
IN THE LEAD

Take the Plunge

Sasha Edwards '20, the new president of the Student Association for Black Unity (SABU), doesn't just offer words of wisdom to other students seeking to lead — she dares them.



Sasha Edwards '20

LIKE MANY STUDENTS AT Washington and Lee, I was a high-achieving high-schooler. Academically advanced. Hall of Famer. Athlete. You name it, I did it, and I wanted to continue that spunky, go-getter spirit in college. To do that, I needed to start with a single step. That step was the Advanced Research Cohort Program (ARC). It took place the summer before my first year. When I wasn't in the lab developing my research knowledge, I spent my time in leadership workshops with Megan Hobbs,

associate dean of students, and my ARC peers. Those skills improved through my involvement in the Bonner Program and the Student Association for Black Unity (SABU).

My advice for anyone wanting to take a leadership position on this campus is this: Take risks. Dare to be different. Dare to be you. In a place filled with high-achieving, amazing students, you must be true to yourself and take the plunge.

As a first-year student, I was able to lead a program and represent

SABU to the administration on several occasions. These roles grew this past year as I served as secretary. SABU gave me a space to explore all aspects of myself and what that means at W&L. I ran for president of this organization because of the opportunities and voice SABU gave me. I want others to share in this gift.

I am excited to see where my path through my junior year takes me. SABU has been a large part of my success story at W&L, and I cannot wait to be the one who writes its next chapter.