in their respective roles.

During LTD Dennis Passarella-George, the University's Director of Resident Life, gave a talk about developments on campus in regards to the snow that closed down the campus for a week and the University's goals for the semester. RHA members were then given time to plan out events in their hall/area councils before reconvening for group bonding games Guess What and Creative Connection.

Lastly, before closing remarks and positional sessions, three educational sessions were also presented including a Resident Life Departmental Review Team where RHA members could voice what their experience on campus was and an Academic and Professional presentations led by members of the Executive team.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hey Terps! Welcome to spring semester!

RHA has been hard at work prepping for our regional business conference this weekend while throwing a fun valentines day dance and getting our elections schedule in order. Look out for committee projects as they begin to start meeting again, and be sure to go to any events that pop up along the way! Wish us luck in Cleveland, Ohio at Case Western Reserve University while we vote on regional awards and try to beat the next round of snow on our flight home.

Best,

- Emily Shoemaker, RHA President 2025-2026

Senate Summary (2/10/2026)

- [MINUTES](#)
- **Special Order:** Election Chair Approval

- **Executive Team + Committee Updates**

Committee Corner

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): works with the University's Department of Transportation Services (DOTS). Committee Coordinator: *Attowla Kouadio* (akouadi1@terpmail.umd.edu)

- Meet virtually on Wednesdays biweekly @ 4pm-5pm
- Come with any ideas, complaints, concerns, or curiosities about transportation!
- If you aren't able to attend but are still interested, feel free to DM me on Slack about the details of the meeting!
- If you requested to join TAC meetings and aren't able to see the #tac channel also be sure to DM me so that I can add you.

Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACom): works to ensure students feel safe and comfortable on campus. Committee Coordinator: *Giselle Maravilla* (gmaravil@terpmail.umd.edu)

- DIACom will be meeting next Wednesday Feb 18th from 7:30-8pm on Zoom

Sustainability Committee (SCOM): works on issues that concern the university's green initiatives. Committee Coordinator: *Claire Bushar* (cbushar@terpmail.umd.edu)

- Projects are being delayed because of snow :(
- Meetings this semester:
 - 5-6pm Wednesdays through March
 - 5-6pm Mondays beginning in April

Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB): works with the dining services directors to accommodate student's dining recommendations. Committee Coordinator: *Inemesit Udoakang* (iudoakan@terpmail.umd.edu)

- Meetings are Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm. South Campus Dining (Rm. 1107)

Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE): works directly with the Department of Resident Life to understand the issues faced by the on-campus residents and solve them. Committee Coordinator: *Nicole Barnes* (nbarnes3@terpmail.umd.edu)

- ReLATE will meet biweekly on Wednesdays from 4-5pm starting this week!!
- I look forward to working with all of you to discuss things such as emergency preparedness and responses, the housing selection process, improving the UMD app, improving resource access within the residence halls and anything else you or your residents are passionate about.

Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB): works with the structures and attributes that directly affect students living in the resident halls. Committee Coordinator: *Jonas Marquart* (jmarqua1@terpmail.umd.edu)

- Spring Schedule: Non-senate Thursdays, time & place TBD
- Anyone with any interest or questions join ReFAB Slack. Share critiques, concerns, ideas, opinions, and more!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A COMMITTEE!](#)

Looking Ahead

- **Tuesday, February 24th:** RHA Senate (7 p.m. @ ESJ 2208)
- **Thursday, February 26th:** Exec Positional Informational (7pm via ZOOM)
- **Tuesday, March 10th:** RHA Senate (7 p.m. @ STAMP Prince George's Room 1211)
- **Friday, March 13th:** Executive Board Nomination Deadline (11:59 p.m.)
- **Sunday, March 15th:** Spring Break (until March 22nd)
- **Thursday, March 26th:** Spring Town Hall (7 p.m. @ ESJ 1202)
- **Friday, April 3rd:** Game Night Extravaganza (7 p.m. @ the Atrium in STAMP)
- **Sunday, April 19th:** Maryland Beautification Day (12:00-3:00pm @ CC1 parking lot)



JOIN US FOR

MARYLAND BEAUTIFICATION DAY!

“HELP US MAKE OUR COMMUNITY CLEANER AND GREENER”

APRIL 19, 2026

12PM-3PM

**PARKING LOT CC1
(BEHIND ANIMAL SCIENCE BUILDING)**

**ALL SUPPLIES
PROVIDED!**

**JOIN SOA & RHA IN A CAMPUS WIDE
CLEANUP EFFORT!**



SIGNUP



The Residence Hall Association and Sustainable Ocean (SOA) Alliance are excited to announce Maryland Beautification Day 2026! This annual collaboration between SOA and RHA involves a campus-

wide cleanup in the spring. This year, it will be **Sunday, April 19th from 12-3pm** starting at the **CC1 parking lot** north of the Animal Science Building. To register, just scan the QR code above!

🧊 Fall 2025 Roundup 🧊

What happened at the end of last semester? Here are some rapid-fire updates:

Thursday, November 20th - The RHA hosted its first General Body Meeting of the school year in November. The event was open to anyone in a hall or area council, including presidents, and all vice presidents with the purpose of team bonding within the organization and updating members on RHA happenings. Members met in the Pyon-Chen Multi Purpose Room for a comfy PJ-themed bingo night.



RHA Members @ PJ Bingo BGM



Angela, Justin, and Nicole @ PJ Bingo BGM



RHA Member getting food @ PJ Bingo BGM



RHA Members playing bingo @ PJ Bingo BGM

Tuesday, December 2nd - During the Fall semester's last Senate meeting on December 2nd, Senators voted on and passed two bills, [SK001F](#) and [CTK002F](#), both related to fee proposals ([MINUTES](#)).

A Resolution Supporting the Room Fee Proposed by the Departments of Resident Life and Residential Facilities for Fiscal Year 2027, [SK001F](#), passed with a vote of 21-0-1. The bill was presented after guest speaker and Director of Resident Life Dennis Passarella-George reviewed the budget and why the fees were proposed. The bill proposed a 2.14% increase for standard room rates in line with the differentiated rates fee structure and a 2.20% increase in the cost of Resident Assistant (RA) Dining Plans. These fee increases were proposed to account for "necessary cost increases, including salary and wage adjustments, fringe benefit increases, insurance increases, and a net increase in utilities and maintenance costs" ([SK001F](#)).

Similarly, A Resolution Approving the Non-Mandatory Fee Proposed by the Department of Dining Services for Fiscal Year 2027, [CTK002F](#), passed with a vote of 20-0-1. The bill was voted on after guest speaker Chris Moore, Director of Dining Services, answered questions about the fee increases. The bill proposed a rate increase of 2.20% for the resident student meal plan in order to "cover increases in utility, maintenance, and food expenses, salary adjustments, and State of Maryland insurances" ([CTK002F](#)).

Friday, December 5th - The RHA hosted its last event of the fall semester: the Winter Wonderland Gingerbread House Event. Set in STAMP, attendees competed to make the best gingerbread house in order to win several winter-themed prizes.



Food @ Winter Wonderland Event



Claire with her creation @ Winter Wonderland Event



Gumdrop and M&M minions @ Winter Wonderland Event



Gingerbread Houses @ Winter Wonderland Event



Gingerbread creation @ Winter Wonderland Event



Winners @ Winter Wonderland Event



Winner @ Winter Wonderland Event



Winner @ Winter Wonderland Event

Photo Gallery 📷

Photos from the Hearts and Harmony Ball and Spring Leadership Training Day!



People getting food @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



Emily and friends @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



People dancing @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



Claire @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



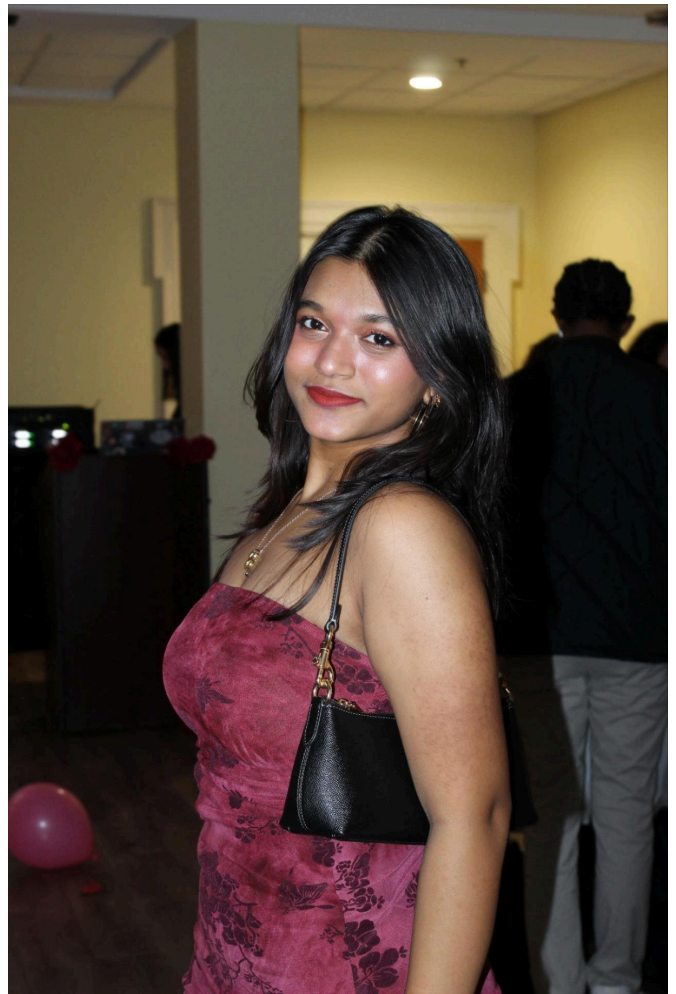
Attowla (nonchalant king) @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



Group of students @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



Attendee @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



Attendee @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



Executive Board @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



People dancing @ Hearts and Harmony Ball



RHA Members @ LTD



Guest Speaker Dennis Passarella-George @ LTD



RHA Members during Educational Session @ LTD



Resident Life Departmental Review Team Session @ LTD



RHA Members during Educational Session @ LTD



Last week's Senator of Recognition Dayna Tyler

Missed a previous newsletter? Click [here](#) to see all of the RHA newsletters from past school years.

Have an on-campus idea, comment, or concern? Contact us or visit our website!



*3142 South Campus Dining Hall
College Park, MD 20742*

