



WEEKS OF WELCOME

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



Center for Student Involvement





Weeks of Welcome

About Weeks of Welcome

The first four weeks of the fall semester provide opportunities for new and returning students to experience University traditions, and develop meaningful relationships within the University of Richmond community. While the Center for Student Involvement coordinates WOW, it is a collaborative effort across the entire University, building community by creating connections through signature events and programs.

WOW programming takes place during the first four weeks of the semester and aims to:

- Build an inclusive Spider community
- Form meaningful connections with students and staff
- Connect students to campus tools and resources
- Encourage and foster a sense of Spider Pride

Weeks of Welcome 2026 Schedule

First Day of Classes Tent

August 24 | 8 am-3 pm | University Forum

Start your first day of classes off with Student Development! We'll have treats, giveaways, and a "First Day of School" sign you can use for photos! Make sure to stop by, say hi, and get any questions you have answered.

Discover Boatwright - Library Open House

August 24 | 11 am-2 pm | Boatwright Memorial Library, First Floor

Boatwright Library invites all students, faculty, and staff to explore the completed renovation. Stop by for a sweet treat, meet the librarians, and discover what's new at Boatwright. Guided tours will be offered throughout the event, so drop in anytime!

Cup O' Joe Sponsored by Richmond College

August 26 | 9 am-12 pm | Whitehurst Living Room

Join us for the first Cup O' Joe of the new academic year! Help us celebrate and showcase the beautifully remodeled Whitehurst Living Room. Stop by to grab a cold brew, enjoy some pastries, and explore this refreshed space designed for faculty, staff, and students to connect and unwind.

Robins Welcome Back BBQ

August 26 | 11:30 am-2 pm | Back Lawn of Robins School of Business

The Robins School of Business hosts its annual Welcome Back BBQ to celebrate the beginning of a new academic year. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend and enjoy this community-building tradition.

I Scream 4 Sustainability

August 26 | 5-6 pm | Stern Plaza outside Jepson Leadership School

UR Sustainable! So join us for ice cream, Earth fun, and to learn about the Sustainability Minor and other sustainability initiatives on campus! Ice Cream provided by DeLuca Gelato with a dairy-free option. The rain location will be inside the Jepson Faculty Lounge.

Farmer's Market

August 27 | 11 am-2 pm | The Forum

Farmer's market on the forum for students to get free produce, ride a smoothie bike, get a smoothie and interact with other key partners on campus.

Pups and Pops

August 27 | 3:30-4:30 pm | Quatrafoil/Chapel Lawn

Stop by to cuddle with some therapy dogs and celebrate almost one week done with popsicles and other sweet treats.

Open House, Hosted by Disability Services

August 28 | 2-4 pm | The Refectory, suite 127

Come by the Disability Services office suite to chat with our staff, take a tour of the Testing Center, receive giveaways, and enjoy refreshments!

*Note: Signature Events are in teal

What Are You Going to Do With That? Introducing the Philosophy Major

August 28 | 3-4:30 pm | The Humanities Commons (in the Humanities Building)

Students majoring in philosophy receive one question more than any: "What are you going to do with that?". In this event, we address the question head-on, and explore possible careers. Faculty and members of the Philosophy Club will share why they love the subject and what to expect if entering the field. Treats will be provided!

Welcome Back Block Party

August 28 | 3-5 pm | Whitehurst Green

The Student Hub for Inclusion & Community invites you to our Welcome Back Block Party! Come enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, music, and community as we welcome students back to campus and kick off another great year together.

Football Home Opener vs. Bucknell Bison

August 29 | 6-9 pm | Robins Stadium

The 2026 football season opens when your Spiders take on the Bucknell Bison! Gates open at 4:30 pm with kickoff at 6 pm. Claim your free ticket at RichmondSpiders.com/BuyTickets. Click on the Student Tickets and use your URID sign on!

Piñatas and Punch

August 31 | 12:30-1:30 pm | Carole Weinstein International Center Commons & Courtyard

Come whack a piñata, sip some punch, and meet fun folks. Explore the piñata of possibilities inside the Department of Latin American, Latino & Iberian Studies. Meet professors in LALIS, students in affiliate groups, and faculty partners across other departments.

Health Studies Annual Ice Cream Social

August 31 | 2:30-4 pm | Garden of the Five Lions

The Department of Health Studies invites all members of the campus community to join us for the HS annual ice cream social in the Garden of the Five Lions with DeLuca Gelato. After enjoying a cold treat, take a moment to visit the department's new location on the first floor of Weinstein Hall.

Think Globally, Speak Locally- LLC Open House

September 1 | 1-3 pm | International Center Courtyard & Commons

See what LLC is all about! Our Open House is a chance to hang out with faculty & students, try global dishes, play games, win prizes, & get a feel for what life in LLC looks like. Whether you know what you want to study or are just exploring, our community would love to meet you. Come see where a language might take you!

Journalism Department Open House

September 1 | 4:30-6 pm | Journalism Lobby and Lounge on the Fourth Floor of Weinstein

Join us for pizza and ice cream to mark the start of the year.

Your Future Looks Sweet

September 2 | 11:30 am-2:30 pm | The Forum

Kick off the semester with something sweet — both for your taste buds & your future! Learn how the offices of Career Services, Inclusion & Belonging, Weinstein Learning Center, Disability Services, and Health & Well-being can support you. Stop by, grab a treat, & get inspired — your future has never looked sweeter!

Curator of Museum Programs

September 3 | 4-6 pm | Harnett Museum of Art, Modlin Center

Opening reception for new art exhibitions. Three new exhibitions are opening in the Harnett Museum: Shubigi Rao: All Elephants Are in Rooms; In/Between: Within/Outside; and How Do Worlds Feel? Come and explore and experience new art and enjoy a free reception.

SpiderFest

September 3 | 4-7 pm | Westhampton Green

Kick off your involvement journey at SpiderFest and discover the many opportunities U of R has to offer. Meet student organizations, clubs, and departments from across campus and explore ways to get connected. SpiderFest is your chance to discover the groups, programs, and experiences that will help make Richmond feel like home.

LGBTQ+ Breakfast Social

September 4 | 10 am-12 pm | Multicultural Space (Whitehurst Hall, 1st Floor)

The Hub for Student Inclusion & Community cordially invites all LGBTQ+/allied students, faculty, and staff to join our annual fall mixer, the LGBTQ+ Breakfast Social. Come through for breakfast tacos, drinks, swag, resources, and community! No RSVP needed. Just come whenever and stay for as long as you can!

Classics Open House

September 4 | 3-4:30 pm | Humanities 407 and 419

Enjoy tea, cookies, and conversation with Classics students and faculty in the Classics & Philosophy Library, tour the Ancient World Gallery, and learn about ways to study the ancient Mediterranean world at Richmond and abroad!

Mural Day

September 4 | 3:30-4:30 pm | All First year Residence Halls (Dennis, Robins, Marsh, Moore, Wood, Lora Robins Court)

Your room is just the beginning—it's time to claim your spot in the whole building! Join Residence Life and Housing right in your residence hall to add your name to our community web mural. This is your chance to literally put your name on the walls and cement your place in your new home. Come make your mark!

Community Engagement Fair

September 8 | 4:30-6 pm | Tyler Haynes Commons, 2nd Floor

Select community organizations that are recruiting volunteers for fall will be on campus to share their opportunities with students.

PrepFest

September 9 | 10 am-2 pm | The Forum

This high-energy event brings together campus & community partners for a program focused on safety, preparedness, & resilience. From emergency response & personal safety to health, wellness, & community resources, PrepFest connects students, faculty, & staff with the people & tools that help keep our campus & community safe.

DIY Succulent Bar with Advancement

September 9 | 3-5 pm | Tyler Haynes Commons, The Current (1st Floor)

Start your semester with growth, literally! Build a potted succulent while learning what it means to be part of a lifelong tradition of giving, Spider Pride, and planting the seeds of collective impact. Join us while supplies last — first come, first planted!

Political Science Ice Cream Social

September 9 | 4-5 pm | Garden of the Five Lions - Weinstein Hall

The Department of Political Science will be hosting our annual Ice Cream Social! All interested students are invited to stop by for some delicious DeLuca Gelato and a chance to win University of Richmond merchandise in our raffle.

Create, Connect, and Explore: Build Your Best Semester with the Weinstein Learning Center

September 9 | 4-6 pm | Weinstein Learning Center, first floor of Boatwright Library

Kick off the semester with a visit to the new Weinstein Learning Center! Discover the spaces, resources, and support that can help you succeed at UR. Fill a custom goodie bag with snacks, swag, and study essentials, create a semester vision board, test-drive exciting VR experiences, and connect with WLC peer educators and staff!

American Studies Open House

September 9 | 4:30-6 pm | Humanities Commons

An open house for all students interested in learning more about the American Studies program at UR. Attendees will include AMST faculty and current majors. Discussion will include a description of the major/minor, upcoming courses, opportunities for community-based learning, and career possibilities. Refreshments will be provided!

Geographers in Action

September 9 | 5-9 pm | Jepson Hall, Room 118

The Department of Geography, Environment, & Sustainability invites you to our 2026 Geographers in Action night. Hear our senior Geographers present short summaries of the hands-on activities they have done during the summer or while abroad. Drop in and hear all the amazing and unique experiences our seniors have to share!

Hard Light/Double Indemnity Screening (1944)

September 10 | 7-8:30 pm | Jepson Hall, Room 118

Come out with your friends to see a film noir classic. A chance encounter. A forbidden attraction. A perfect crime—or so they think. Billy Wilder's noir masterpiece set the standard for the genre, proving that greed and desire cast the darkest shadows. Discussion and snacks follow the screening.

Virginia PrideFest Shuttles

September 12 | 12-8 pm | Tyler Haynes Commons & Midtown Green

Free shuttles will be taking students to and from THC to Virginia's largest LGBTQ+ Pride festival throughout the day!

Decolonizing Eats: Recipes for Food Sovereignty & Climate & Disability Justice

September 14 | 4:30-5:30 pm | Brown Alley Room, Weinstein Hall

Kick off this year's will+GSS Speaker Series, co-sponsored by Disability Services & the Global Environment Speaker Series, with Jen Deerinwater, a bisexual, Two-Spirit, multiply-disabled citizen of the Cherokee Nation & an award-winning journalist & organizer who takes an intersectional approach to the issues faced by their communities.

Research On Tap presents "Go Touch Some Grass: Reconnecting Through the Outdoors"

September 15 | 5-6 pm | Tyler Haynes Commons, The Cellar (1st Floor)

Being outdoors can help connect us with nature, to others, and to ourselves. Presenters will discuss the intersections of the outdoors with mental health, identities, and overall well-being. Presenters will share wellness coping skills and resources and engage with the audience through a Q&A.

Study Abroad Fair

September 16 | 3-5 pm | Tyler Haynes Commons, Alice Haynes Room (1st Floor)

Explore academic opportunities in nearly 60 countries! Learn about semester, summer, & short-term programs, & connect with study abroad partners, international exchange students, & peers. Plus, get answers to your questions about financial aid, scholarships, & grants from on-campus partners. Your global learning journey starts here!

Westhampton Lake Cleanup

September 18 | 12:30-2 pm | Westhampton Lake Gazebo

Volunteer with the Office for Sustainability for a Westhampton Lake Cleanup! Help us beautify and protect the health of the lake ecosystem by picking up trash, debris, and fishing line. All materials will be provided. Please wear protective clothing and bring a water bottle. Thank you for volunteering!

Cirque Kikasse: Sante!

September 18 | 4-7:30 pm | Westhampton Green

Experience the thrill of Quebec's Cirque Kikasse in an extraordinary, one-of-a-kind mobile circus where daring acrobatics are performed on top of & around a food truck! Enjoy breathtaking performances of skill & spectacle with delectable bites & drinks served from inside the truck. SANTÉ! brings the magic of the circus right to campus.

