

The Wesley Weavings

Alumni Newsletters | October 2024

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Meet Ryan LaRock, Wesley Director & Campus Minister and Samantha Redman, Administrative Assistant & House Manager



Ryan LaRock is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and has pastored in the Virginia Conference since 2016.

A native of Virginia Beach and a lifelong United

Methodist, Ryan responded to God's call on his life as a first-year at the University of Virginia, where he was a worship leader at the Wesley Foundation and lived in their residential community for two years. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in both religious studies and French. His call led him to Duke Divinity School, where he earned his Master's of Divinity and experienced God's abundant grace in learning in the classroom.

[Learn More About Ryan ...](https://wmwesley.org/meet-our-staff/)

<https://wmwesley.org/meet-our-staff/>



Samantha (Sam) Redman is originally from Manchester, England where she studied business and finance while also training as a certified fitness and ballroom dance instructor.

Following the sale of a successful dance studio in 2019, Sam and her husband Mark fulfilled their dream of moving to Williamsburg. Together they have a blended family of six children between the ages of 12-29, along with two dogs, Comet and Chester!

Sam has missed the energy and inspiration from working with young people and is excited to return to ministry work and be a part of the Wesley Foundation.

[Learn More About Sam ...](https://wmwesley.org/meet-our-staff/)

<https://wmwesley.org/meet-our-staff/>

A Great Start to the Fall '24 Semester!

A Message from Student Leadership Team Co-Presidents Bennett & Annamarie!

Our student leadership team has been off to a busy start this semester!

We began the year by inviting new students into our community with our classic event, S'mores with



S'methodists! We shared delicious burgers and hot dogs made by former Leadership Team president and eternal Wesley "grillmaster" Grace Nelson '23 and made yummy s'mores. It was one of the largest S'mores events we've participated both in student participation and in laughter.

Additionally, we revived our Orientation Breakfast for Methodist freshmen for the first time since the pandemic. New board members Ryan Staggs and Sailor Miao provided a delicious breakfast, and we met many new students who were curious about us. We also had a great time meeting students at the Center for Student Diversity Block Party and had some deep and heartfelt conversations with new students who were looking for a community to be a part of during their college years.

These conversations allowed us to extend the invitation to join our community to students outside of the Methodist and Christian faith. Wesley is – and has always been – a campus ministry for all students to come and nourish their moral and ethical centers.

This is why our theme this semester is **Patchwork of Community**. Wesley is like a quilt. All our students come here with different abilities, interests, backgrounds, and perspectives, but when you bring us all together, we create something beautiful – a patchwork of community.

That's our goal this semester: to bring students and other members of the community together to create something more beautiful.

[Continue Reading Bennett & Annamarie's Message ...](https://wmwesley.org/2024/10/02/a-great-start-to-the-fall-24-semester/)

<https://wmwesley.org/2024/10/02/a-great-start-to-the-fall-24-semester/>

The Wesley Week - Monday thru Sunday

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
Large Group Dinner & Program	Small Group Study - "Revelation (for Normal People)"	Fellowship Small Group - Board Game & Pizza	Campus Outreach -	Fellowship Small Group Watch Party
	6 - 7 PM with Ryan LaRock	6 PM	<i>For Example: Center for Student Diversity Block Party</i>	4 PM



Ryan's Vision for Wesley

Dear friends,

Being at Wesley these first few months has been a joy as the semester begins. As no stranger to Wesley Foundations and campus life, coming into my own call to ministry at the University of Virginia, my transition to W&M has felt like a homecoming. I am grateful for the hospitable welcome from the board, our student leaders, the broader campus community, and our Williamsburg United Methodist Church neighbors.

The perennial question in Micah 6:8 shapes my guiding vision for Wesley: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" As we move forward together in light of our vision statement, my goal is to invite our student leaders to consider how our programs, outreach opportunities, and events embody these scriptural values of advocacy, compassion, and formation.

Here are some of my present and long-term goals moving into this year and next:

Revitalize and Renew Local Church Connections

- Board recruitment spanning different church partners
- New partners for Sunday Night Dinners
- Coordinating church visits for students to share about Wesley

Re-emphasis on Spiritual Formation

- Campus minister led Bible study
- Reintegrating weekly worship opportunity
- Board (Moving from participants to ambassadors)

Reorganization and Re-establishment of Systems

- Financial Management Systems
- Improving alumni database in preparation for future capital campaign

Volunteer Engagement

- Re-evaluating house projects that can be done by smaller groups of helping hands and hearts
- Capital campaign team
- Large event support

Leadership Development

- Student Leadership Team
- Board (Moving from participants to ambassadors)

As always, thank you for your faithful and generous support of Wesley!

Grace and peace,
Ryan

Fall Break Mission & Service Trip!

Leaving the morning of Thursday, October 10th and returning the night of Saturday, October 12th, we will be serving with Northern Virginia Family Services.

Northern Virginia Family Services is a nonprofit organization helping individuals and families in need with food insecurity, career development, housing, childhood development, healthcare needs, mental health needs, immigration legal help, and more!

Our trip will include helping out in the Clock Tower Thrift Store, and also doing crafts and reading books with kids at the Arlington Head Start Center.



HOMEcoming 2024 GATHERING OPPORTUNITIES

HOME COMING TAILGATE & WATCH PARTY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
WESLEY HOUSE
(526 JAMESTOWN ROAD)

LUNCH & TAILGATE: NOON - 3:30 PM
WATCH PARTY: 3:30 - 6:30 PM



MEET OUR NEW
CAMPUS MINISTER
REV. RYAN
LAROCK!

HOME COMING BRUNCH & WORSHIP

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
HOME OF BRAXTON & CATHY ALLPORT
(115 MATOAKA COURT)

WORSHIP LED BY
DAVID HINDMAN & RYAN LAROCK
(FORMER & NEW WESLEY CAMPUS MINISTERS)

RSVP TO DAVID
BY OCTOBER 16!

EMAIL:
DAVIDHINDMAN@VAUMC.ORG
TEXT: 757-532-1640



Supporting Wesley at William & Mary

The Wesley Operating Budget supports our campus ministry administration, student programs, campus outreach and community service related programs. It represents our greatest need as we are dependent on donations from alumni, friends, area churches, and church groups.

A general donation supports this primary need. However, specific donations may also be designated to support the Campus Food Exchange and the Property Improvement Fund.

All donations, regardless of size, are greatly appreciated!

[Donate Online to the W&M Wesley Foundation by Credit Card Now](#)

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Williamsburg, VA 23185-4044

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