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Sunday, October 19, 2014

Living in the Limelight

I know myself to be a very reflective person, and as a senior I have had lots of time to reflect about my journey at UD. I find myself always discovering, or entering, new roles. What roles do I have? Well, first and foremost I am a student. This is a role that is essential for my existence at UD, but sometimes it is easy to forget! I, obviously, also have a role as a River Steward. Even though I have been a River Steward since my sophomore year I have had many different roles within the program. In addition to my River Steward roles I also have a role that is new to this year, a role as a Resident Assistant (RA) on campus. So, why am I rambling about the roles I have on campus? Well, it is because even though my roles seem different they really are only different on the surface.

As I see it, one of my River Steward roles is to act as a mentor/leader to younger Stews. If I stop by a mini-course I should be just as attentive to what is going on, as the younger Stews are. Right now, while I helping to complete the 2015 Cohort project, I am working with middle school and high school aged students and again, I am playing the role as a mentor/leader. Now, when I break my River Steward roles down like this it is easy to see how my position as an RA for second year students also falls into this same mentor/leader role category.

The relationship of my different roles on campus has an even tighter bond then the category that they exist in. As a River Steward and as an RA I, in many ways, live in a limelight on campus. The roles I play are very visible and transparent. I cannot be a leader without being seen, and I cannot be a mentor without opening up about my own experiences. I embrace this visibility because I think that being conscience of this helps to make me a better person and the way the visibility makes me behave is true to myself. Sure, 'living in the limelight' has its disadvantages too, but I will take the sweat and pressure as long as I continue to see myself grow into new roles and responsibilities. So, bring on the bright lights, I am here to stay!