



THE RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Dear campus community,

As I write this letter, I cannot help but be so proud to reflect on the amazing work that RHA has accomplished in the past semester. Continuing a decades-long legacy, RHA has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of students on campus through both programming and policy initiatives, which I will only be able to highlight in the space I have below.

In the Spring of 2018, some of the most visible work of RHA occurred in individual residence halls, where members of hall and area councils hosted incredible events that served our over 12,500 on-campus residents. These events varied widely in scope and purpose: some councils opted to bring attention to social initiatives, while others wanted to provide opportunities for students to relax during seasons of intense studying and exams. RHA's hall and area councils also joined together to host three major events which brought the year to a close: The North Campus Carnival, the South Campus Block Party, and the Leonardtown Block Party. Resident students from all across campus joined us to celebrate a year of learning and growth.

The RHA Senate was also dedicated this year in promoting the voice of resident students and supporting campus-wide initiatives that offered a more comfortable residential experience in the near future. The dedicated group of students who formed the ad-hoc Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACom) in the Fall of 2017 conducted a series of meetings throughout the Spring semester, which actively sought the opinions and experiences of all RHA members and stakeholders. The committee passed major legislation on the Senate floor that advocated for the creation of a Vice President of Diversity position that would exist in every hall and area council and be supported throughout the year by DIACom. The Senate also heard from a South Campus Commons Area Council Senator who advocated for a revisiting the campus smoke-free policy, citing compliance issues around campus. Our Senators voted to support the legislation and to look into the policy in the future. The Senate also offered its support to the continuation of MBike initiatives and South Campus Dining Hall renovations.

I also must recognize the work of the RHA Executive Board, which spent countless hours helping our organization run smoothly from behind the scenes. The Board held a successful Spring Dining Dollar Donation (D3) Drive and donated all collections to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The Board also organized a Spring Leadership Training Day for all RHA members and continued to provide leadership development opportunities throughout the course of the semester. RHA's work was proudly recognized at the Regional Business Conference in February and the National Association of College and University Residence Halls Conference this past May.

Of course, it is time for me to pass the torch to Bryan Gallion, who will lead the Residence Hall Association in the 2018-2019 academic year. I am excited for his vision for the organization and his leadership of an incredibly talented Board. Their successes will help to shape the next generation of student leaders who dedicate themselves to serving their residential communities.

With the utmost pride,
Dana Rodriguez

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ABOUT RHA

RHA is the primary student governing body that represents the interests of the over 12,500 resident students at the University of Maryland. Each of RHA's fifteen hall and area councils works to represent the interests of their hall or area's residents and to build community through fun and engaging events.

RHA prides itself on its ability to effectively communicate student concerns to university administrators. RHA regularly serves the Departments of Resident Life, Residential Facilities, Dining Services, Transportation Services, and the Office of Sustainability in an advisory capacity. The organization also advocates for resident-driven policies and priorities on behalf of students living on campus.

RHA is committed to empowering its student leaders to work to facilitate community development and campus engagement. It hopes to nurture a generation of leaders, ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.



ADVOCACY

This spring, RHA continued its efforts to protect the interests of resident students through a rigorous advocacy agenda. Senators and councils deliberated resolutions and shared insight at biweekly Senate and committee meetings to improve the campus experience. Our organization continued to be the voice of resident students by advising the campus administration through our committees and individual initiatives.

ADVOCACY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In the Fall of 2017, RHA instated the ad hoc Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee (DIACom) by way of a Senate resolution to explore and implement inclusive practices within our residence halls. This spring, the committee focused on setting up RHA's commitment to diversity and inclusion on the council level. DIACom members drafted a Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion hall and area council position description and sought feedback from the Executive Team, Senators, and council members to see how the description would translate into practice. The committee presented a resolution that passed through Senate, which would offer the position on all hall and area council ballots this upcoming fall.

SUSTAINABILITY

Comprised of both Senators and Vice Presidents of Sustainability of the hall and area councils, the Sustainability Committee of Maryland (SCOM) uses its unique structure to ensure our campus is as green as possible, everywhere possible. During the spring semester, SCOM promoted and assisted with GreenFest to help educate students about sustainable living. SCOM continued to develop the GreenEdu program, designed to educate and promote sustainability to all incoming students before they arrive on campus. The GreenTerp pilot, a composting initiative, and other great programs will all be highlighted in GreenEdu, and SCOM will continue developing the program this upcoming year for future implementation.

DINING SERVICES

The Dining Services Advisory Board (DSAB) works directly with the Department of Dining Services and dining hall managers to improve the student dining experience. DSAB presented Dining Services' annual budget to Senate, where it was strongly supported. They were consulted on several capital improvements to the dining halls, including a project to make the bathrooms in the South Campus Dining Hall wheelchair accessible. And, as always, DSAB gave student feedback to help dining administrators develop a more diverse and popular menu in the dining halls.

ADVOCACY

TRANSPORTATION

The RHA Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) works with the Department of Transportation Services (DOTS) directly, advising the department on resident transportation interests. Early in the semester, TAC received DOTS' proposed budget, which was constrained due to parking losses and a new parking garage project. The Senate ultimately rejected this budget on the basis of high parking fees and low resident benefit. Aaron Abshire, the chair of TAC, pushed for an initiative that would grant free mBike membership to all resident students, allowing them to use rental bikes to get around campus. That proposal was supported by the Senate, but was ultimately remanded by the funding committee. Throughout the semester, DOTS also consulted with TAC for suggestions regarding bus routes, a new website, and educational handouts, keeping the committee busy!

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

The Resident Facilities Advisory Board (ReFAB) advises Residential Facilities on the infrastructure and facilities that directly affect students living in the residence halls. This entire year, ReFAB took a problem-solving stance by discussing and finding solutions for the concerns that residents and fellow RHA members brought to the committee's attention. During committee meetings, they informed Residential Facilities of these issues and often found quick solutions. They also worked throughout the semester to improve laundry room signage to correct misuse of the machines. Shawn Verma, a Commons Area Council Senator, passed a resolution recommending additional smoking areas be designated across campus. This recommendation will be explored by Residential Facilities in the upcoming year.

RESIDENT LIFE

The Resident Life Advisory Team (ReLATE) advises the Department of Resident Life on many different subjects regarding resident policy. This spring, ReLATE reviewed the inclusive language campaign in the residence halls, investigated new ways of recognizing hard-working RAs, and studied more flexible housing options for students in Honors living-learning programs. ReLATE teamed up with ReFAB to present the department's budget to Senate. ReLATE also provided feedback on policies for students returning to housing after mental-health hospital transports.

PROGRAMMING

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

RHA's 15 hall and area councils hosted a wide array of programs across campus this semester, offering residents fun and educational opportunities to bond with their communities. Seasonal holidays encouraged councils to put on festive programs, such as Denton Hall Council's Super Bowl Watch Party. Valentine's Day was another major programming holiday for our councils, and many of them offered residents the chance to send candy grams to their friends.



College can be stressful, and many councils hosted relaxation events to help take their residents' minds off of school work. La Plata Hall Council put on a "Treat Yourself" event featuring face masks and DIY lip balm, while the South Hill Area Council hosted study nights with pizza and the North Hill Area Council hosted a s'mores night.

Many councils also put on events that allowed residents to engage in some friendly competition. Cumberland Hall Council hosted a game night, while Hagerstown Hall Council staged its own Olympic Games with minute-to-win-it style games and Elkton Hall Council hosted a field day.

Councils got creative this spring to put on never-before-seen events that residents flocked to. The North Hill Area Council hosted a "Bubble Bash," complete with bubbles, bubble gum, bubble tea coupons, balloons, root beer floats, and a pool full of Orbeez. On the other side of campus, Oakland Hall Council hosted a hall formal with a "Starry Night" theme.



PROGRAMMING

LARGE-SCALE COMMUNITY EVENTS



The **South Campus Block Party**, hosted by the South Campus Commons, North Hill, and South Hill Area Councils on April 20th, was a massive success! The event, which took place on the Prince Frederick Lawn, featured inflatables, lawn games, raffles, food, caricature artists, and good company!



The **North Campus Carnival** took over La Plata Beach on April 27th. Residents flocked to the event hosted by RHA's 10 North Campus councils to enjoy inflatables, cotton candy, popcorn, bubble soccer, a cappella and jump rope performances! Members of the TerpsVote coalition were also in attendance to register event-goers to vote.

The **Leonardtwn Block Party** was also held on April 27th across campus from the Carnival in front of the Leonardtown Community Center. Event-goers enjoyed a moon bounce, succulents, Subway, Rita's Italian Ice, Insomnia cookies, and more!



PROGRAMMING

PHILANTHROPY AND SERVICE EVENTS

Service to the campus community and beyond is a core value of RHA. The organization and its hall and area councils participated in philanthropic and service initiatives this spring to give back to surrounding communities.

Several RHA members spent their Saturday planting trees at Eastern High School in D.C. on March 31st. They volunteered with **Casey Trees**, a nonprofit committed to restoring, enhancing, and protecting the tree canopy of the nation's capital.

The biannual **Dining Dollar Donation Drive**, or D3 Drive, is a one-day service event where RHA members ask for Dining Dollar donations from students entering and exiting all three dining halls to benefit a certain charity. The recipient of this semester's Dining Dollar Donation Drive, which took place on April 16, was the Maryland chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This organization is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization and it is dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

Our hall and area councils also incorporated awareness into their events. Through the **Program Good Challenge**, councils are encouraged to include educational, advocacy, or philanthropic components in their events. Cumberland Hall Council hosted a Sexual Assault Awareness Day event, while Hagerstown Hall Council hosted an event called "Support Women, Enjoy Pie." Residents were encouraged to donate toiletries and nonperishables for a local women's shelter on March 14th, Pi Day, in exchange for a piece of pie.





REGIONAL REPORT



Beyond campus, the University of Maryland RHA and NRHH travel far and wide to represent our organizations on the regional and national levels through the Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (CAACURH) under the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH).



In February, a delegation of four RHA and NRHH members travelled to Rowan University in New Jersey to the **Central Atlantic Regional Business Conference**. While there, UMD students shared best practices through roundtable discussions and networking with about 40 other schools in the region. Our delegation also brought home awards for the Central Atlantic NRHH Chapter of the Year, NRHH President of the Year, Rick Mikulis; and First Year

Experience Award for Valeria Manent. Additionally, we were recognized for almost 30 regional and nationally winning “Of-The-Month” awards, and multiple UMD students received their first link in the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program.

Throughout the semester, UMD representatives worked on several regional initiatives, including the Cougar Cares Program, which established a regional philanthropic focus for the upcoming year. Next year’s philanthropic focus will be education, whether that be through tutoring local elementary school children or running a book drive to donate to local libraries.

To round off the semester, 13 UMD representatives attended the **NACURH Annual Conference** at Arizona State University, Tempe. Our representatives had an absolute blast attending programming sessions on mental health, leadership development, diversity and inclusion, and so much more. We had the chance to interact with members of over 400 institutions all of the country and world. In addition to attending programming and philanthropy

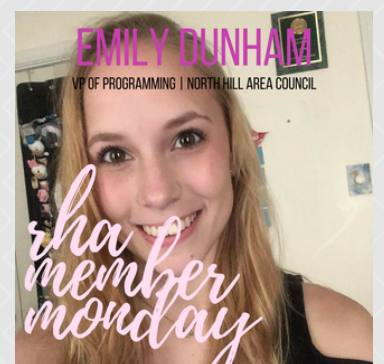
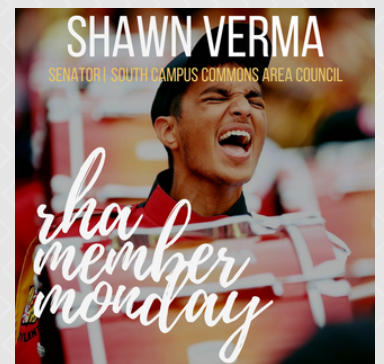
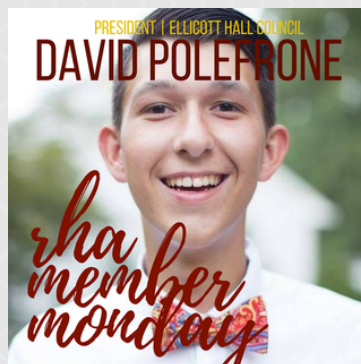
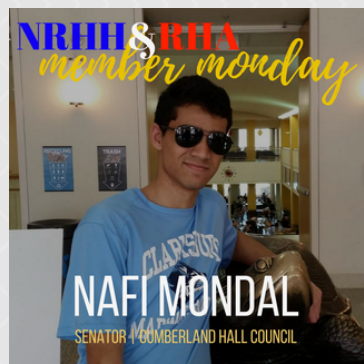


sessions, Rick Mikulis and Val Kologrivov were sworn into their regional positions as Director and Associate Director for Administration and Finance, respectively, for the Central Atlantic. Not only did we come home with new friendships and new skills, but the University of Maryland also won two NACURH Awards — NRHH President of the Year and NRHH Chapter of the Year. Congratulations to our NRHH Chapter and President, Rick Mikulis, on this outstanding achievement!

We are confident that our next National Communications Coordinator, Dan Laffin, will continue UMD’s tradition of excellence in regional affairs!

MEMBER MONDAY

Starting in Fall 2017, the RHA Member Monday initiative has recognized the outstanding contributions of our members on a weekly basis. The following 12 members were recognized this semester:



HALL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT

The RHA Executive Board continued the Hall Council Highlight initiative this spring to recognize hall and area councils that perform exceptionally well during the previous month. Here are this semester's honorees:



YEAR-END RECEPTION RECOGNITION

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Emily Berry
Hagerstown Hall Council

SENATOR OF THE YEAR

Tre Broadwater
Courtyards Area Council

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS OF THE YEAR

Dan Alpert
Centreville Hall Council
Valeria Manent
Hagerstown Hall Council

OUTSTANDING ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Brittany Marxen
*Bel Air, Cambridge
and Chestertown (BCC) Area
Council*

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Matthew Talley
Cumberland Hall Council

COUNCIL BUILDING BLOCK AWARD

Cumberland Hall
Council

HALL OF THE SEMESTER

Fall: South Campus Commons
Area Council

Spring: Hagerstown Hall
Council

MARTIN A. TAYLOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Helen Liu

RICHARD STIMPSON AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Dana Rodriguez

OUTSTANDING SERVICE PINS

Laura Branna
Julian Chiveral
Dan Katz
Dan Laffin
Valeria Manent
Doron Tadmor
Shawn Verma

BRONZE PINS

Tre Broadwater
Jon Dooley
Bryan Gallion
Val Kologrivov
Ben Reichard
Ivey Tucker

2018-2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: BRYAN GALLION

Year: Rising Senior
Major: Multiplatform Journalism, Professional Writing Minor
Previous Position: Chief Information Officer
Fun Fact: "I was a baby model."



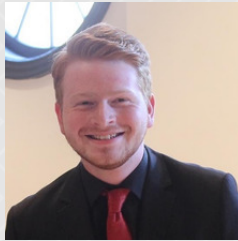
VICE PRESIDENT: BEN REICHARD

Year: Rising Senior
Major: Government & Politics
Previous Position: Senator-at-Large
Fun Fact: "I placed third in my fourth grade spelling bee!"



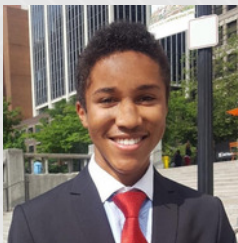
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER: HUNTER MARSH

Year: Rising Sophomore
Major: Government & Politics
Previous Position: Leonardtown Area Council Senator
Fun Fact: "I'm currently raising a Guide Dog Puppy named Orwell who will become a seeing eye dog for the blind!"



STUDENT GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS LIAISON: TRE BROADWATER

Year: Rising Senior
Major: Government & Politics, Philosophy Minor
Previous Position: Courtyards Area Council President & Senator
Fun Fact: "I have traveled to 8 countries outside the U.S."



PUBLIC RELATIONS & OUTREACH OFFICER: LAURA BRANNA

Year: Rising Junior
Major: Criminology & Criminal Justice
Previous Position: Finance & Philanthropy Officer
Fun Fact: "I have lucid dreams every night."



FINANCE & PHILANTHROPY OFFICER: VALERIA MANENT

Year: Rising Sophomore
Major: Environmental Science & Technology
Previous Position: Hagerstown Hall Council President
Fun Fact: "Almost everything in my house is organized according to Feng shui."



NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: DAN LAFFIN

Year: Rising Junior
Major: Government & Politics, Economics
Previous Position: Senator-at-Large
Fun Fact: "I collect snow globes and travel mugs, and I have souvenirs from nearly every state and dozens of countries."



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: EMILY BERRY

Year: Rising Sophomore
Major: Government & Politics
Previous Position: Hagerstown Hall Council Director of Communications
Fun Fact: "I can move both of my ears individually."



A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

It is a great honor to serve as President of the Residence Hall Association for the 2018-2019 academic year. I got my start in RHA as Vice President of Programming and Community Development on the North Hill Area Council (NHAC) my freshman year and took on the role of NHAC President the following year. This past year, I served as Chief Information Officer and chair of the ad hoc Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee. These various roles have been both challenging and rewarding, and I have been supported by a stellar group of fellow student leaders who have pushed me to be the best version of myself for the benefit of our constituents. Over the past three years, I have watched RHA continue to push boundaries on both the advocacy and programming fronts, which has increased our campus presence and national recognition.

Throughout the upcoming year, I see RHA continuing to advocate for policies and host programs that benefit all resident students – and collaborating with other campus bodies to do so. As changes and challenges to the campus landscape and culture continue to arise, RHA will listen to its constituents' concerns and advocate on their behalves to ensure all students feel like their campus living spaces are ones that are conducive to growth and success. RHA's success rests on the passion and dedication of its members, and we will continue to empower our hall and area council members to develop as leaders and be the driving forces of positive change. While our duty is to our constituents, we must also ensure that each and every one of our members is having a worthwhile experience, growing as a leader and developing skills to use in other areas of their lives – and their careers beyond college.

I look forward to working with our new executive team this upcoming year to collaborate with fellow student groups, campus departments, and university administration to make the residential experience and our organization the best it can be. Enjoy your summers, and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

All the best,
Bryan Gallion

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

RHA Advisors: Aaron Hood and Steve Petkas

Senate Committee Directors: Lisa Alexander, David Allen, Jon Dooley, Deborah Grandner, and Colleen Wright-Riva

Hall and Area Council Advisors: Jordan Adams, Amanda Baker, Quiona Beason, Coty Behanna, Amanda Bogdan, Jack Breffle, Chamika Ellis, Tiffany Harris, Allee Garry, Brittany Marxen, Tynesha McCullers, Ray Nardella, Nadéjiah Towns, Karlena Walker, and Ray Ward

Conference Delegation Advisors: Aaron Hood, Ciarra Joyner, and Sarah Williamson

University Staff: Linda Clement, Lucy Dalglish, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens, Mary Hummel, Warren Kelley, Sarah Hughes, and Wallace Loh

All Department of Resident Life Staff