



THE PARENTS AND FAMILY HIVE UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter Update for our
Hornet Families

NEWS & FEATURES

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New Associate VP for Enrollment Management

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS - JANIKA
CAREY**

Congratulations to Aaron Basko as the University of Lynchburg has named him the new associate vice president for enrollment management! Basko comes to Lynchburg from Sweet Briar College, where he led a turnaround recruitment effort as vice president for enrollment management.

Basko's hiring comes as Lynchburg's marketing and communications team, under VP Michael Jones's leadership, has joined forces with the enrollment office to better support an integrated recruitment strategy.

In addition to Sweet Briar, Basko has held key roles at Salisbury University in Maryland (2008-20), Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania (2001-08), and Rivier College in New Hampshire (1998-2001). At Sweet Briar, Basko helped engineer a comeback from a four-year enrollment low to a 21% increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020-21, he grew applications by 37% and new enrollment by 40%, leading to a 60% increase in revenue.

At Salisbury, where Basko served as assistant vice president of enrollment management and career services, he delivered the largest and most diverse incoming class in university history, including a 14% growth in first-year students and a 20% increase in diversity in Fall 2019.

At Franklin & Marshall, he co-led an enrollment team that transformed a 15-year decline into a five-year turnaround. His team reinvented all aspects of customer service, publications development, programming, outreach, and diversity recruitment. During his five years there, applications grew by 64%, with the yield rate increasing from 27% to 30%. "I'm excited to join the University of Lynchburg community," Basko said. "This is an amazing place, with everything students need to develop into difference-makers. I'm grateful for the support of the community as we set a new course for the University's enrollment strategy."

Basko has a master's in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's in international studies from West Virginia Wesleyan. He has written and presented extensively and recently published two pieces, *The Small-College Enrollment Playbook* and *Have We Gotten Student Success Completely Backward?*, in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

February 2

7:00 PM [Men's Basketball](#) vs. Hampden-Sydney

7:00 PM [Women's Basketball](#) at Hollins

February 4

[Track & Field](#) at Camel City Invitational

February 5

Track & Field at Camel City Invitational and Joe LaRocco Invitational

2:00 PM Men's Basketball at Eastern Mennonite

2:00 PM Women's Basketball vs. Randolph-Macon

February 9

7:00 PM Men's Basketball vs. Randolph

7:30 PM Women's Basketball at Roanoke

February 10

[Swimming](#) at ODAC Championships

February 11

Swimming at ODAC Championships

Track & Field at VMI Winter Classic

February 12

Swimming at ODAC Championships

Track & Field at VMI Winter Classic and Roanoke Invitational

10:00 AM [Equestrian](#) at Washington and Lee IHSA

12:00 PM and 2:00 PM [Softball](#) vs. William Peace

2:00 PM Men's Basketball vs. Washington and Lee

4:30 PM Women's Basketball vs. Shenandoah

6:00 PM Men's Lacrosse at Ferrum

February 13

Swimming at ODAC Championships

February 16

5:00 PM Men's Basketball at Ferrum

7:30 PM Women's Basketball at Ferrum

February 18

Track & Field at JDL DMR Invitational and Virginia Tech Challenge

5:00 PM [Baseball](#) vs. Trinity (Tex.) at Birmingham, Alabama

Click [here](#) for more upcoming dates and events.

PARENTS AND FAMILY PROGRAMS



University of Lynchburg

Updated COVID Guidelines

PRESIDENT MORRISON-SHETLAR

Dear Parents and Families,

With the rapid spread of the omicron variant of COVID-19, the COVID-19 Task Force felt a need to reach out to you and your student. As you may know, omicron is much more contagious than previous variants of the coronavirus. While the severity of the disease has thus far been less than that of the delta variant, the risk of spreading the disease has increased substantially. Although breakthrough infections — affecting those who have been fully vaccinated as well as those who have received the booster — are increasing, vaccines still are effective in preventing severe disease and hospitalizations. We ask that you encourage your student to follow the current health and safety protocols and recommendations in place:

- All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to wear a mask when inside any campus facility. **This mask mandate is in effect until Feb. 7.**
- Masks may be removed when actively eating or drinking, and residential students may remove their masks when inside their individual rooms, apartments, or houses.
- Any member of the University community who has not been fully vaccinated must wear a mask when inside any campus facility and must be tested regularly.
- All students, faculty, and staff are required to attain the COVID booster shot as well as the yearly flu shot. Students are asked to submit documentation of booster doses and flu shots to the health center through the student health portal.



- Student who fail to remain up to date with COVID vaccination, including booster doses, when they qualify may be unenrolled from their spring classes and/or not permitted to reside in campus residences.

All students, faculty, and staff should get “back-to-basics” by monitoring their symptoms daily, practicing safe social distancing when appropriate, and performing routine hand sanitizing. Your student should also be aware of the CDC’s updated recommendations for isolation and quarantine.

If they are up to date with the COVID vaccine, including a booster dose when eligible, they will not be required to quarantine should they be exposed. Students who are not fully vaccinated and/or not yet boosted who are exposed to COVID-19 may be asked to make their own arrangements for housing during the isolation or quarantine period. Students should make a COVID-19 plan prior to arriving on campus. In addition to, mapping out the steps they plan to take to keep virus-free. Students should work directly with their instructors to make arrangements for missed classes. **The Moderna booster vaccine is also available in the Health Center. Call 434.544.8357 for an appointment.**

The above guidelines and recommendations are particularly important for all students. The University will alert your student to any changes in protocols that may be necessary as we learn more about the emerging omicron variant and about the prevalence of the virus in the greater Lynchburg community. In the meantime, it’s safe to say that all students should continue in their vigilance to stay safe — both on campus and off. Please encourage your student to revisit the [COVID-19 webpage](#) to review our public health policies that have been updated for the spring semester.





Black History Month

OFFICE OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Black History Month began in 1926 as "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Today, Black History Month provides all Americans the opportunity to celebrate the culture, heritage and achievements of Black individuals. This month is a chance for all students, faculty, and staff to honor important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora.

The University of Lynchburg looks forward to celebrating Black History Month this year with workshops, film screenings, guest speakers, cultural food, and performances around the theme of **Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Inspiring the Future**. Encourage your student to join in on this fun month to learn more on the importance of Black History Month.



To keep up with more Black History Month events please follow the Inclusive Excellence Facebook page: **University of Lynchburg Office of Equity and Inclusion**.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Tuesday, February 1st at 12:00 PM

Black History Month Goodie Bag Distribution and Tabling

Wednesday, February 2nd at 3:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Zyahna Bryant

Wednesday, February 2nd at 7:00 PM

Black History Month Jeopardy

Thursday, February 3rd at 7:00 PM

Woman2Woman Film Screening: Hidden Figures

Friday, February 4th at 11:30 AM

Soul Food Friday in the Cafe





Commencement Information

THE UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG

We are very excited about the 2022 undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on May 19. It might seem far away, but we can't wait to see our Hornet friends and family in celebration of our graduates at Lynchburg! Graduate ceremonies will be from May 19-21. Please check our website for more detailed information about the schedule of events [here](#).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022

Graduate One Stop

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | West Room

Graduate One Stop

4 to 6 p.m. | West Room

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Capn' It Off

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | West Room

Capn' It Off

4 to 6 p.m. | West Room

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Ring Ceremony

9 a.m. | Bell Tower

Westover Honors

10 a.m. | Sydnor Performance Hall

Nurses Pinning

Noon | Snidow Chapel

Bonner Leaders Brunch

Noon | West Room

Commencement Rehearsal

2 p.m. | Shellenberger Field

Legacy Tea

3 p.m. | East Room

Baccalaureate

5 p.m. | Snidow Chapel

Teacher Induction Ceremony

6 p.m. | Sydnor Performance Hall





Candlelight Ceremony and Champagne Toast

8 p.m. | Snidow Chapel

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

9 a.m. | Shellenberger Field

Friday, May 20, 2022

Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) Hooding and Commencement Ceremony

9 a.m. | Shellenberger Field

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Hooding and Commencement Ceremony

2 p.m. | Turner Gymnasium

Master's Programs Commencement Ceremony

7 p.m. | Shellenberger Field

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Doctor of Education (EdD) Hooding and Commencement Ceremony

9 a.m. | TBD

Bonner Leader Program

GRADUATE ASSISTANT FOR BONNER LEADER PROGRAM - ELIJAH HARRISON

Hello there, my name is Elijah Harrison. I am a first year graduate student at the University of Lynchburg serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Bonner Leader Program. Coming into my position I didn't know much about the program itself, other than it provides students with an opportunity to serve the community. My first impression as I was welcomed as the new graduate assistant was how close knit the community was.

It was nice to see how strong the Bonner community was, but what really stood out to me were the students. I quickly learned why students chose to become a Bonner, and the diversity of answers showed me that everyone in this program has something different to bring to the table. As cliché as this may sound, the students are very ambitious and committed to being change makers in the world.





So you may be wondering, what are Bonner Leaders? Well, we're glad you asked! The University of Lynchburg Bonner Leader Program is an initiative of the University's Center for Community Engagement. It is one of sixty-five colleges and universities that make up the national Bonner Program Network. Bonner Leaders (undergraduate students) serve 10 hours a week at a nonprofit, school, or government agency in exchange for federal work study funding.

They participate in on-campus reflective exercises and educational programming to understand difference, power, and privilege. In essence, the Bonner Leader Program is a response to the University's mission to develop students with strong character, balanced perspectives, and prepare them for effective leadership in the civic and professional dimensions of life. Bonner is a vibrant part of our Hornet community and consists of a dedicated group of students who serve in partnership with a network of City of Lynchburg agencies and organizations.



The program also holds seven Common Commitments that represent the collective beliefs about the types of values and personal commitments that participants encounter and explore. We weave the exploration of the Common Commitments into our work in various ways, including reflection activities, training, film screenings and discussions, and coursework. The seven common commitments are: *Community Building, Diversity, Civic Engagement, Social Justice, International Perspective, Spiritual Exploration, and Wellness.*

If you believe your student may resonate with our common commitments then we strongly encourage them to [apply!](#) For more information on the Bonner Leader Program please contact our director, Tasha Gillum at gillum_tm@lynchburg.edu.



Student Career and Professionalism Opportunities

CAREER AND PROFESSIONALISM CENTER

Does your student need assistance with their resume or cover letter? If so, ask them if they have reached out to the Career and Professionalism Center on campus.

The Career and Professionalism Center is designed to assist students with their future career. Career professionals in the center are there to help your student explore how their talents and interests are related to their major and classes. Connecting with this center will allow your student to engage in career development courses, workshops, programs, and internships. Ultimately, creating an opportunity for students to be well-prepared to embark on their career!

In addition to services for students, this office provides one on one sessions for interviews, job searches, graduate school, resumes, and more! Contact careers@lynchburg.edu for an educational session today.



Update Your Resume!

Did you work or intern over the winter break? Contact us at careers@lynchburg.edu to effectively communicate your experience onto your resume.



Join Our Community!

Connect with us on social media where you can interact with other parents and families as well as interact with our office for questions, information, or resources!



@ulparentsfamily



@ulparentsandfamilyprograms @ulparents_and_family_programs_



<https://www.lynchburg.edu/alumni-friends/parents-and-family/>