**TO DO:** Catch a movie at the Byrd, take the canal walk to Brown’s Island, visit the city’s museums, visit Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, go back to UR for on-campus events and games, see a movie at the Goochland Drive-In, picnic at the Carillon, visit Texas Beach, peruse the South of the James Farmer’s Market on Saturday mornings, see a concert at Maymont, go on a self-guided walking food tour of any given neighborhood, go bowling at River City Roll.

**TO EAT:** Stella’s, Sabai, Union Market, The Roosevelt, Tarrant’s, Mamma Zu, Spoonbread Bistro, Proper Pie Co., Charm School Social Club, Lucy’s, Boulevard Burger & Brew, Little Nickel, La Grotta, Comfort, Metzger Bar & Butchery, The Hard Shell, Lulu’s, Fighting Fish, Tazza Kitchen.

**TO ATTEND:** Folk Festival, Jazz Festival, Watermelon Festival, Friday Cheers at Brown’s Island, VMFA Happy Hour and special exhibits, Tacky Lights Christmas Tour, Broad Appetit, Innsbrook After Hours, Monument Avenue Easter, Greek Festival, Scott’s Addition Pumpkin Festival, Restaurant Week, Dominion RiverRock, Shamrock the Block, Monument Avenue 10K.

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**TIPS & TRICKS** Get a bike - the city is very biker friendly • Get out and explore RVA beyond the walls of campus • Embrace the history • Grab a Richmond magazine or Style magazine for local recommendations • Sign up for Good Morning, RVA! and Richmond BizSense daily emails to stay abreast of local news • Check out richmond.com • Get involved with a volunteer organization • Figure out the local happy hour schedules • Enjoy the many free outdoor activities, from the James River to hiking Humpback Rock.
My name is Emily Dietrick, and I am class of 2016 graduate and one of your young grad volunteers living in the Richmond area. Thank you for joining us tonight and welcome to our newest graduates from the Class of 2018!

Many Spiders stay in Richmond after graduating. In fact, we have at least 13,000 Spider alumni in the area, and we get together as an alumni group several times throughout the year. If you received an email invite to tonight’s event, that means we have your correct address in our database! If you didn’t receive an email, please make sure to visit URonline.net in order to update your contact info to receive invitations to future Richmond-area alumni events!

Speaking of upcoming events, I hope you’ll join us back on campus for Homecoming, November 2-4! Look for more information about registration soon. There is a special brunch in the football suites for the Class of 2018 on Sunday, November 4. You won’t want to miss it!

Finally, I would like to encourage you all, as members of the Spider Network, to stay engaged with the University in the following ways:

• Attend regional events – bring a fellow Spider next time!
• Participate in annual giving every year. You don’t have to break the bank. Support whatever means the most to you. Just make sure you give. And here’s a tip: the sooner you give in the fall, the sooner Advancement stops calling!
• Participate in Spider Shadowing or Hire Spiders. Offering a shadowing opportunity is a great way to give back to UR and to share your expertise with a student exploring career options, as well as a great way to “pay it forward” for the help and support you received from the Spider network in your own post-graduation search. Need assistance with your own career or job search? Contact Becca Shelton, alumni career advisor, at bshelton@richmond.edu.
  • Refer a prospective student to Richmond.
  • Give of your time by engaging in a volunteer program. Contact Mary Alice Wallmeyer at mwallmey@richmond.edu for more information!

GO SPIDERS! See you at the next Richmond alumni event!

Emily Dietrick ’16