The amazing team of RHSA Peer Leaders are pictured above. They are here to help you, so use the GroupMe app to contact them with your questions.

Upcoming Events

Taking Care of You: An Evening of Wellness, Wednesday October 17th, 5:30pm-7:00pm, 3rd floor University Crossing in the Wellness Center. REGISTER HERE

Confronting Gun Violence Against Kids Panasuk Symposium, Wednesday, October 17th, Inn and Conference Center. REGISTER HERE

RHSA Hockey Night, UMass Lowell vs. Northeastern, Friday, October 26th, 7:00pm-10:00pm, Tsongas Center. REGISTER HERE

FAFSA Day, Sunday, November 4th, 1:00pm-3:00pm, University Crossing. REGISTER HERE

OMA/RHSA Student Alumni Social, Monday, November 5th, 6:00-8:00pm, UCrossing 260. Register by emailing Elsie_Otero@uml.edu

RHSA October Newsletter
October 2018 | Issue 2
Why am I the Faculty Director of the RHSA? Why do I believe so much in the RHSA program and the students who are a part of it?

I believe that UMass Lowell’s history is inseparable from the aspirations of people throughout the state and the country who are the first in their families to get a four-year degree or who are rising up to face other challenges in their pursuit of higher education.

I believe that students who are the ones blazing new paths for themselves, their families, and their communities are the ones we want to support and celebrate.

I believe that not knowing all the ins and outs of how college works should not hinder your ability to become your best self while on our campus.

I hope that you all are getting the most out of your first semester at UMass Lowell and I am proud that the RHSA can be part of that experience. As you continue on, I ask you now what I asked you at our welcome day: what is your story? How are you telling it? Is your story of your first semester at UMass Lowell one that you are proud of? What could you be doing better? Differently? And how can we help you?

As we near the halfway point of the fall semester, think about what RHSA events you’re going to be a part of, are going to be part of your story. We have an exciting slate of opportunities coming up in the second half of the semester. What are you going to sign up for? What are going to be your RHSA experiences?

After you read this, make a commitment to yourself: pick the next RHSA event you are going to attend, and sign up now. And when you do so, ask yourself: what is the story that you want to tell about your first semester at UMass Lowell?

Follow UMass Lowell RHSA on ENGAGE! For a full list of the events we are offering this semester, follow this link.

Follow RHSA on Social Media!

On Facebook @River Hawk Scholars Academy

On Instagram @umlrhsa

On Twitter @umlrhsa

Questions or comments?

Email us at RHSA@uml.edu
Congratulations to RHSA Student of the Month Ebony Moore!

Freshmen Psychology Major Ebony Moore has already made an excellent impression on students, faculty, and staff at UMass Lowell. In addition to being an outstanding student in her college writing class, she was recently selected as a blogger for “I'm First”, a national initiative providing key information and support to first-generation college students. Ebony joined the RHSA after hearing about the opportunities it provided for students to get ahead and become involved on campus. When asked about her favorite aspect of UMass Lowell, Ebony reports that she enjoys the friendly atmosphere on campus and advises fellow students to, “Find something in common [with others] and start a conversation, or maybe even jump into a conversation you’re overhearing that you can add to. Many people want to talk, they’re just too scared, like you. Be the first one to make a connection and you might make a new best friend.” An avid reader and singer in her spare time, Ebony grew up in Lowell and hopes to become an animal behaviorist or child therapist.

What’s Happening in the RHSA?

On September 26th, four RHSA students attended a “CHOP” community engagement dinner at the Lowell Senior Center Sponsored by Your Voice Matters, the Working Cities Lowell initiative, and Lowell Public Schools. The event brought together community members, policy makers, and local leaders to kick off the Lowell Public School Citywide Family Council. Featured conversational topics at the event included discussions on how parents can become more involved in their children’s education and suggestions about how the Lowell Public Schools can help its students succeed.

On October 3rd, the Department of World Languages held a meet and greet for students, faculty members, and language tutors. The event served as an excellent opportunity for RHSA students to meet their professors and discover how the Tutoring Center can help them succeed in their language classes.

Later that afternoon, author and historian Amy Bass came to the UMass Lowell to discuss her newly published book, One Goal: A coach, a Team, and the Game that Brought a Divided Town Together. The book tells the true story of how a high school soccer team from Lewiston, Maine bridged racial tensions in their journey to win the state championship. Prominently featured in the story is RHSA student and UMass Lowell Men’s Soccer player Abdi Sharrif-Hassan. More about Abdi’s story can be found HERE.

“It was a very eye opening event. I saw how people really cared about our education-the different ways our community wants to better its education and transform it into something much greater. We spoke about equality and equity, and how we want to create fairness in our community. I loved how many people cared about Lowell’s education.”

-Iliany Nunez, RHSA Student, speaking about her experience at the Your Voice Matters night in Lowell
Reflecting on how being in the RHSA has benefited his time at UMass Lowell, Barry says, “I feel that the RHSA community has benefited me in a number of ways, it’s a place I can always turn to. Whenever I am on South Campus, I know that I can drop by Rachael’s office with any questions because she is always there to help. It has allowed me to build relationships within the RHSA community and get to know students better.”

His favorite part about UMass Lowell is the opportunity to participate in professional co-op opportunities. His advice to RHSA Freshmen? “Start planning for your future now by building upon your resume and setting up an appointment with the Career & Co-op Center. This will show you how to maximize and bring value to your degree.” After UMass Lowell, Barry hopes to start a career as either a financial analyst or a marketing specialist.

Meet Barry, one of our RHSA Peer Leaders

Sophomore Finance and Marketing Major Barry Burrell became a Peer leader to share everything he learned as a Freshmen at UMass Lowell with this River Hawk Scholars Academy students. Barry, alongside 8 of his fellow RHSA peer leaders (featured in cover photo), participated in the 1st year of the RHSA program and is thrilled to use the skills he developed in that first year to help current students. Reflecting on how he connected with the UMass Lowell community, Barry states, “I connected with the UML community quickly by joining clubs and organizations, and building relationships with my professors. By doing these things my Freshmen year, I feel more prepared for what is to come.”

Barry grew up in Lunenburg, Massachusetts and is passionate about flag football, club baseball, and playing NBA 2K. Next Semester, Barry will be participating in a UMass Lowell study abroad program in Australia.

Rachael’s Advice

Dear RHSA Students,

Registration for the Spring 2019 term is around the corner!

October 29th to be exact. In order to be prepared for enrollment, and have your advising hold removed, we need to meet!

Please check your UML email inbox for an email from me with instructions for scheduling an appointment. The subject line is Schedule your Academic Advising Appointment Now

This meeting is required. Looking forward to seeing you all!

~ Rachael