

# "The Reslife Reader"

## Protecting the Den

"Acknowledge what we already have inside as the capacity to know."~ Dr. Lee

Volume 2, Number 4

[www.lincoln.edu/residence](http://www.lincoln.edu/residence)

August 2014

## Residence Hall Coordinator Spotlight

Each issue, a Residence Hall Coordinator here at The Lincoln University will be highlighted for outstanding achievement, service, and positive representation of the department.



**We sat down with Mr. Jonathan Harris to ask him a few questions about his time here at Lincoln and his plans going forward. Mr. Harris is the Residence Hall Coordinator for McRary Hall.**

### **What would you like to tell us about yourself?**

I grew up in Fort Washington, Maryland (Prince George's County) as the youngest of two boys. I was valedictorian of my high school class. My hobbies include spending time with my family, watching movies, video games, community service, listening to Bruno Mars, and taking walks. I have always had a love for numbers (I was a statistics major at the University of Delaware) however I also love working with people.

### **What made you choose The Lincoln University?**

I wanted to develop my horizons and Lincoln is a great place to do that. It is my first experience working at a Historically Black College & University and I have learned so much. Lincoln is also close to where I went to school so it is always convenient when I want to see my old friends and mentors. Lincoln has become a very special place in my heart since it my first professional position. Coming in at only 22 years old, I had so much growing and learning to do and Lincoln has taught me things I can apply for the rest of my life. The Residence Life department and the university are growing so much and it has been amazing to be a part of the growth. I strive to be the RC that helps build tradition here.

**Article continued on next page**



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### Upcoming Events:

August 4<sup>th</sup>- August 8<sup>th</sup>

Full-bright Scholars  
Program

August 11<sup>th</sup>

Resident Advisors &  
Football team arrives

RA Training Begins

August 14<sup>th</sup>

Volleyball and Soccer  
teams arrives

August 16<sup>th</sup>

Freshman Move In

August 24<sup>th</sup>

Upperclassmen Move  
In

August 28<sup>th</sup>- Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>

Residence Hall  
Association (RHA)  
Information Sessions

### What made you want to become an RC?

Honestly, I have wanted to be an RC since my freshman year of college. I just wasn't sure for how long I wanted to do it or when it would actually happen. I had an amazing freshmen Hall Director named Jim Love at UD who was really inspiring and even helped endorse me for the RA position. The day I decided I actually wanted to go into Student Affairs was an interesting day because it came to me in a dream that I was destined to do this. It has been an interesting journey considering my background is statistics but I have used this as a strength and believe or not, I apply it to my job all the time through surveys, reports, and presentations. My advice is to follow your heart, not your wallet. Everyone has been super supportive in my journey of higher education/student affairs because it slightly caught some people by surprise. I strive to go on and become the Director of a Residence Life department one day so I can help students have an amazing on campus living experience like I did. Who knows, even President of a university one day.

### What is your fondest memory here at Lincoln?

Hands down the McRary cookout that I planned with my hall council was my favorite moment. We had over a 100 people show up, the event was mainly funded by students. We had members from the faculty and staff show up and interact with students and the event won the "Program of the Year" at the Residence Hall Association (RHA) awards.

### What committees/additional responsibilities do you have here at Lincoln?

1. Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) Grant Evaluator
2. Resident Advisor Selection Chair
3. Residence Life Communications Internship Program Coordinator
4. Residence Life Assessment Coordinator
5. Residence Hall Association Chair
6. RA Appreciation Chair
7. Residence Life Website Designer/Chair
8. Residence Life Newsletter Editor- In- Chief/ Chair
9. Room Selection Committee Member
10. 2013 & 2014 Homecoming Parade Committee Chair
11. Project Ignite (Male Mentoring) Committee Member
12. Gentleman Qualities secondary advisor
13. Wrestling Club secondary advisor
14. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. secondary advisor



2013-2014 McRary Hall Staff



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# Resident Advisor Spotlight

Each month, we will highlight a different Resident Advisor (RA) to talk about their experience.

We sat down with Ms. Sadijah Johnson to ask her a few questions about her time here at Lincoln and her plans going forward.



**What would you like to tell us about yourself?** My name is Sadijah Johnson and I am a rising senior studying Sociology on a pre-law track. I am a Brooklyn, NY native with goals of becoming a family lawyer. I am very dedicated to my studies, love spending time with my friends, and listening to music. And on May 8th 2015 I will be a graduate from The Lincoln University.

**What made you want to become an RA?** During my freshmen year at Lincoln, I had a great RA who helped me tremendously. We are still very close to this day. I wanted to be that for others. Someone that you can talk, ask for advice, build a bond with all while your safety inside your residential hall is being upheld.

**What building do you work in and how is that experience?** This will be my 3rd year as an RA and I will be working in Hansberry hall. I love working with freshmen. Some people are afraid of it but I take it as a challenge to impact someone's life. It also doesn't hurt that I personally know about half of Lincoln's female population. It's a fun job and my coworkers and residents make it more enjoyable. I have grown in this job and I love it.

**What made you choose Lincoln University?** I'll like to say Lincoln choose me. I got into all the schools I applied to all of which I was very interested in. Lincoln was very great in the financial department. I was more than excited to attend the first HBCU and would have it any other way.

**What is your fondest memory here at Lincoln?** My fondest memory at Lincoln is probably my whole freshmen year. I learned so much about myself and met a lot of great people.



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# Residence Hall Association

## RHA Election Timeline

- ◆ Late August/ Early Sept. – RHA Interest Meetings
- ◆ September 4th–RHA Application due
- ◆ September 5th– 8th– Campaigning Process
- ◆ September 8th- Meet the candidates night
- ◆ September 9th– Election Day
- ◆ September 11th– Training for all officers



## Testimonies from RHA Members & Advisors

"I really enjoyed being a part of RHA! It was awesome to see how much support we got from other students in ASL and I'm very excited to participate in it again next year" ~Jabria Nasir Class of 2015

"It was helpful, learning what the building represented and how many will approach Frederick Douglass!! Very historical hall" ~Dionne Delaney Class of 2016

"I think it is a wonderful organization that enhances a student's residence hall experience, develops them as leaders, and still allows them to have time for other things" ~Jonathan Harris, McRary RHC

"I found that working with RHA was a great experience, I found joy in planning events that united my residence hall." ~Awa Deen, Class of 2015

"I loved doing RHA! I liked interacting with the residents and planning all of our events. I hope this year is everything it was last year and more!!!"  
~Morgan Weatherly, Class of 2015





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# Where Are They Now?

**Take a trip down memory lane as we talk with different Residence Life alumni. Each month we will highlight a former RA or RC to learn about their experience.**

**Phillip Holmes is a former Residence Hall Coordinator at The Lincoln University.**

**What would you like to tell us about yourself?** My name is Phillip Holmes and I am currently the Director of Housing and Residential Education at Delaware State University. I am originally from Aliquippa PA (near Pittsburgh GO STEELERS!) and attended the University of Tulsa (OK) on a full football scholarship. I received my Master's Degree from Arkansas Tech University. I have had the pleasure of moving around through my 18 years working within Student Affairs and have been to 6 Universities including 3 HBCU's. I have worked in such departments as Housing/Residence Life, Academic Support, Athletics, Career Services, and Recreation.

**What year did you work in Residence Life?** I worked at Lincoln University from August of 2004 to June 2006

**What made you want to become an RC?** Although I was not a RA while I was in college, I lived in the same suite as the RA and had the chance to experience the position through his eyes. I was an athlete (Football player) and at the time lived in an all athletic hall. The RA being much smaller than most people within the building, used to take me with him to confront residents breaking the rules! After college, I still wanted to help students and make an impact on that age group.



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# Where Are They Now?

**What building(s) did you work in?** I was hired to work in Frederick Douglass Hall and resided there for my two years as a RC. Before leaving, I was promoted to the Area Coordinator position and was responsible for several other buildings on campus.

**What is your fondest memory here at Lincoln?** The PRIDE displayed by not only the current students but also the alumni that came back annually. While walking on campus, it was not uncommon to hear someone yell "LU....Lincoln Pride" and I always remembered that sense of belonging established there.

**How is Residence Life different now from when you worked for the department?**

I believe there is a larger sense of knowing that learning does not end in the classroom. More emphasis on programming and one on one interactions with residents have helped in the battle for retention. We are not just the "People with all the keys" but rather we are professionals that are an intricate part of the matriculation of a student.

**How is your current role similar to when you were an RC?** As Director of Housing and Residential Education at Delaware State University, the similarities are that the lessons learned during my time at Lincoln still play a big part in what I do today. Times were not always easy at Lincoln but I learned the valuable lesson that relationships are key. The relationships I built with students, professionals, parents and families all played a part in the growth of my residents and also my growth as a professional.



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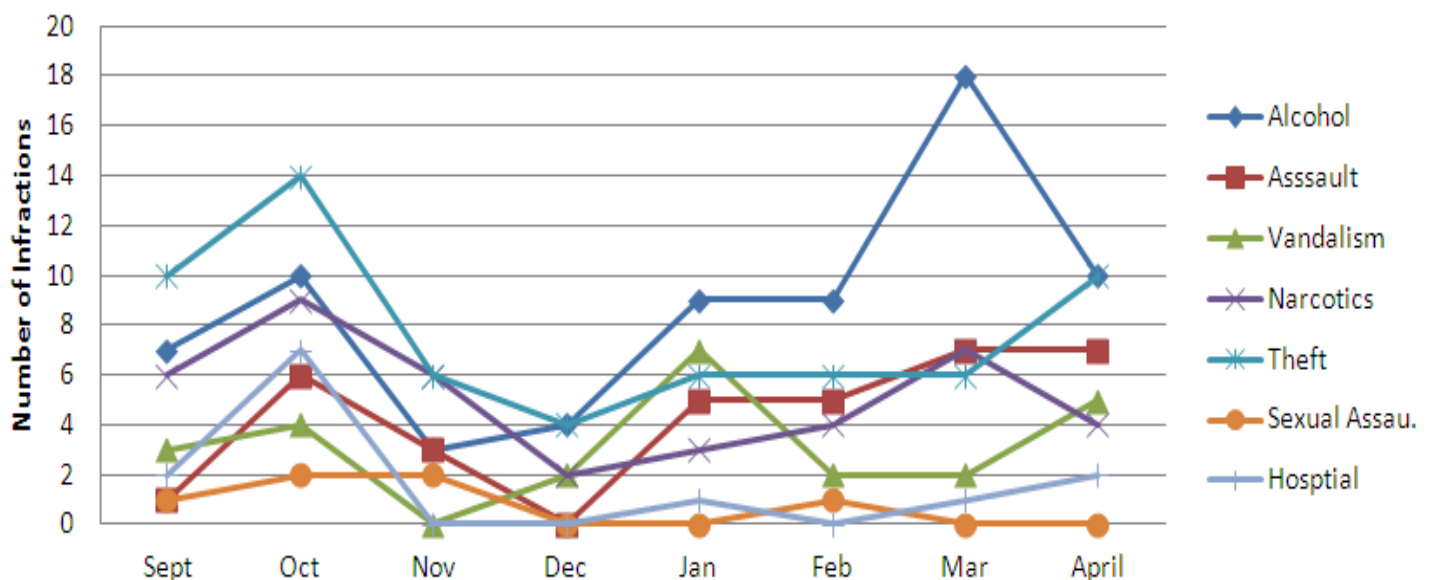
Volume 2, Number 4

[www.lincoln.edu/residence](http://www.lincoln.edu/residence)

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# Campus Infraction Data

2013-2014 Campus Infractions Graph



### Tips on How to Remain Safe on Campus

- Infractions can occur in all buildings, both residential and academic so always stay aware.
- Report suspicious activity to your RA, RC or Public Safety 484-365-7211. You can remain anonymous.
- Please do not ignore any sirens or alarms.
- If you lose your key or ID, do not wait too long to report it.
- Do not give your key or ID to other students, it also puts your roommate at risk.
- Keep your door locked, even if you are going to the shower.
- Make sure you close and lock your windows.



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### Committee Spotlight- Assessment

\*Learn about the behind the scene tasks that Residence Life staff do to foster a positive learning environment\*

To increase staff commodore, the Residence Life staff celebrates birthdays. Each staff member contributes monthly to the overall birthday fund used to purchase supplies and gifts. Each staff member submits a form expressing their likes and dislikes in regards to things to do for their birthday.



### Residence Life Program Spotlight

#### Viacom In-Service

As a part of the March RA In-Service, RA, Nnanna Anosike and Viacom representative, Ms. Ritaz Lopez presented about the company Viacom to our Lincoln University students. The event was planned by Ms. Tiphane Purnell, Thurgood Marshall Living Learning Center South Residence Hall Coordinator. Viacom Inc. (short for Video & Audio Communications) is an American global mass media company with interests primarily in, but not limited to, cinema and cable television. Over 50 staff and students were in attendance. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about the company and network with company officials.



Lincoln University students attending Viacom event.





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### Housing Information

**WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING ROOM DEPOSITS - PLEASE PAY THE BURSAR!!!**

#### ASL & Single Room Requirements

- Students must have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- Students must be clear of judicial holds or infractions
- Students currently residing in a single or in ASL must meet requirements to retain residence
- Please note school scholarships do not cover the additional ASL cost
- Transfers students cannot start in ASL, they must obtain a Lincoln University GPA of 2.5 or better

#### Meals

- First year students will receive 19 meals per week which comes with 100 flex dollars per semester to be used at one of many campus eateries.
- Upperclassmen students will have the choice of 19 meals per week which comes with 100 flex dollars per semester or 14 meals per week which comes with 50 flex dollars per semester to be used at one of many campus eateries.
- You can add more flex dollars to your account
- After your ID is activated for the semester, you are not allowed to downgrade your meals from 19 to 14 per week
- If you pay your room deposit late, you may have your meal plan option chosen for you if you do not express a preference

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### What Do We Stand For?: Residence Life Mission

The mission of Lincoln University's Office of Residence Life is to provide a diversified educationally stimulating living environment where students explore their own development and positively contribute to a global society.

We strive to provide residents with valuable support and resources, as well as enriching activities and programs that serve to develop a sense of community, provide opportunities for learning in a clear, attractive, well-maintained, safe, and comfortable residence hall while promoting the University's missions.

Lincoln University's Residence Life programs and services create a positive environment that actively engages students in the collegiate experience and help to build school spirit, character, and morale throughout the year while residing in the residence halls.



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### Editor's Column

#### "Suggested Reading for Any Professional" by Jonathan C. Harris

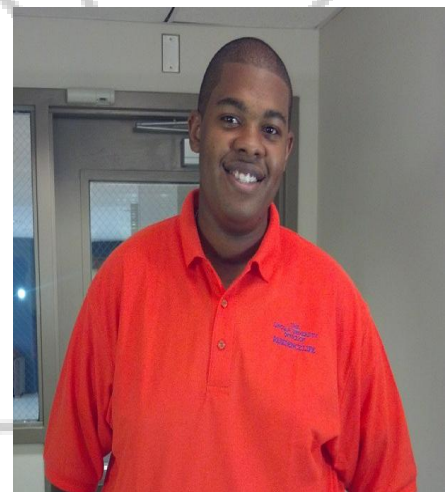
A couple years ago, I read the book "How Full is Your Bucket?" by Tom Rath. It was given to me by one of my former supervisors from my RA days. The book is a #1 *New York Times* as well as a #1 *BusinessWeek* bestseller. *The book* reveals how our interactions affect your relationships, productivity, health, and longevity. The book is focused around a simple metaphor of a dipper and a bucket, and supported through numerous amounts of research; this book will show you how to greatly increase the positivity in your life. "How Full is Your Bucket?" also comes with an access code to take the Strength's Finder test online, which allows you to learn your top five strengths according to a model Gallup Research uses. For anyone looking to increase their positivity or productivity at work and life, I highly recommend. The book can be found in stores or online for less than \$15.

### Meet the Editors

We are here to answer all your Residence Life inquiries. Think of us as your trusted friends who just happen to be Residence Life pros. We are interested in your feedback and opinions.



Dr. Lenetta Lee,  
Interim Vice President of Student Affairs &  
Co-Editor



Mr. Jonathan Harris,  
McRary Residence Hall Coordinator &  
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

#### *Residence Life Vision*

The Office of Residence Life at The Lincoln University seeks to create an intentional learning environment in the residence halls that create a bridge to compliment classroom education and real world experiences.

