

# "The Reslife Reader"

## Protecting the Den

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

Volume 2, Number 3

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

July 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 Ms. Tiphane Purnell to ask her a few questions about her time here at Lincoln and her plans going forward. Ms. Purnell is the Residence Hall Coordinator for Thurgood Marshall Living Learning Center South**

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

I hold a Masters of Business Administration in Technology Management and Strategies in Sustainability. I have been an entrepreneur since the age of 19, and in 2010 I started my own non-profit business. In my spare time I enjoy writing, reading intriguing novels, attending theater productions, and challenging myself to try more adventurous activities. A fun fact about myself is that I have worked with Malcolm X's youngest daughter Illyasah Shabazz. Also, my name is engraved at the Perkins Student Center on University of Delaware's campus for winning the highest student leadership award during my undergraduate studies.

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

While giving back to University of Delaware as a speaker for their Annual Multicultural Career Fair, I ran into my former Upward Bound counselor who encouraged me to look at the RC job posting. I was excited because I always wanted to attend a HBCU, and this was the perfect time to delve into the culture that I always longed for. My brother knew quite a bit about the campus from working with the band in prior years. It was nice learning the Lincoln chants and gaining some Lincoln pride through him before I started the position.

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### Upcoming Events:

June 16<sup>th</sup>- July 26<sup>th</sup>

Upward Bound

July 6<sup>th</sup>- August 10<sup>th</sup>

Summer School Session II

July 7<sup>th</sup>- July 25<sup>th</sup>

Summer Transportation Institute

July 10<sup>th</sup>- July 12<sup>th</sup>

Enon Tabernacle Baptist

July 13<sup>th</sup>- July 19<sup>th</sup>

Band Camp

July 18<sup>th</sup>- July 20<sup>th</sup>

Alumni Family Outing

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

I became a Residence Hall Coordinator to give back to the students. As a first generation college students I was lost in undergrad, so having the opportunity to help the students in and out of the classroom feels very rewarding. My former RC from UD taught me a lot, and I still have a bond with her. I wanted to have that same impact on students and give them all the information I had to learn the hard way.

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

My fondest memory at Lincoln will always be related to the students! I was able to see two of my Resident Advisors graduate with the 2014 class, which left me in tears (of joy). My ladies had a joint graduation lunch together at Olive Garden, and when I walked in they were screaming my name, smiling and hype as if I were the graduate. The parents all thanked me for shaping their students into young women. It was nice to hear the stories from the parents about the changes they have seen in my ladies.

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

I serve as an advisor on campus. For the upcoming school year I will be advising the Zeta Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Onyx Dance Troupe, and NCNW. In the past I have served as the co-advisor for We Are One Family, SGA Assessment, and I unofficially advise a few other organizations. I have collaborated with Student Life as well as Male Minority Health to bring in a speaker for Brother's Week. Also, I have served on a couple search committees



2013-2014 LLC South 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 Mr. Terrell Smith to ask him a few questions about his time here at Lincoln and his plans going forward.



**What would you like to tell us about yourself?** I am currently going into my junior year at The Lincoln University as a Political Science and Religion major. After graduating, a few of my goals are to graduate from Law School, start my own law firm, and to become an ordained minister.

**What made you want to become an RA?** It was apparent to me since I first arrived at The Lincoln University that Resident Advisors are some of the most important leaders on campus. With my previous experiences in High School as a peer mediator and counselor, I knew that I could use my talents to better the Lincoln University community by serving as an RA.

**What building do you work in and how is that experience?** I am currently working at the Thurgood Marshall Living and Learning Center. Being fortunate enough to serve in a residence hall along with excellent co-workers, a hardworking RC, and inspirational residents has made my time as an RA an absolutely amazing experience.

**What made you choose Lincoln University?** It is my earnest desire to make a positive impact in both the African American community and the world at large. For over 160 years, The Lincoln University has empowered men and women to do just that. The choice was clear to me.

**What is your fondest memory here at Lincoln?** It is difficult for me to choose just one of the many memories I've gained here at Lincoln, but one of the most fond memories definitely is my first day here at Lincoln. Seeing the campus for the first time, making new friends, and coming to terms with what the "80/20" policy actually was all came together to make it one of the most memorable days of my life.





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# Residence Hall Association

### Statistics

- Over 50 Students participated in the program as executive board officers
- All class years were represented within the RHA executive board
- Two RHA members now a part of SGA and five that are new RA's, and two are Student Leader Ambassadors now.

### Feedback

**Our benchmark is that at least 80% of our respondents indicate strongly agree or agree when evaluating various elements of the program.**

- 92% of our respondents strongly agreed or agreed when asked would they participate in RHA again.
- 92% of our respondents strongly agreed or agreed when asked would they refer other students to participate in the RHA program next year
- 83% of our respondents strongly agreed or agreed when asked did RHA help them grow as a leader.
- 83% of our respondents strongly agreed or agreed when asked did RHA help them meet more faculty/staff (which is a university goal).
- 83% of our respondents strongly agreed or agreed when asked did RHA help them learn how to work with all types people.



McRary Hall RHA



Frederick Douglass RHA



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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.**

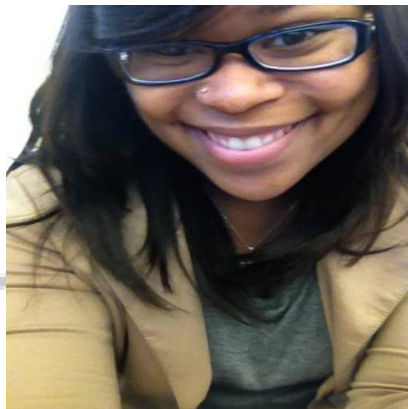
**Gwendolyn Stevens was a former Resident Advisor (RA) in Cresson Hall.**

**What would you like to tell us about yourself?** My name is Gwendolyn Stevens and I am a graduate of the Tenacious Class of 2012! During my time at Lincoln, I made a steady appearance on the Dean's List and was actively involved on campus (former RA, Peer Tutor, President of Big Sister Little Sister, and Woman of the Year). All of these experiences have honed my skills and challenged me to become better. I recently graduated from University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and received my Masters in Public Administration.

**What year did you work in Residence Life?**

August 2009 - September 2011

**What made you want to become an RA?** I became an RA my sophomore year of college and what attracted me to the position was my former RA in Hansberry Hall. I loved how all of the Hansberry Hall RA's welcomed us to Lincoln and made us feel safe and comfortable in the halls. I was very timid when I first came to Lincoln and knew I wanted to get involved on campus and being an RA would enable me to meet new people, hone my leadership skills, and really make my college experience. Looking back now, becoming an RA was the best decision I made!



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# Where Are They Now?

**What building(s) did you work in?** I worked in Cresson Hall, which was primarily and upperclassmen building. I loved Cresson. I really enjoyed how small the building was, everyone knew each other in the residence hall, and most importantly it was quiet! All RA's appreciate quiet residence halls.

**What is your fondest memory here at Lincoln?** I have a lot of great memories from Lincoln, but if I have to choose one my fondest memory would be graduation day. Graduation Day was the highlight of my Lincoln experience. It was one of the happiest days of my life not only did I graduate with honors but I achieved this with my twin sister by my side. That will forever be my fondest memory. To see the smiles, excitement, and pure happiness from all the graduates' faces is something that I will never always cherish.

**How is Residence Life different now from when you worked for the department?** Several residence halls are no longer open from when I worked for the department (i.e. Amos, Cresson, Alumni House, and Houston). In addition, the Residence Life staff also changed, as I am not familiar with the newer RC's. Residence Life is always changing and it has to in order to meet the needs of students and compete with other universities who offer similar on campus living options.

**How is your current role similar to when you were an RA?**

For the last two years I was an RC at a liberal arts college in Pittsburgh. Transitioning from an RA to and RC was a challenge at first as I was now responsible for not only my RA's but the entire residence hall. I got to see how difficult it is to match roommates, prepare the building for Move-In Day, and the time and effort it takes to plan RA training. I enjoyed being and RC because I was able to take my experiences from Lincoln working with students and my former RC's to build relationships with my RA's and fulfill the various responsibilities that came along with my position. I appreciate all the time I spent with my fellow RA's! The support you receive from RA's and Campus Life Staff is endless and something that all RA's appreciate. I recently accepted a new position as an Administrative Coordinator for Human Resources and Legal Department and I am focusing on my career.



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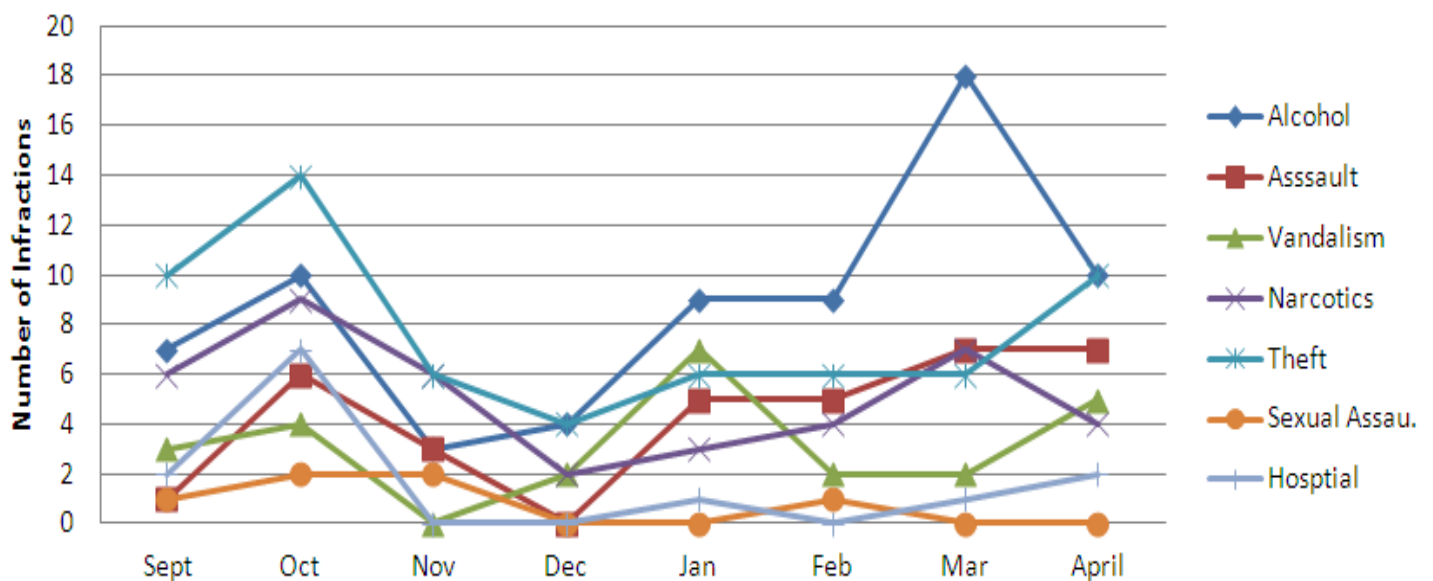
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# Campus Infraction Data

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- Birthdays

\*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

#### Movie Night Series

"Movie Night" was a semester long programming series sponsored by Ms. Tiphane Purnell, Thurgood Marshall Living Learning Center South Residence Hall Coordinator, and Mr. Nnanna Anosike, Frederick Douglass Resident Advisor. The event was free admission and the program was hosted in three different locations. Light refreshments were also provided. Students had the opportunity to fellowship while enjoying some classic favorites. Students in attendance rated the program an outstanding 4.8 out of 5 in areas of effectiveness and enjoyableness.



The Movie Night series flyer





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### Housing Information

WE STILL ARE 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

#### 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

**"An All Male RA Staff"** by Jonathan Harris, Editor-in-Chief

In Fall 2013, I learned I would be transferring from the Apartment Style Living (ASL) to McRary Hall. In addition to the change in population, I learned I would no longer have a co-ed staff. My entire time in Residence Life (five years total experience), I have always been a part of or supervised a co-ed staff. Working in McRary gave me the blessing of working with a team of five males. At first, the transition was slightly difficult because of what I was use to. Also, there is a national trend that male RA recruitment and retention is decreasing. Despite countless efforts to empower and support our male RA's, they are just not staying as long as female RA's and that plays a part in any team dynamic.

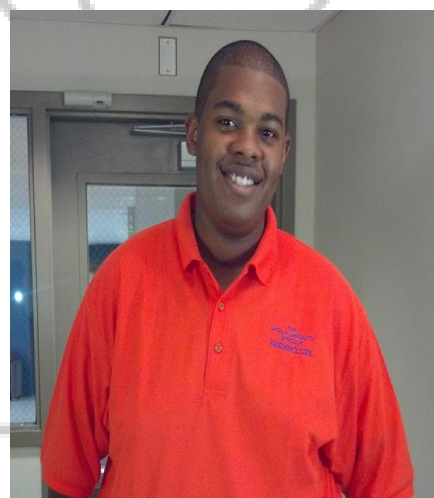
What I learned from the experience was that working with males requires new innovative ways of engagement and understanding of the RA position. The downfall of many of our RA's (male and female) is a true lack of understanding of what the position requires prior to starting the job. I tapped into my creative side a lot more. I learned to come up with more activities and icebreakers during meetings than years prior because this helped them connect better to what I was trying to say. Also, regular recognition is a must, considering male retention is already low. This year has had the least amount of peer to peer staff conflict I had experienced as they learned to talk through whatever the issue is and move on. But from it all, we had some great moments such as great conversations at Applebee's, participating in a live taping of a talk show in Connecticut, and home cook meals during meetings.

### 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,**  
Associate 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.

