



Richard Bland College
of WILLIAM & MARY

REPORT OF THE RBC STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
May 2020

Mr. Solomon Asare

COVID–19 Impacts our Spring Semester

Following an extended spring break, due to the wide spread outbreak of COVID- 19, many students returned to their various homes in compliance with the orders of the Governor to practice social distancing. Although this transition is rather unfortunate, students were impressed by Richard Bland’s quick respond to this pandemic. RBC continues to provide students with all the nescary tools that they need for a successful spring semester. The Library released links to free online textbooks that students are able to access to complete their assignment, and the residence halls have remained opened to select international students who were unable to go home and to students who were in need of shelter. Ibrahim Bucha, a second year international student from Pakistan states, “I’m so grateful in this time of need that RBC was able to provide me with a breath of relief by keeping the dorms open. You see, after the outbreak of COVID-19 all the airports in my country closed down. There was no way for me to physically return to Pakistan. Without RBC I would not know what to do, so thank you RBC.” Ibrahim is one of the few students left in the residence halls.

Students Take on Remote Instruction

As classes have been moved online here at RBC, students from various backgrounds have shared their experiences with remote instruction. Overall, students recognize that remote instruction is a completely different experience that comes with its perks, and with some drawbacks. Cassidy Richardson, a first year students says, “Remote instruction has been quite challenging but also enlightening in terms of the adaptability of education. I have learned to access and incorporate virtual resources that accentuate my learning. I also find having all my classes online can be overwhelming at times, and, lastly, I find that my professors and the faculty and staff at RBC are very supportive, demonstrating quality leadership in this troubling time.” Another student perspective comes from Harriet Kim, an international student who returned to South Korea to continue her spring semester. Harriet says, “For me, online learning has been a learning experience. Korea is on a thirteen hour time difference from America so my assignments are due earlier for classes than my classmates in America. I often find myself completing assignments late

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at night, going into early mornings. My professors have been very understanding of my situation and some even record their lectures for me so that I do not have to attend Zoom.” These are just two brief statements of how remote learning has been affecting our student population. Many students enjoy the flexibility of their school day, as they get to choose when to start their day, sometimes they feel uneasy as the larger workload can be overwhelming.

Campus Engagement and Events

Although our campus is no longer buzzing with activity, students are still meeting via Zoom to enjoy each other’s company and carry on club activities. The Student Assembly continues to hold Zoom meetings every Wednesday at 2 pm to plan online activities. The Musical Statemen meet daily in a virtual choir in order to prepare for their performance at our virtual commencement. Students are also participating in a Tik Tok challenge where students learn short dances that are uploaded to the RBC Tik Tok page. Many other students utilize Zoom for their own personal use and to connect with peers they otherwise would not be able to see. Catherine Thompson, a commuter student from RBC, outlines her engagement with Zoom. “The introduction of Zoom was dreadful at first because it was related to class, but it has actually been helping me keep in contact with my friends from school. I literally just played a game of Dungeons and Dragons over Zoom a couple days ago. Although we may not be on campus, we can still enjoy each other’s company and have fun.”

Anticipation of Fall 2020!

Althouth COVID- 19 has caused an abrupt end to the traditional spring semester, students are in high hopes and anticipation of the fall semester! Returning students are anxious to repeat Welcome Week and enjoy the comforts of RBC. Returning student Kayla Minor is excited at the thought of “returning to class in person and the posiiblity of meeting new people and making new friends.” Students are in high spirits about their next semester, no matter where it may be.