



The Bark | January 17, 2023 The VPSL Column:



Dear Students,

Happy New Year and Welcome to Spring 2023 semester on Palatine Hill! I hope the winter break was filled with relaxation, reflection, and spending good times with family and friends.

In mid-January, I'm not only thinking of another new term, and a new calendar year, but I also remember the life, legacy, and heart work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I consider his countless inspirational quotes and speeches and pick one to think about and create action around as I approach a new year. MLK said, ***"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."*** I hope you take time to join our LC community in honoring and remembering Dr. King's work by participating in [MLK Week 2023](#).

As I look ahead to the coming year I am filled with optimism. There are some exciting things happening in Student Life, including the much anticipated opening of the **renovated Templeton Student Center**. I invite you to explore our newly remodeled heart of campus which now includes a spacious, welcoming outdoor lounge/study space that features a fire pit; bright, new rooms for meeting and gathering together; a bar in the Trail room open Tuesday through Saturday after 5 p.m.; and so much more!

There are also exciting opportunities to get involved and engage with your fellow students to play an active role in supporting the Lewis & Clark student experience. Our Center for Social Change and Community Involvement (CSCCI) is actively seeking participants through [L&C Leads](#) - come be a part of it! The First Year Experience and New Student Orientation areas are seeking student applicants for the [New Student Peer Mentor Program](#). We are also looking for action-oriented students to participate in **leadership positions with [College Outdoors New Student Trips \(NST\)](#), [Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement \(IME\)](#), and [Campus Living](#)**. I encourage you to connect with these offices, and others that you may have an interest in engaging with. You are an important part of the Lewis & Clark community and your participation and contributions enhance the experience for all students. My fondest memories of college were the ones where I helped to lead and shape student programs and activities for other fellow students, in very similar roles such as these. It was my opportunity to always make a place better than when I entered it. I look forward to your leadership!

It is important to keep in mind that although we have engaging activities lined up and an exciting and rewarding spring semester to look forward to, we must continue to **be mindful about COVID-19 and other illnesses**. Please wash your hands frequently, stay home if you are sick, and test yourself if you have any COVID symptoms. Information on where you can pick up tests and what to do if you develop COVID can be found on our [website](#).

I will be continuing to hold [office hours](#) this semester, and now you can find me weekly! The first one will be today at 3:30pm in the Trail Room! And I hope you will join me in cheering on our athletic teams as they compete this spring. Basketball and swimming have home events [this weekend](#)!

Warm wishes for a safe, healthy, and joy-filled new year!

Evette Castillo Clark
Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students