Journal #1

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Maddie, Judy, and I were assigned to explore the Lankford Student Union, or what many students refer to it as the Stu​.​  We decided to visit the student union on Friday at 11:00 a.m. so we could see what it was really like during the weekday rush.  Most students enter the student union from the back entrance which is where you can find a variety of food options, such as Einstein Bagels, smoothies, chips, sodas, or even a convenience store.  One can imagine that upon entering this section it comes off busy, frantic, and quite frankly a little overwhelming especially for new students.

However, once you find a place to sit down with your food and study materials it is quite easy to get into study mode which is why you can find a large number of students doing their work in the student union.  Also, on the same floor you can find the post office where students are receiving loving care packages from home, or their online shopping purchases arrive here to make up for the lack of malls in Farmville, Virginia.  The post office adds quite a bit of foot traffic through the downstairs portion of the student union which contributes to the “hectic” feel of downstairs.  Before we headed upstairs, we caught a glimpse of the game room where we saw ping-pong tables, pool tables, and board games set up for the students to enjoy, and spend some downtime.  A cool fact we learned about the student union is that there used to be a bowling alley, but sadly removed it was removed a few years back.

When we finally made our way upstairs, we walked into what appeared to be a large ballroom.  There was not a lot of artwork, however, the architecture made up for lack thereof.  Everywhere you looked there was a chandelier or pillar.  The only piece of artwork we really saw was an expression piece done by students at Longwood University. The upstairs had quite a different feel than the downstairs.  Upstairs was a bit more open, quiet and calm.  There were places for people to study on tables, couches, chairs, or even outside on the terrace.  The ballroom offers a neutral place to gather for many different events, whether it is a get-together with fellow students to study, or for a professor to give a presentation.  As we walked around upstairs, we saw many rooms that could by rented/reserved by clubs and organizations to hold monthly meetings, and even interest group meetings.  We also saw many offices which are home to several activities/events that take place at Longwood, such as: student activities, Greek life, lancer productions, student government association, Rotunda student newspaper, leadership and service learning, as well as, diversity and inclusion.   However, one of the only things we could not find in the student union was classrooms.

Adrian Bitten, from Leadership and Student Learning, informed us that the student union was built in 1966, and named after President Francis Greenfield Lankford. Today, this same student union offers the Longwood student many conveniences including very flexible hours seven days a week.  Ms. Bitten also announced that in the near future a new and improved student union will be opened for students and faculty to utilize.