

Longwood University

Digital Commons @ Longwood University

Alumni Newsletters & Bulletins

Library, Archives, and Special Collections

Summer 2015

Longwood Magazine 2015 Summer

Longwood University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/alumni>

Recommended Citation

Longwood University, "Longwood Magazine 2015 Summer" (2015). *Alumni Newsletters & Bulletins*. 70.
<https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/alumni/70>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Library, Archives, and Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Longwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alumni Newsletters & Bulletins by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Longwood University. For more information, please contact tharpeta@longwood.edu, kroghjl@longwood.edu.

longwood

A **MAGAZINE**
FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2015

Summer 2015: Never a dull moment
Student takes action to help Farmville kids
The calming influence of Ken Perkins



What's Next

The Class of 2015 embraces a future brimming with opportunities



9

The impact of invasive species on native species, like these crayfish, is just one topic on the menu for this summer's all-expenses-paid undergraduate research program.



COVER STORY

I4 All Systems Are Go

Elite graduate schools and exciting jobs are on tap for some of Longwood's newest alumni.

FEATURES

I2 Words to the Wise

Commencement ceremony is full of worldly advice and White House anecdotes.

20 Keep Calm and Carry On

As provost, Dr. Ken Perkins has been a steadying force with a welcome sense of humor. Now a new Longwood challenge begins.

24 Heating Up

With firefighters, Scottish dancers and thousands of other visitors expected, summer 2015 promises to be anything but lazy.

30 Passion in Action

A student follows through on her determination to help kids in Farmville.



DEPARTMENTS

3 **YourLetters**

4 **OnPoint**

33 **InPrint**

34 **LongwoodCalendar**

36 **LancerUpdate**

40 **AlumniNews**

48 **EndPaper**

ON THE COVER

With the Longwood bell tolling in the background, members of the Class of 2015 make their way down Brock Commons to the next chapter of their lives.

Photo by Mike Kropf '14. Story on Page 12.

longwood

A **MAGAZINE**
FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2015

Publisher

Longwood University Foundation Inc.
Bart Mitchell '90, President

Editor

Sabrina Brown

Creative Director

David Whaley

Associate Editors

Kent Booty, Matthew McWilliams

Sports Editor

Chris Cook

Photographers

Andrea Dailey, Mike Kropf '14

Contributors

Matt Alexander '16, McRae Amoss, Polly Becker, Rohn Brown '84,
Dan Cawley, Beth Cope, DIA, Trey Eggleston, Patrick Folliard,
Richard Foster, Todd Lindenmuth, Sara Miller, Chris O'Shea,
Daniel Pullen, Elizabeth Seaborn, Lloyd Wolf

Advisory Board

Larissa Fergeson, Courtney Hodges, Victoria Kinson,
Suzy Szasz Palmer, Kenneth Perkins, Nancy Britton Shelton '68,
Bennie Waller '90, Elizabeth Power-deFur

Board of Visitors

Colleen McCrink Margiloff '97, Rector, Rye, N.Y.
Eileen Mathes Anderson '83, Glen Allen
Katherine Elam Busser, Goochland
David H. Hallock Jr., Richmond
Eric Hansen, Lynchburg
Thomas A. Johnson, Lynchburg
Stephen Mobley '93, McLean
Marianne Moffat Radcliff '92, Richmond
Brad E. Schwartz '84, Chesapeake
Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani, Alexandria
Shelby Jones Walker, M.S. '93, Charlotte Court House
Lacy Ward Jr., Prospect
Robert S. Wertz Jr. '85, Leesburg

Editorial offices for Longwood magazine are maintained
at the Office of University Marketing and Communications,
Longwood University, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23909.

Telephone: 434-395-2020; email: brownncs2@longwood.edu.
Comments, letters and contributions are encouraged.

Printed on recycled stocks containing 100% post-consumer waste.
No state funds were used to print this publication.

To request this magazine in alternate format (large print, braille,
audio, etc.), please contact Longwood Disability Resources,
434-395-2391; TRS: 711.

Published June 2015



President W. Taylor Reveley IV with his wife, Marlo,
and their children, Quint and May, following commencement.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this issue of the magazine, you'll read, among other things, about Commencement 2015. It's always a spectacular day, but this year was especially so. Under perfect weather, the great historian Doris Kearns Goodwin graced us with an inspiring speech about Abraham Lincoln. I was proud (if a little sore) to have shaken the hands of 818 new graduates that morning (and another 140 graduate students the evening before).

Commencement marks an end, of course, but also new beginnings—long, winding, wondrous and unpredictable adventures. You'll also read in the magazine, as always, about a few alumni who are engaged in especially remarkable citizen leadership. Years ago, as they walked across the stage at their own graduation ceremonies, they could not have precisely envisioned the paths they would follow. Yet their Longwood education has served them well, just as it will serve well our newest graduates.

The key ingredients are twofold. First, regardless of a student's major, there's a firm foundation in the liberal arts and sciences. These are the skills and habits of mind that are essential for democratic life. But what's less often appreciated is that they are also precisely the skills that employers consistently report they seek in new hires.

Employers tell us they can teach workers new skills, but they can't teach them how to learn. They want employees who can write clearly, who can evaluate problems and solve them, and who can work with a diverse group of colleagues. Today's new college graduates are likely to change careers repeatedly and to have jobs in the future that today aren't even known to exist. We know that the United States has consistently reinvented itself as the world's most innovative economy precisely because of our strong tradition in the kind of education that never becomes obsolete.

There is also, of course, a practical dimension to the higher education demanded by the 21st-century economy. That's why every Longwood student completes an internship or research project. Research is the cornerstone of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that will shape our academic priorities in the coming years. It helps students dive into specific problems, developing close relationships with faculty mentors, and provides an important dimension of preparation for the workforce and/or graduate school. Research is one reason that Longwood's campus has become so busy and vibrant during the summer months. This summer, 14 undergraduate students are participating in a program that pairs them with faculty for an eight-week research partnership (see Page 9).

In the coming years, we will work hard to strengthen both of these core elements of a Longwood education for future generations. A committee of leading faculty is carefully reviewing our general education curriculum to identify and build the essential and distinctive academic experiences we will ask of every Longwood student. Increasing opportunities for our students to engage in research will also be a top priority, and we will be reaching out to you and others in the greater Longwood community for your help supporting those efforts.

The world is indeed changing rapidly. But a Longwood education allows our new graduates to embrace change—to view it as a constant opportunity, not a threat. That is an invaluable gift. It is one we have provided for 176 years now, and we are determined to continue to provide it in the years and centuries to come.

Thank you and my best,

W. Taylor Reveley IV
President

YOUR LETTERS

Fascinating herbarium

I found the article titled “Buried Treasure” by Beth Cope to be fascinating. Dr. Alton Harvill was my botany professor my freshman year at Longwood (1970-71). I can remember his enthusiasm for plants of Virginia. To think he had such a vast collection is remarkable. Kudos go to the quick action of Dr. David Buckalew and also to the curator, Erika Gonzalez-Akre.

I am sorry to hear that Dr. Harvill passed away in 2008. This collection of native Virginia plants will be a credit to him and to Longwood. I think it would have been a fitting tribute to include a photo of the professor. I am enclosing a picture of him from *The Virginian*, 1972. Maybe you can include it as a footnote to the article in your next issue.

Chris Miller Trent '74
Henrico

Mystery solved

I read with interest the article in the recent (spring 2015) issue of your fine magazine concerning the resurrection and refurbishing of the magnificent collection of Virginia flora accumulated by my former colleague, Dr. Alton Harvill. I am so delighted that this irreplaceable collection is being given the recognition that is its due, for it is indeed a monument to the dedicated work of Dr. Harvill and his colleagues throughout the better part of his lifetime.

I was amused to note in the final paragraph the conundrum over the herbarium's name. How quickly we forget! Known as the Harvill-Stevens Herbarium, the naming paid tribute to Dr. Harvill's colleague and co-author of his seminal works, *Atlas of the Virginia Flora Part I* (A.M. Harvill Jr., Charles E. Stevens and Donna M.W. Ware) and *Atlas of Virginia Flora Part II* (A.M. Harvill Jr., Ted R. Bradley and Charles E. Stevens). The following quote from the *Flora of Virginia* (published in 2012) from Pages 18 and 19 was kindly sent to me by a former member of my biology faculty, Thelma Dalmas:

“The *Atlas of the Virginia Flora* also benefited from the extraordinary expertise and the high-volume of collecting of Charlottesville native Charles E. Stevens, who, though not a botanist by profession, brought to his explorations a keen eye for topography and insatiable curiosity about plants. Famous for



Dr. Alton Harvill

letting suggestive name places, geologic formations, and topographic signals lead him to botanical spots, Stevens brought 7.5 topo quadrangles [maps] of the state and walked, climbed, or crawled into some of the most formidable habitats and inaccessible regions in Virginia. In addition to having a legendary memory for geography and a knack for plant identification, Stevens loved the search and by the late 1990s had added some 25,000 specimens to the Longwood Herbarium (now named the Harvill-Stevens Herbarium) and hundreds of range extensions to plant distribution maps in the Atlas.”

The Harvill-Stevens Herbarium was established in August 1985. Documentation of its creation, provided by Eva Philbeck, was signed not only by Alton Harvill, but Charles Stevens as well. Clearly the “Stevens” portion honors Charles E. Stevens, whose “keen eye” and “insatiable curiosity” led to the addition of thousands of specimens to those collected by Dr. Harvill and his students.

Dr. Carolyn Wells

Farmville, Board of Visitors Distinguished Professor of Biology emerita, former vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, and former chair of the Department of Natural Sciences

A strong partnership

Thank you for the spring 2015 magazine cover and story detailing the Longwood and town of Farmville partnership. Clearly it is yet another example of how the two entities are working together to build a strong partnership for our future. As the cover says, “Our Town,” and we see that partnership evolving. Thanks for highlighting our working together.

David Whitus '83
Mayor, Farmville

Delightful issue

Your spring magazine was a rare delight! We receive several college magazines at our house. Often they are “rah-rah” sheets of low interest. Clearly the best is *Harvard Magazine*, which always teaches the reader something new and amazing. Your “Our Town” issue matched it in all ways. Every single page had a story of real lasting interest, with an incredible diversity of subjects!

- The amazing story of senior Savannah Barnett's research, extracting water from sponges to fight cancer
- Biology prof Sujan Henkanathgedara's discoveries about invasive species
- The endearing article about our beloved Nancy Shelton
- The cool picture of downtown Farmville with President Reveley and Mayor Whitus (complete with iconic map)
- The arts reimagined by alum Indira Erwaroo in Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Longwood's new service to patients with hearing disorders
- Our treasured Dos Passos Prize, this year to a Japanese-American writer
- The new nursing program, from RN to BSN
- The fascinating array of alumni awards: sports, service, stocks and science
- 100-year-old alum Agnes Crockett Davis on her horse farm
- International soccer star, student Carlos Canas

And, of course, the crown jewel was Dr. Harvill's rare collection of native Virginia plants. I was lucky enough to meet Dr. Harvill when we lived at Longwood House, and it makes me happy to know that his collection is finding a secure, permanent home with David Buckalew and Erika Gonzalez-Akre.

Your magazine made my husband [former Longwood President William Dorrill] and me very proud (again) of Longwood!

Marty Dorrill
Farmville

As space allows, we print letters to the editor referring to articles (but not to other letters to the editor) that appear in *Longwood* magazine. If several letters are received on the same topic, a representative letter may be selected. Please email letters to brownncs2@longwood.edu, or mail them to Sabrina Brown, Office of Public Relations, Longwood University, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23909. Please be sure to include your class year if you are an alum, your city and state of residence, and a contact phone number. Letters may be edited for style and length.

Remains of the Day

Archaeology students search for original site of early English settlement



The scritch-scratch of shovels and picks may have been replaced by intermittent beeps of radar devices, but this archaeological dig was in search of one of the earliest English settlements in the New World.

Longwood students were front and center in the search.

Built in 1611 at the pinch point of a horseshoe in the Chesterfield County section of the James River, the settlement of Henricus was lost forever 250 years later when Union Gen. Benjamin Butler dug a canal across the pinch, destroying what little remained of the original settlement.

Or maybe not.

After looking at maps and records, officials at Henricus Historical Park suspected that remains of the original settlement fort might still be present, buried deep beneath the soil that was excavated for the canal. As they sought to test that theory, they turned to one of the most well-respected archaeology programs in the nation: Longwood's Dr. James W. Jordan Archaeology Field School. The field school director, Dr. Brian Bates '92, led the excavation of the land where Henricus may have stood.

"Preliminary digs around the area came up negative, but we were probing deep under the surface with ground-penetrating radar and magnetometers to test the park's theory that remains of the settlement are still intact," said Bates, adding that their work has not supported that theory. "The real value of this project was the opportunity for my students to engage in problem-oriented field research using cutting-edge technology. If we located the ruins of the settlement, that would be icing on the cake."

"This was quite a unique opportunity," said Meghan Trant '15, an anthropology major from Manassas. "Several of us presented our findings from the Henricus project at an archaeological conference in Maryland, which is not something that every student gets to do." Trant will enter a master's program in forensic science at George Mason University in the fall.

Henricus' place in early American history is



Longwood archaeology students sift for artifacts at their excavation site at Henricus Historical Park.

remarkable. One of the first major settlements after the establishment of Jamestown, Henricus was built farther up the James River on a piece of land that founder Sir Thomas Dale hoped would eventually become the center of Virginia government. Settlers chose the location because it was naturally protected on three sides by the James River, then built walls to keep out hostile Native Americans and eventually expanded outward. It was at Henricus that the captured Pocahontas was converted to Christianity and

met John Rolfe. The piece of land was also the site of a Revolutionary War naval battle, and several hulls of burned ships are believed to be buried beneath the river.

"There aren't many opportunities to dig for a settlement that holds such central importance to the history of our country," said Bates. "The fact that our students have the opportunity to get out in the field and participate in this dig is quite remarkable."

Over the years, archaeologists have searched the area where the historical park is located, but no remains of the original settlement were found. During the spring semester, Longwood teams were back out with ground-penetrating radar, which can provide what experts call a "time slice" deep under the surface.

"This technology allows us to get an understanding of what might be underground before we ever dig a single test unit, and it actually helps us determine the best places to excavate," said Bates. "We can see soil layers as well as locate certain objects that are buried. What we've found appears to post-date the period of Henricus, but simply putting this equipment in use gives Longwood students invaluable hands-on experience."

Bates said it is rare for undergraduate students to have the experience of working a project from its inception through design, implementation and analysis. "When this is combined with the level of technology that we are able to bring to bear on the research question, the experience our students get is unparalleled," he said.

"We had an incredible opportunity to apply the knowledge that we learned in the classroom," said Suzy Deeds '15, an anthropology major from Millboro. "As we worked on this, we all gained a lot of confidence in our skills and got some invaluable hands-on experience. That way we can all go into jobs and graduate programs with confidence, knowing that we have what it takes. That's an opportunity that's really singular to Longwood." —*Matthew McWilliams* ☺

Field school achieves national recognition

The Dr. James W. Jordan Archaeology Field School recently became one of the fewer than 10 percent of field schools in the world that are certified by the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA).

Of the 189 field schools worldwide, only 17, including Longwood's, are RPA certified. Longwood's field school is also the

only one in Virginia to achieve certification.

Certification aims to ensure that field school students are trained in "the discipline's highest standards of research and site stewardship," said Dr. Brian Bates '92, field school director. "This distinguishes our students and will give them an advantage in the workplace."



Children's author Mac Barnett reads from *Extra Yarn* at the inaugural Virginia Children's Book Festival in October 2014. Longwood will again be the host sponsor this October.

Cover to Cover

Longwood is host sponsor of Children's Book Festival

An impressive lineup of nationally known authors and illustrators is taking shape for the 2015 Virginia Children's Books Festival this October, with Longwood again hosting the event and this year playing an expanded role as host sponsor.

The second VCBF is expected to bring thousands of children from across Virginia to campus this Oct. 16-17. Among the speakers and presenters will be the 2014 National Book Award Winner for Young People's Literature (Jacqueline Woodson), the 2015 Newbery Award winner (Kwame Alexander), several other Newbery honorees and multiple *New York Times* best-selling authors.

As host sponsor, Longwood is expanding its relationship with the festival through financial support, collaboration on scheduling, access to university resources, the use of campus buildings and services, and more involvement with faculty members.

"The Virginia Children's Book Festival is a wonderful opportunity both to expand our outreach to the surrounding region and introduce children to literature," said Longwood President W. Taylor Reveley IV. "Too many children are underexposed to books at a young age and enter school far behind their peers. Longwood has a tremendous history making a positive impact on Virginia's schoolchildren, and this partnership is a natural fit to carry on that history. Additionally, it's an opportunity to bring

thousands of people here to show off our beautiful campus."

Longwood is uniquely positioned to draw festivalgoers from three urban centers as well as from school systems that serve thousands of children across Southside Virginia. On campus, interest in the festival is running higher than ever, and several Longwood professors and staff sit on the VCBF board of directors and volunteer their expertise. Longwood's strength in teacher preparation—with a particular emphasis on strategies aimed at improving reading—provides support for unique programming.

"This festival is a great opportunity to highlight our expertise in children's literature and connect with students in a substantial way," said Wade Edwards, chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages. "Longwood students also gain exposure to some of the nation's top children's authors and engage in meaningful dialogue with them."

Festival leaders are equally as excited about returning to Longwood.

"We are building on last year's enormous success with the strong support of the university community," said Juanita Giles, festival director. "Longwood is truly the cultural center of Southside Virginia, and its reach into different facets of the community will give us ample opportunity to connect with children who are most at risk." —*Matthew McWilliams* 🌐

Longwood applies to host 2016 presidential debate

Every four years, the presidential debates capture the attention of the nation and the world. Longwood is hoping to earn a moment in the spotlight.

Earlier this spring, the university applied to the Commission on Presidential Debates to serve as a host institution in 2016. It is a competitive process, and Longwood has made a strong proposal, building on its location—as a crossroads of history and a swing region in a bellwether electoral state—and its mission of citizen leadership and engagement.



The university also enjoys strong endorsements from Gov. Terry McAuliffe and regional leaders. Longwood was the only institution in Virginia to put forward an application for 2016.

The potential benefits of serving as a host institution are unparalleled.

For students, it would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in one of the most important events in our democracy. Rather than just a one-time occasion, a debate would be the capstone of a full year of learning and extracurricular opportunities built around it.

In addition, hosting a debate would strongly advance the university's national and international standing. Of the 30 presidential debates held since 1960, 19 have been held at universities. To date, the College of William & Mary (in 1976) and the University of Richmond (in 1992) are the two Virginia institutions to host a debate, and, in both cases, the debate served as an important catalyst for growing their national reputations. The precise value of the media exposure is difficult to predict, but one estimate of the value to recent host institutions exceeds \$50 million.

Over this summer, the commission will carefully review each institutional application, with final decisions expected in the fall of 2015. The debates themselves are scheduled for October 2016.



Legacy locks' place secure as new Longwood tradition

Inspired by the locks that until recently lined bridges in the French capital city, Longwood seniors this year were invited to create their own "legacy locks" to be displayed on Beale Plaza — a new Longwood tradition.

"The idea is that students decorate the locks and fasten them to the fence near the Ruffner fountain," said Paige Rollins '15, senior class president. "They'll remain locked on the fence forever. We hope that alumni bring their own locks when they return to campus and add them to the legacy fence."

All expenses paid for student receiving Oxford fellowship



Monica Vroomen '16

Monica Vroomen '16, of Alexandria, will study at the University of Oxford this summer in a highly selective, all-expenses-paid fellowship sponsored by the English-Speaking Union of the United States (ESU).

A major in teaching English as a second language, Vroomen was chosen for ESU's British Universities Summer School Scholarship program, which is primarily for high-school English teachers but also involves a small number of college undergraduates. The program expects to enroll no more than six U.S. college students this year, said Alice Uhl, ESU's intrams programs manager.

The program, titled "History, Politics & Society," runs from July 5-25 at Exeter College, one of Oxford's oldest and most prestigious colleges. As part of the program, Vroomen will take two graduate seminars. Oxford, founded in 1096, is the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

Commitment to Affordability

Longwood again holds cost increases to historic lows

Citing institutional momentum and the highest percentage enrollment growth of any Virginia public university since 2012-13, Longwood's Board of Visitors in March approved an increase in undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees of less than 3 percent for the second year in a row—by far the smallest two-year price increase seen at any Virginia public university since 2001-02.

In announcing last year's increase, President W. Taylor Reveley IV said Longwood aspired to fundamentally change the economics of college affordability, and the announcement attracted notice across the commonwealth. The idea was to draw support from philanthropy and invest in retaining students rather than continuing to ask students and families to fund the seemingly relentless price increases typical across higher education.

This year, Longwood again demonstrated the strength of that commitment.

"Every year, a four-year college degree becomes more essential for the American dream," Reveley said. "There are many reasons why college costs have risen, and not all are in our hands. But we are sending a message: We hear loud and clear that over the years ahead, families won't be able to sustain current national trends of rising tuition prices and student debt, and we will do our share to ensure college remains within reach."


For 2015-16, Longwood will increase

undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees by 2.8 percent. Over the past decade, the average annual increase at Virginia public universities has been nearly 7 percent.

The charge for tuition and mandatory fees for in-state undergraduates carrying a full course load in 2015-16 will be \$11,910 per year. Nearly three-quarters of Longwood students receive financial aid to assist with that cost.

The true value of Longwood's educational program is substantially higher even than the list price. Longwood emphasizes small classes and has the highest proportion of classes taught by full-time faculty of any public institution in the state. Altogether, the resources devoted annually to education at Longwood exceed the costs borne by students and families by almost \$30 million, thanks to public funding and to philanthropy.

"The easy path would be to charge students and families as much as we think they can possibly afford," said Rector Colleen McCrink Margiloff '97. "But Longwood is in the business of transforming lives, and so we would rather focus on supporting and mentoring our students to graduation. That's better for our students, and it's also the best way to ensure Longwood continues on strong financial footing."

Out-of-state undergraduates will see the same overall percentage increase in tuition and mandatory fees as in-state students. 



In Memory of AJ

Friends and teammates of 18-year-old Anjelica "AJ" Hadsell—many of them dressed in bright colors to reflect Hadsell's bright personality—gathered on campus April 20 for a candlelight vigil in memory of the Longwood freshman. Although Hadsell was not a varsity athlete, friends said sports were one of her passions, and her No. 6 club softball jersey hung in front of the crowd at the service. She also swam and played field hockey and soccer, they said. Hadsell had been missing from her home in Norfolk since spring break when her remains were found in Southampton County and then identified April 10.

Show Me the Moneyball

Baseball's guru of statistical analysis shares insights with students, athletes, community



Bill James speaks with the Lancer baseball team.



Bill James' statistical analysis of baseball is often complex, but his assessment of Longwood's star softball player during a recent campus visit was as direct as a line drive.

"I should tell the Red Sox to recruit Megan Baltzell," baseball's most celebrated analyst

'When I began building a catalog of baseball's traditional wisdom and checking things out, it turned out that pretty much everything that baseball men all knew to be true was nonsense.'

— BILL JAMES

said of the catcher, who compiled record-breaking home run numbers during her recently concluded Lancer career.

During a two-day visit in April, James, who is credited with revolutionizing the study of baseball, met with the softball and baseball teams, spoke to several classes and gave the annual Francis Butler Simkins lecture to a standing-room-only audience in Hiner Auditorium.

James' analysis has been featured in the film *Moneyball*, earned him cult-like status among baseball fans and helped the Boston Red Sox win three World Series titles since he joined them as a consultant in 2003. The baseball writer and statistician is the father of a method called sabermetrics, which supporters say is a more accurate way to measure players' value.

"When I began building a catalog of baseball's traditional wisdom and checking things out," he said in his Simkins lecture, "it turned out that pretty much everything that baseball men all knew to be true was nonsense."

James' visit with the softball team reinforced a point from his talk. Though he once dismissed the importance of "team chemistry, leadership and the role of character in winning championships," he now recognizes their value.

"When I walked into this locker room, I couldn't tell who the superstars are, which is a good thing," he told the softball team, which this spring won both the Big South regular-season title and the tournament championship as well.

Several students asked to see the 2013 World Series ring that James wears on his right hand. "It's probably worth twice what I paid for my first house," he said after being asked the value of the huge ring.

Among the observations James made during his visit to the Longwood campus:

- The biggest "steal" for the Red Sox during his tenure with the team was the acquisition of star slugger David Ortiz

after he was released 13 years ago by the Minnesota Twins. "He hadn't had much major league success then, but we knew he could hit."

- The 2013 Red Sox team, which won the World Series, "wasn't that good on paper, but then the Boston Marathon bombing happened, and that team came together."
- Oakland Athletics General Manager Billy Beane, whose adherence to James' approach was featured in *Moneyball* (he was portrayed by Brad Pitt), is "driven berserk by not being able to win the World Series, but it takes a lot of luck."
- Asked who will win the World Series this year, he said the Washington Nationals are "worth watching." —*Kent Booty* 🌐

"Small Talk"

overheard on the Longwood campus

"Your online and offline lives are inextricably intertwined. It is your responsibility to claim your space identity on and off of social media."

Paul Gordon Brown social media consultant, in the Social Justice in Action Leadership Summit in February 2015

"Commemorations like the 50th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery march can blind us to the ongoing work that needs to be done. We can get caught up in smug self-congratulation."

Tim Wise anti-racism essayist and educator, in the Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium in January 2015

"If we as a nation diverted what we spend on bottled water every year, the entire world could have clean water."

David Radcliff director of New Community Project, in a March 2015 talk

"Geography is a way to have an unlimited plane ticket all around the world."

Akhil Rekulapelli 2014 National Geographic Bee winner, at the 2015 Virginia Geographic Bee in March 2015

"Many things will come undone [by future climate change], starting with water and food shortages but eventually entire economies and political systems."

David Orr environmentalist and director of the Oberlin Project, in an Earth Month lecture in April 2015

"The discovery I found most surprising in my research is that Grant was deeply disappointed by, and resentful of, Lee's refusal to give the victors their due."

Elizabeth Varon Civil War historian and University of Virginia professor, in the Civil War Seminar in April 2015

CrashCourse

Reading 670: Evaluation and Applied Practicum in Intermediate and Adolescent Literacy

Instructor

Dr. Wendy Snow, assistant professor of education

High Tech and High Touch

A blend of online and classroom instruction, this course is part of the graduate (M.Ed.) program in reading, literacy and learning.



It includes a component where students provide tutoring to schoolchildren, and this year, following a suggestion by Snow, one section of students opted to do their tutoring via the Internet. (The other two sections did face-to-face tutoring at Cumberland Middle School.)

With help from Longwood's

Digital Education Collaborative, each of Snow's students tutored a fourth- or fifth-grader at New London Academy in Bedford County for an hour every Wednesday afternoon. This approach, which Snow will use again, provided flexibility by allowing students to tutor from any location with an Internet connection.

Far-reaching Impact

"This approach enables us to reach students geographically remote from Longwood who otherwise would not have access to this level of expertise from highly trained tutors," said Snow, a former reading specialist in the Bedford schools.

Assessing Young Readers and Themselves

Longwood students learn how to administer diagnostic assessments and evaluate them for their value in improving literacy instruction.

Peer Review

Tutoring sessions were automatically recorded and then reviewed by the students themselves and by others in the courses. "The technology afforded greater opportunity for teacher self-reflection and allowed students to take on the role of literacy coach, with tutors reflecting and collaborating in pairs on ways to improve their instruction," said Snow.

Suggested Reading

Assessing and Correcting Reading and Writing Difficulties (fifth edition), Thomas G. Gunning

Model Dad

Student juggles books and single fatherhood en route to teaching career

Cedric Hawkes went back to college for his kids.

Hawkes made the decision after his fiancée and the mother of his two sons, then 5 months and 15 months old, died in January 2011. He was 28, had tried college and dropped out, and had worked as a truck driver, restaurant manager and substitute teacher. He was tired of "job hopping" and wanted a career.

"I knew I couldn't give my kids advice if I were a college dropout. I wanted to be a role model for them," said Hawkes, a liberal studies major from Crewe who will graduate in December 2015.

Hawkes can be considered a role model for not only his kids—Cedric Jr. "CJ", now 5, and Bryce, 4—but also for his fellow Longwood classmates. He is a member of the Call Me MISTER program and the recipient of several Longwood University Foundation scholarships. He has a 3.5 grade-point average and recently received a CHI commendation.

"Cedric is a determined and persistent young man who embodies all of the attributes that we look for in Call Me MISTER students," said Dr. Maurice Carter, who directs Longwood's chapter of the national teacher leadership program. "As the eldest MISTER, he is an excellent role model to the younger ones."

"Raising two sons as a single father, while attending college as a full-time student, has been challenging," he said. "I tell other students that my day is just beginning when they're kicking back in their dorm rooms. That's when I'm switching into Dad mode—handling dinner, baths, packing lunches and other household chores. It's not until my boys are in bed that I finally get to sit down to work on my assignments."

He hasn't done it completely alone, however, and gives credit to his mother and sister, Lucy and Melissa Hawkes of Burkeville, and his girlfriend, Gwendolyn Clements '06, a third-grade teacher at Crewe Primary in Nottoway County, for their help.

Hawkes plans to be an elementary teacher, and that's where his sons provide a definite advantage, giving him opportunities to practice his teaching skills.

"I sometimes ask my boys comprehension questions when I'm reading to them at night,"



Cedric Hawkes '15

he said. "When I was reading *The Three Ninja Pigs*, CJ said, 'Daddy, can you just read the book? Please stop asking these questions.' I push them, but I let them be kids, too. You need balance—books as well as trains and ninja turtle moves."

In Hawkes' first college stint after graduating from high school, he dropped out of Old Dominion University after 2-1/2 years. He drove a delivery truck in Norfolk for a while, then moved back to Crewe, where he worked as a special education aide and a substitute teacher. When he resolved to return to college, he was helping to manage several restaurants, one of which was the student café at Southside Virginia Community College.

"It had been on my mind for a while, so one day I took my apron off and went to talk with one of the counselors there, who told me about the Call Me MISTER program," said Hawkes. "After I met with Dr. Carter, I said, 'This is my goal.'"

First, he had to earn an associate's degree, which he did at SVCC in summer 2013. He then entered Longwood that fall.

Hawkes received the Martha Stokes Cleveland, Lady Boggs Walton and Jerolien Tanner Titmus scholarships during the 2014-15 academic year. The Cleveland and Walton scholarships will be renewed until he graduates. —Kent Booty

If you would like more information about how you can help a deserving Longwood student, please contact University Advancement at gifts@longwood.edu.



Patricia Hale '16 and James Wilson '16 examine a crayfish in their PRISM project.

Summer of Inquiry

Students in research program explore topics from anxiety disorders to invasive crayfish



If you shoot a window made of self-healing thermoplastic, the hole from the bullet heals itself almost instantly with an airtight seal. “The reason why is poorly understood,” said Longwood physics professor Dr. Kenneth Pestka II.

Pestka and Jonathan Buckley '16, a physics major from Round Hill, soon might know

reflect Longwood’s commitment to providing research opportunities to undergraduates.

“PRISM is a great opportunity for faculty and an even better opportunity for students,” said Dr. Christopher Labosier, assistant professor of environmental sciences, who is studying how climatology affects the geospatial patterns of wildfires with

‘The opportunity to do research and get one-on-one interaction is a game-changer for graduate school and careers.’

— DR. CHRISTOPHER LABOSIER, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences

more about this phenomenon, which in recent years has been studied by NASA and other researchers. In a project in the Perspectives on Research in Science and Mathematics (PRISM) program this summer, the pair are using acoustic and ultrasonic spectroscopy to study the role of sound in the properties of these materials.

“If we can understand their healing behavior better, it may lead to better design and applications,” said Pestka.

This is the third summer for PRISM, which pairs students (who receive a \$3,500 stipend and room and board) and faculty in an intensive eight-week research partnership.

The STEM-based projects, many of which are a continuation of student-involved research,

Daniel Schimoler '16, an integrated environmental sciences major from Chantilly.

“The opportunity to do research and get one-on-one interaction is a game-changer for graduate school and careers. Students often pick up skills that are hard to acquire in a classroom setting.”

The other PRISM projects are:

- The relationship, if any, between “academic entitlement” (high academic expectations, absent personal responsibility for that success) and academic performance: Dr. Sarai Blincoe, assistant professor of psychology, and Gina D’Orazio '17, psychology major from Moseley.
- Alternative therapies in treating and

preventing anxiety disorders, as well as measuring stress hormones including cortisol: Dr. Catherine Franssen, assistant professor of psychology, and Ri’Shawn Bassette '17, psychology and communication studies major from Hampton.

- Designing a real-time control device to optimize stormwater management and water-conservation benefits of a rainwater harvesting system: Dr. Kathy DeBusk Gee, assistant professor of environmental sciences, and Rachel Lombardi '16, integrated environmental sciences major from Marlton, N.J.

- The potential impacts of invasive crayfish on native crayfish: Dr. Sujan Henkanaththegedara, assistant professor of biology, and Patricia Hale '16, integrated environmental sciences major from Bedford, and James Wilson '16, biology major from Roanoke.

- Tracking 3D flight paths and energy use in wild birds: Dr. Brandon Jackson, assistant professor of biology, and Alexon Munson-Catt '16, biology major from Virginia Beach.

- The effects of increasing dissolved organic carbon concentration on the foraging efficiency and diet selectivity of planktivorous fish predators preying on zooplankton: Dr. Dina Leech, assistant professor of biology, and Nicholas Ravagli '16, biology major from Pamplin.

- What is taught, and how, in Math 171, a widely taught statistics course, as well as the effect of those factors on academic performance in a sequel course: Dr. Leah Shilling-Traina, assistant professor of mathematics education, and Deborah Bray '16, mathematics major from Mechanicsville.

- The electronic properties of molecules in electronic devices: Dr. Benjamin Topham, assistant professor of chemistry, and Sam King '16, chemistry major from Herndon.

- Advanced topics in Lie theory through linear algebra: Dr. Thomas Wears, assistant professor of mathematics, and Sabrina Walker '17, mathematics major and member of the Cormier Honors College from Cullen.

- Designing a unique second-semester organic chemistry course that incorporates the sequential synthesis of brominated paraben and carries it through antimicrobial analysis: Dr. Andrew Yeagley, assistant professor of chemistry, and Shelby Furman '16, chemistry major from Stafford, and Hailey Kintz '17, chemistry and biology major from Sterling. —*Kent Booty* 🍷

A Total Fabrication

Longwood student researches 3-D printers' ability to replicate human bones

The ability to “print” a 3-D object might have seemed the stuff of science fiction a few years ago, but today 3-D printers can create guns, artificial limbs, smartphones, jewelry and much more. This academic year, a Longwood anthropology major, in collaboration with a biology professor, researched whether this technology can help education and research by replicating human bones.

Amir Mosley '15, who is interested in studying human remains from archaeological sites, is intrigued by the potential of 3-D printing technology to produce affordable study aids for students in various fields of scientific study, especially archaeology and anatomy. In a research project during the fall 2014 semester, he tried to scan and print bones and lithic artifacts with a 3-D printer from Longwood's Digital Education Collaborative (DEC).

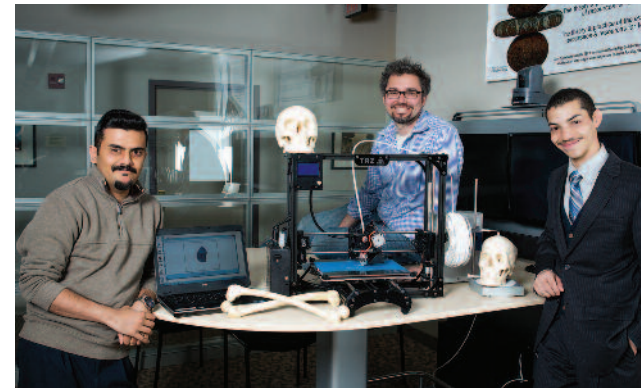
Current replicas of human bones are often beyond the price range of many undergradu-

ates and even some schools, said Mosley, who plans to study osteoarchaeology in graduate school. He began his research after discussions with the professor in his anatomy and physiology class, Dr. Björn Ludwar, who told him about the two 3-D printers in the DEC.

“What’s interesting about Amir’s research is that he was taking the knowledge he acquired in archaeology, which is about ancient things, and using it to study the technology of the future,” said Ludwar, assistant professor of biology, who oversaw the project.

The best result was a patella, the small bone in front of the knee, which Mosley was able to not only scan but print.

“Though there was no ‘woo-hoo’ moment, I’m still convinced that 3-D printing can expand knowledge of the human body and humans’ cultural past,” said Mosley, who also tried to scan a clavicle (collarbone), two phalanges (finger bones) and two vertebrae.



Amir Mosley '15 (right) researched 3-D printing technology with help from Muneeb Mobashar (left) of the Digital Education Collaborative and biology professor Dr. Björn Ludwar.

When an object is re-created using scanning and 3-D printing technology, a scanner first rotates an object, calculating angles from all sides and making measurements that CAD software combines into a 3-D model. When the design is sent to the printer, plastic filament in the printer is heated up and fed from a spool through a device called an extruder, which, while moving back and forth, deposits thin layers of melted plastic onto a platform.—*Kent Booty*

Student proposes a powerful idea – in 140 characters

It was innocuous enough: a simple tweet during a lull in class. It’s the type of thing that happens hundreds of times a day.

But most student tweets don’t end up in front of the department chair, or spark an idea that gains momentum and culminates in a new course taught jointly by 10 professors. Longwood student Emily Hines '16 didn’t think anything would come from her tweet—she was just struck that she’d like a course on banned books after studying the frequently banned *Huckleberry Finn*.

“I like the concept of banned literature,” said Hines, of Vienna, who plans to teach high-school English. “What is it that makes this taboo? What is it people don’t want to hear? It’s weird but interesting. They’re just words. How can you ban that? And besides, it’s just fiction. Huck Finn isn’t real.”

Hines’ tweet—“I want nothing more than to take a class on banned books. Help a girl out.”—reached the twitter account of Longwood’s Department of English and Modern Languages and made its way to the desk of the department chair, Dr. Wade Edwards.

“It’s highly unusual for a course to evolve



Emily Hines '16 got the attention of faculty with her tweet requesting a course on banned books.

from a single suggestion from a student,” said Edwards. “This is the result of student initiative, social media, a campus awareness of banned books and a willingness to try to something new.”

The result is a high-level elective course titled *Contested Books: 1779-Present*. Offered in the spring semester, it was taught by 10 faculty members, including four modern language professors. The curriculum follows a

chronological path, beginning with the 1779 German play *Nathan the Wise* and concluding with *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. Other books include *Huckleberry Finn*, the 19th century French novel *Madame Bovary* and Richard Wright’s memoir *Black Boy*.

The curriculum is about not only banned books but also books that have been “censored, challenged or otherwise kept out of readers’ hands,” said Dr. Sean Barry, an English professor and one of the teachers of the course.

Discussion of banned books is nothing new to Longwood’s campus—students in several literature courses study books that are frequently challenged, and the Department of English and Modern Languages partners with the university’s Greenwood Library to host an annual Banned Books Week. But for Hines, it was all coincidence.

“It’s the first and only time I’ve tweeted English and Modern Languages,” said Hines. “I thought it was funny the department had a Twitter account, which I had stumbled on a few days earlier. This was an interesting string of coincidences and accidents. None of this was planned, but I’m glad that I sparked the idea.”



French Hall is the new home of Information Technology Services.

Hard Hats Required

Construction projects demonstrate Longwood's commitment to a residential college experience

The steady hum of construction continues to provide the backdrop for campus life at Longwood. While several smaller projects have been completed, the centerpieces that will come to define the heart of campus are still taking shape.

Already a new environmental research laboratory at Lancer Park is bustling with multiple biological research projects that give Longwood students opportunities aplenty for hands-on research in an exploding field. Renovations to the interior of Willett Hall—the home of the men's and women's basketball teams and the popular kinesiology program—and a new roof on Dorrill Dining Hall are complete, returning two of the most heavily used buildings on campus to full function.

One of the most visible projects in recent years, the renovation of French Hall—one of the core four Jeffersonian buildings that make up the oldest part of campus—is now complete, as well. Inside the stately brick exterior is a modern, high-tech facility outfitted with the latest in information technology. The building again buzzes with life.

A new academic building and new admissions building are currently in the design phase. The planned site for the academic building is behind French Hall, while the new admissions building will occupy a spot in the same area as the existing Crafts House.

Finally, three projects in the heart of campus are nearing major construction phases. Each will reinforce Longwood's commitment to the value of a residential campus community.

Norman H. and Elsie Stossel Upchurch University Center. After deconstruction of the

Cunningham dormitories was completed earlier this year, the site was prepared for upcoming work, which will begin in the fall 2015 semester. Main building construction will start in 2016, and the center, which will quickly become a thriving hub of campus life, is scheduled to be complete in 2017.

"When it's complete, the Upchurch University Center will be a natural work and social gathering spot for students right in the center of campus," said Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president for student affairs. "A true hub designed to meet the needs of tomorrow's student is something that has been lacking on our campus, but this building will meet those needs and more. It is a much-anticipated and critical part of the growth of Longwood."

Sophomore Residence Hall. Further proof of Longwood's commitment to a human-scale residential campus experience that both fosters academic achievement and brings students together in a true community is the new sophomore residence hall. The twin buildings situated in the ARC quad near the geographic center of campus are under construction and slated to be open for the start of the 2016-17 academic year.

Student Success Center. A center equipped with the resources students need to reach their full potential will soon stand over the entrance to the campus parking garage between Lankford Hall and Greenwood Library. Students who enter the center will be met with supportive staff and plenty of opportunities to get the help they need. The center is slated to open by the spring 2017 semester. —*Matthew McWilliams* 🍷

Faculty member to lead national organization

Dr. Audrey Church, professor and coordinator of Longwood's graduate school librarianship program, has been elected the 2016-17 president of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL).

Following a year as president-elect, Church will begin her term as president in June 2016 at the American Library Association (ALA) conference in Orlando, Fla.

AASL, a division of the ALA, has more than 7,000 members and serves school librarians in the United States, Canada and



Dr. Audrey Church

around the world.

"It is an honor to be elected as president-elect of our national organization, and it will be a privilege to represent school librarians from across the country," said Church, whose entire 35-year education career has been in the field of school librarianship.



Lifetime total for Longwood Relay for Life passes \$500,000

As hundreds of members of the Longwood community walked around the track in March, together they cleared one large hurdle.

With this year's total of more than \$64,000 raised, Relay For Life of Longwood University blew past the half-million dollar mark in total funds contributed to the American Cancer Society's fight against the disease. Relay for Life first came to Longwood in 2003.

"I am proud of how we come together every year," said Dr. Maureen Walls-McKay, director of Longwood's Counseling Center and advisor to the student committee that organizes the Relay for Life. "Cancer touches everybody, and this community really embraces this event. It highlights the deep ties between Longwood and Prince Edward County. The entire community comes out every year in a stunning display of support."

Words to the Wise

Commencement is full of humor, advice, White House anecdotes

BY SABRINA BROWN

A “breakup letter” to Longwood written by a soon-to-be-graduate. Worldly advice to the Class of 2015 encouraging them, among other things, to “always buy the extended warranty.” Personal anecdotes about working with former President Lyndon Johnson.

All this and more was part of undergraduate commencement on May 9.

The letter was one of several read to the crowd by Class of 2015 President Paige Rollins. She had solicited them prior to the ceremony from her fellow graduates, asking them to reflect on their time at Longwood and their imminent departure. Board of Visitors Rector Colleen McCrink Margiloff '97 was the sage behind the warranty advice and several other suggestions for the future. (You can read the letters and Margiloff's comments online at magazine.longwood.edu.)

And Pulitzer-Prize winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's keynote address was full to the brim with anecdotes—some humorous, some poignant—about Johnson, during whose term she served as a White House Fellow, and other presidents she got to know only through her extensive research, most notably Abraham Lincoln.

No president's story is more “compelling” than Lincoln's, said Goodwin, whose best-selling book *Team of Rivals* became the basis for the 2012 film *Lincoln*.

“The hardest part of his self-education, he later said, was that he had few people with whom to discuss his ideas, to mentor him, to guide him. ... What Lincoln would have given to have spent four years on this beautiful campus. All his life he regretted the want of a for-



mal education, but he never stopped learning, even after becoming a lawyer.” (Listen to Goodwin's full address online at longwood.edu.)

Longwood awarded 913 bachelor's degrees in the May 9 ceremony and 159 master's degrees the previous evening. (These numbers include graduates who completed their studies in August and December of 2014.)

Provost Ken Perkins, who is starting the next chapter of his career at Longwood this summer in University Advancement (see story on Page 20), gave the address at the graduate commencement ceremony.

Perkins urged the graduate students to be magnanimous. “I like to think of magnanimity as encompassing the habits of being graceful in words and deeds, with calmness and kindness in demeanor, and having a forgiving nature. You want others to think of you as having a big soul.”

Another era came to an end this year as Dr. Bob Webber called the last of some 20,000 graduates' names he has announced at Longwood's commencement ceremonies over the last quarter-century.

Heralding the moment when a beloved child, brother, sister or friend walked across the stage, Webber's rich baritone and dramatic flair made each name special. Webber retired at the end of the academic year. ☺



Matt Alexander '16



4

1. Sam Edwards' shoes reflect his status as one of the Elwood mascots. (The other two Elwoods, Cainan Townsend and Jenna Weyant, also wore part of their costumes.) 2. Proud family members snap photos of their graduates. 3. Senior class president and Princes member Paige Rollins jumps for joy and good luck over a recently painted Princes crown. 4. Graduate Hailey Voorhees shares a joyful moment with junior marshal Joanie Giordano '16. 5. Rector Colleen Margiloff '97 signs the diploma of SGA president Joe Gills '15 in President W. Taylor Reveley IV's office. 6. Conner Freeland (left) and Floyd Moore are all smiles. 7. Ty Pennington and Amanda Freitag of the TV show "American Diner Revival," in Farmville for a makeover of Walker's Diner (nominated by Theta Chi fraternity), film a scene for the show in front of Lancaster immediately after commencement. 8. Commencement speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin receives an honorary doctorate. 9. Dr. Robert Webber savors a well-deserved rest after reading 20,000 graduates' names during his 20 years as the voice of Longwood commencement.



5



6



7



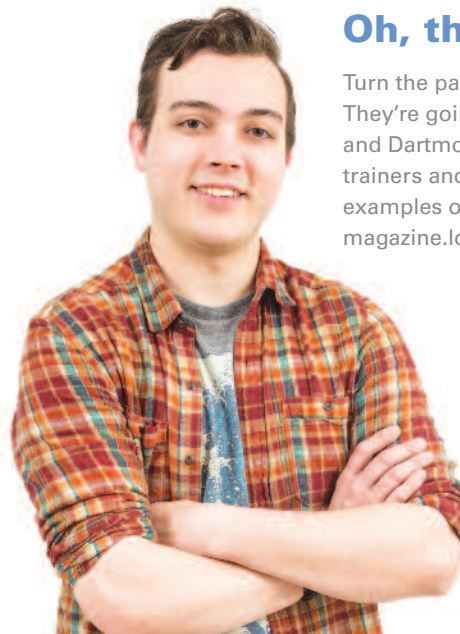
8



9

Oh, the Places They're Going

Turn the page to meet 16 members of the Class of 2015. They're going off to graduate school at places like Duke and Dartmouth, and starting jobs as nurses, personal trainers and graphic designers. You'll find more examples of our students' bright futures online at magazine.longwood.edu.



CLASS OF 2015

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO



Luke Balmer

Hometown: Charlotte County

Major: Nursing

When push comes to shove: "Longwood encouraged me when I thought about giving up and pushed me to learn more and be more than I ever thought I could."

What's next: Luke is working as a registered nurse on the medical-surgical floor at Centra Southside Community Hospital in Farmville.

What's cool about that: The chance to give back to the Farmville community.

"I am honored that I can stay in the area and provide care for this population."

A true calling: "I chose nursing because I wanted to help people and I knew one of the best ways I could show compassion and care for people was to become a nurse."

It's a knockout: One day, he hopes to return to school to become a nurse anesthetist.

Emily Russell

Hometown: Midlothian

Major: Social work

Where everybody knows her name: Communities in Schools, an organization in Richmond that helps kids stay in school, and Bear Creek Academy, a private therapeutic day school in Cumberland for students with learning and emotional disabilities. Emily completed internships at both places.

The special sauce: "At Longwood, I had an amazing group of friends. I had a great job on campus with two amazing supervisors. Everything felt right for me, and I think it

all happened when I started to fully believe in myself. Thanks to the opportunities Longwood has provided me, I am feeling confident about whatever lies ahead."

What's next: Master's degree program in clinical social work with a concentration in advanced practice and programming

Where: Columbia University

Power to the young people: Emily sees herself one day being a social worker empowering youth in impoverished areas to succeed in school. "I want to be able to help others find their drive like so many helped me find mine."

Couldn't have done it without: Andrea Martinez and Wolfgang Acevedo, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life; Susan Sullivan, Student Union; and especially Dr. Beth Massaro, social work. "Whether it was a venting session in her office, advice on school work or a catch-up session on life, Dr. Massaro has truly been such a motivator to help me succeed in this profession."





Paul Hegedus

Hometown: Ashburn

Major: Physics with a minor in mathematics

Cricket, anyone?: Paul spent time in London studying the sports system of the United Kingdom.

What's next: Ph.D. program in astrophysics

Where: University of Miami

He's done the math: He'll receive a teaching assistantship with a full tuition scholarship.

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Michelle Parry, physics. "I did research with Dr. Parry for two semesters, and I have no doubt that having that on my resume played a big role in getting accepted to graduate school."

Elizabeth Trainer

Hometown: Ellicott City, Md.

Major: Kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science

Honors: Member, Cormier Honors College and Phi Kappa Phi

Game across the pond: She studied in England with the Sports in London program.

You may know her as: No. 3 on the lacrosse team, where she had 72 consecutive starts

No. 3 is No. 1: Liz was Longwood's first Big South Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year in any sport.

What's next: Doctoral program in physical therapy

Where: University of Maryland-Baltimore

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Cathy Roy, exercise science.

"In every class, I could see her passion and excitement for exercise science and teaching."



Jennifer Cava

Hometown: Williamsburg

Major: Therapeutic recreation

Honors: Member, Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success

Channeling Obi-Wan Kenobi: "I spent three years as a peer mentor and tried my best to teach freshmen to be true to themselves and to follow their dreams."

Like a good neighbor ... : "Life is not always grand, and, during those times in the past four years, Longwood has always been a constant full of love, acceptance and laughter. Longwood will forever be in my heart."

The thrill is back: Jennifer is a certified therapeutic recreational specialist at the Therapeutic Recreation Center in Norfolk, where she served an internship. In her new job she is creating and leading programs for people with disabilities, including community outings and skills, aquatics, dance and exercise programs. "I get to use my education and heart for people with disabilities every day, and I couldn't be more thrilled."

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Susan Lynch, therapeutic recreation, who "helped me through all four years at Longwood. She has taught me so much about my field and how to help others."





Irina Boothe

Hometown: Roanoke

Major: Criminology and criminal justice with a minor in sociology

Honors: Member, Cormier Honors College and Phi Kappa Phi

Favorite outfit: U.S. Army uniform

In her spare time: Protects American freedom. While a student, Irina served in the Virginia Army National Guard for three years.

How she ranks: 2nd lieutenant. Irina was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army at commencement.

Kodak moment: She received her first salute from her grandfather.

What's next: Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Sill, Okla.

What's cool about that: "I have always wanted to serve.

I look forward to incorporating both the values and lessons I have learned at Longwood and in the ROTC program to be the best officer possible for my soldiers."

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Virginia Beard, criminal justice. "Dr. Beard was instrumental in both my development in the classroom and outside the classroom."

Savannah Barnett

Hometown: Chesapeake

Major: Chemistry and biology with a concentration in biomedical health

Honors: Member, Cormier Honors College

World travel: Study abroad in London and research in Italy funded by the National Science Foundation

Not-so-secret passion: Marine sponges.

Working on a senior honors research thesis, Savannah developed a method for harvesting compounds from marine sponges that could prove to be a breakthrough in cancer research.

What's next: Ph.D. in experimental and molecular medicine

Where: Dartmouth College

What's cool about that: Received full tuition and a stipend to fund her studies

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Amorette Barber, biology. "Dr. Barber had a major impact on my work and future in the sciences. She encouraged me to learn the most I possibly could and helped me get into Dartmouth College, her alma mater, by writing a recommendation for me."



Lindsay Graybill

Hometown: Norfolk

Major: Graphic design with a minor in rhetoric and professional writing

Honors: Member, Cormier Honors College and Phi Kappa Phi

Word on the Rue: Lindsay studied literature in France and England.

Favorite crayon: Periwinkle

Been there, done that: As part of Design Lab, Longwood's student-run design agency, Lindsay worked with real clients on real projects.

Internships gave her the chance to design and support marketing for HATCH, a start-up company accelerator, and the city of Norfolk.

What's next: Lindsay is working as a graphic designer for River City Graphics, Inc., in Virginia Beach.

What's cool about that: "I am incredibly excited because I know I will get the opportunity to be creative and exercise leadership in many of my future projects."

Couldn't have done it without: Professors Chris Register and Wade Lough, graphic and animation design; and Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust, English. "I know I would not be half the designer or person that I am today without their mentorship."



Katy Lewis

Hometown: Amelia

Major: English with a concentration in secondary education and minors in children's literature and history

Honors: Member, Cormier Honors College and Phi Kappa Phi

Parlez-vous Piccadilly Circus? Katy studied abroad in both England and France.

Summer twofer: A trip to England with a side of professional networking. "I will be presenting a paper at the International Research Society of Children's Literature Conference in August in Worcester, England."

Teacher training: "When I was a kid, the first thing I did when I came home from school was play school. I want to help other people love learning the same way I do."

What's next: Master's degree in English

Where: Illinois State University

What's cool about that: Katy received an assistantship that will cover her tuition, and one day she hopes to teach teachers at the college level.

Couldn't have done it without: English faculty Dr. Jennifer Miscek, Dr. Chris McGee and Dr. Gena Southall. "They were instrumental in my success, guiding me through picking out and applying to graduate schools and attending conferences."

Floyd Alexander Moore III

Hometown: Brunswick County

Major: Kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science

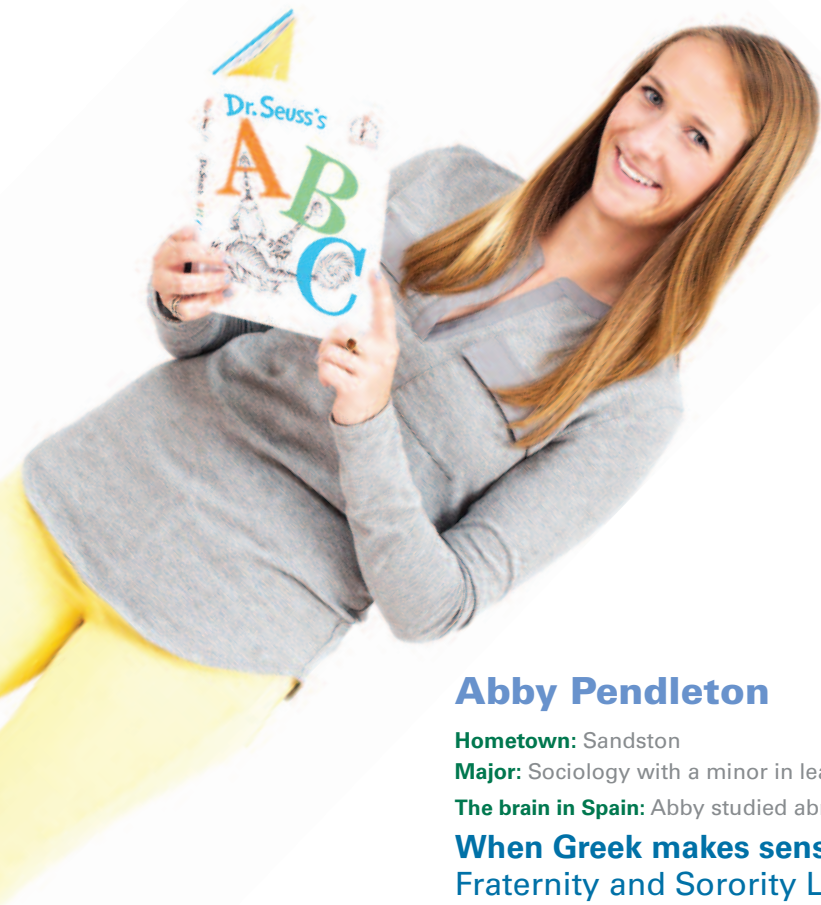
Honors: Member, Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success

Memories are made of chocolate chip cookies: He'll never forget the countless times he spent eating, laughing and joking around with friends in the dining hall at Longwood.

What's next: Working as a personal trainer at the YMCA

Why the Y: "I met so many wonderful people during my internship at YMCA Emporia-Greenville, and I learned a lot of real-world information that will help me in my professional career."

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Blain Harrison and Dr. Jo Morrison, exercise science.



Catherine McCormick

Hometown: Richmond

Major: Liberal studies with a concentration in elementary education

The ultimate follow-through: "I have known I wanted to be a teacher since I was 6 years old."

Where she shines: In the classroom. Catherine received the Tamara Bird Jones Outstanding Student Teacher of the Year Award in recognition of her work in Richmond and Henrico and Cumberland counties.

What she'd like to wipe off the face of the Earth: Brain cancer. "I have raised thousands of dollars to aid research into glioblastoma, the deadliest form of brain cancer." She's inspired by her brother, Will, who is fighting the disease.

Whose moccasins she's walked in: "As a student with a learning disability, I know what it feels like to have to work extra hard."

What's next: Master's program in special education at Longwood

Couldn't have done it without: Dr. Patricia Horne and Dr. Katrina Maynard, education and special education. "They became like second mothers to me."

Abby Pendleton

Hometown: Sandston

Major: Sociology with a minor in leadership studies and a concentration in family studies

The brain in Spain: Abby studied abroad in Valencia.

When Greek makes sense: An internship for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Longwood opened Abby's eyes to the possibilities of working in higher education.

What's next: She'll be putting her skills to work as residential consultant for Sigma Sigma Sigma at Oakland University in Rochester, Mich.

What's cool about that: "I will be responsible for educating the new colony members on the history of Tri Sigma and what it means not only to be a sister of Tri Sigma but also to be a member of the Greek community."

Couldn't have done it without: Wolfgang Acevedo and Andrea Martinez, Office of Fraternity and Sorority life. "They both helped me figure out what I want to do with the rest of my life."



Hannah Burns

Hometown: Richmond

Major: Psychology

Honors: Member, Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success

She'd rather be: Watching those things you do.

Fascinated by human behavior, Hannah conducted research at Longwood on the "bystander effect" and what keeps people from reporting wrongs when they see them.

Her heart goes out to: Troubled kids. Hannah interned at the Virginia Treatment Center for Children (VTCC) in Richmond, an acute, inpatient, critical care unit for pediatric and adolescent patients experiencing a psychiatric emergency.

Best gift she ever gave her parents: News that she had a full-time job at VTCC right after graduation.

What she likes most about her job: "Every day is different, and I have the opportunity to work with people of various ages, sexes, cultures and trauma histories."

Couldn't have done it without: Psychology faculty Dr. Jennifer Apperson, Dr. Stephanie Buchert and Dr. Danette Gibbs. "All three were there to give me professional and academic advice, and they always took the time to see how I was doing."



Leah Cronley

Hometown: Smithfield

Major: Kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science

Honors: Member, Cormier Honors College, Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success

Going the extra mile: Longwood students have the option to “enhance” courses, and Leah presented honors poster sessions in biomechanics, biology, advanced exercise physiology and English.

What’s next: Doctor of Physical Therapy program

Where: Duke University

Why she’s ready: “I had the privilege of setting up and running lab tests during our exercise science labs. I think the practical experience will be extremely beneficial.”

Couldn’t have done it without: Dr. Cathy Roy, Dr. Jo Morrison, Dr. Blain Harrison and Dr. Nate Saunders, exercise science; and Dr. Alix Fink, biology and Cormier Honors College



Christian Taylor

Hometown: King George

Major: Theatre with a concentration in technical theatre

Stage call: While a student, Christian worked at the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, the Santa Fe Opera and the Heritage Theatre Festival.

His inner demon: Was revealed when he created the scenery for the Longwood production of *Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Summer stock: He is working this summer at Stagedoor Manor Theatre Camp as a scenic designer.

What’s next: MFA program in scenic design at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas

What’s cool about that: It’s Vegas. Enough said.

Couldn’t have done it without: Scott Chapman, theatre. “He continually has pushed me and helped me hone my skills.”



Samuel Ottavio

Hometown: Fairfax

Major: Business administration with a minor in economics and a concentration in finance

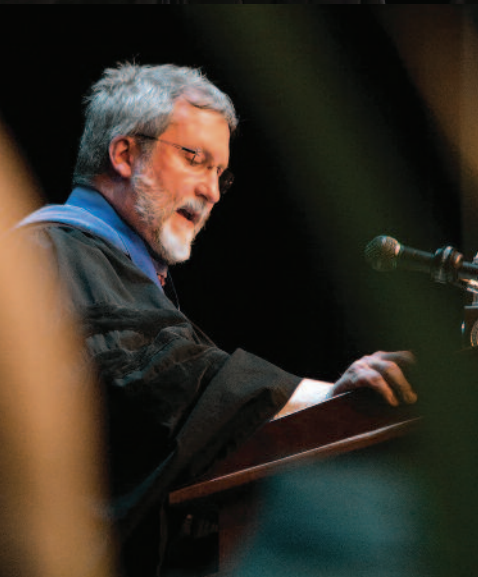
Honors: Member, Phi Kappa Phi

How the military does internships: Officer Candidate School. Samuel received the McGaughy Internship Incentive Award and the Outstanding Internship Award.

Hand-to-hand combat: Samuel was a member of the Longwood Rugby Club. Some would say it’s pretty good preparation for the Marines.

Semper Fi: “This has been my goal for my entire life.”

What’s next: 2nd lieutenant, United States Marine Corps, Quantico



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON**





(opposite page, clockwise from upper left) Dr. Ken Perkins, pausing in an academic procession with fellow administrators and faculty; with his copy of *Chicken Little*, from which he draws life lessons; with longtime faculty colleague Dr. Jim Jordan (second from right), President W. Taylor Reveley IV and Rector Colleen McCrink Margiloff '97 upon Jordan's being named as a Board of Visitors Distinguished Professor; at a BOV meeting; strumming his Stratocaster guitar; marching in The G.A.M.E.; with Doris Kearns Goodwin at the 2015 undergraduate commencement; and speaking at the 2015 graduate commencement. (above) The message on Dr. Ken Perkins' laptop—wag more, bark less—reflects one of his philosophies on dealing with people.

A steady hand and a sense of humor served Provost Ken Perkins—and Longwood—well over the last 5 years. Now a new challenge lies ahead.

BY RICHARD FOSTER

On a broiling hot morning in August 2010, Dr. Ken Perkins had barely settled into his chair as Longwood's new chief academic officer when the phone rang. A beloved faculty member for more than 25 years who had also filled several administrative roles, Perkins had recently been appointed the university's vice president for academic affairs. It was the first day of classes, and he felt ready for the challenge.

His introduction to the new position was a brisk one. The caller on the line informed him the air conditioning in Ruffner Hall was out. A short while later came news that a State Police bomb squad was en route to campus because a suspicious parcel had been found on a golf cart outside Lankford Student Union. (It later turned out the box belonged to Perkins himself.)

Then, moments later, Perkins' assistant stepped in with a Post-it note, matter-of-factly reporting a fire in Bedford Hall.

"I thought, 'Wow, is it going to be like this every day?'" said Perkins, whose job title was expanded to include provost in 2012. "It wasn't, but it's quite a show around here sometimes. In this job things happen pretty fast. You don't have a lot of leisure time to just ponder and muse about."

Through it all—working under four presidents and even serving a 45-day stint as acting president himself in 2012—Perkins has remained a calm, steady and widely admired captain of Longwood's academic ship. Some of the sources of his wisdom and tranquility are on display in his book-lined Ruffner office:

a Stratocaster electric guitar he sometimes strums and a copy of the book *Chicken Little* that reminds him, no matter what the challenge, the sky is not falling.

Commanding an authority that stemmed from his status as one of Longwood's best and most admired classroom teachers, Perkins "was really the adhesive that helped keep Longwood together" during turbulent stretches, said Vice President for Student Affairs Tim Pierson. "Everybody loves Ken. We all work together—we're a strong team here, but I think Ken's easy style of leadership was just warmly embraced by everybody."

Now, after five years heading academic affairs, Perkins is transitioning to a new role, directing fundraising for academic initiatives. His new title: director of advancement for academic priorities and provost emeritus. Dr. Joan Neff, formerly associate provost at the University of Richmond, is succeeding Perkins as Longwood's provost (see Page 23).

Perkins' love for Longwood gives this next step in his career special meaning. "Longwood is, for me, my alma mater. It's not technically



Perkins rides his Kawasaki dual-sport bike in front of his 110-year-old home in Prospect.

'Longwood is, for me, my alma mater. It's not technically true, but it's true in my heart.' — Dr. Ken Perkins

true, but it's true in my heart," he said. "After 31 years here, it's the only school I give to, and, if I can help Longwood in this way, I am excited to do it."

Longwood President W. Taylor Reveley IV describes Perkins as one of the "few really seminal figures" in the university's 176-year history. "He knows Longwood as well as anybody possibly could. He's been here for three decades. There are thousands and thousands of alumni who have very high regard for Ken and are eager to work with him. It's hard to think of a better ambassador to have out there talking to alumni and friends of Longwood who are interested in supporting the academic enterprise."

"I've had a wonderful career at Longwood,"

Perkins said. "I'm lucky to be able to continue that in another area and to use my age and experience and the wonderful relationships I've had with so many students over the years to continue to have an impact at Longwood."

With characteristic modesty, he added, "My view is you have to know when to move on, and you kind of leave when people want you to stay or at least are not anxious for you to leave."

Certainly, some of his former students were saddened when he left teaching to become an administrator. A sociologist who is known for his research and books on the structure of volunteer fire departments, Perkins joined Longwood in 1984. He taught classes including quantitative data analysis, research methods and

statistics and the sociology of death and dying. (He researched the latter in part by interning for a local funeral home.)

Perkins, who calls the classroom "sacred space," was a dynamic and unorthodox professor. He'd toss silver half-dollars to students with top grades; he'd have students go out and conduct their own surveys; he'd read aloud help-wanted ads for prestigious jobs seeking people with the exact skills his students were learning. "Once students realize they can do things they don't think they can do, it's a lot of fun for them to discover sometimes that they're a lot smarter than they think they are," he said.

One of his former students, Dr. Brian Bates '92, professor of anthropology at Longwood, said Perkins "cares about Longwood deeply. He cares about the students. He cares about the faculty and staff. He's done a lot of different things, but, if you were to ask Ken the thing that would be most important about his career, I don't think he'd point to himself. I don't think he'd point to a book or a research project. I think he would point to making a difference through shaping his students' lives. His students are his legacy, I think."

Another former student is Sue Vilic Carter '06, M.A. '10, a senior child protective services investigator at Prince Edward County Social Services, where she works alongside Perkins' wife, Marie Hoge-Perkins, a social worker. Perkins "inspired students to pursue goals they didn't think they could reach," said Carter, who earned undergraduate and master's degrees in sociology. An immigrant from Bosnia, she remembers Perkins' taking her under his wing when she was a freshman, helping her get a job at the campus post office and land her first internship. He also encouraged her to pursue her first government job.

"He was quirky and always joking and always had a smile on his face. He was able to make statistics interesting, which tells you what a great professor he was," said Carter.

Faculty give him similar high marks as an administrator.

"What I appreciate most about Ken is his sense of humanity and his deep empathy with people. He makes decisions based not on what's best for himself but what's best for others," said Dr. Larissa Fergeson, professor of history and acting associate vice president for academic affairs, who first worked closely with Perkins during her three years as chair of the Longwood Faculty Senate. "I think his willingness to listen, to consider other people's points of view and to factor those views into his decision making has really been valuable."

Raised on a farm in rural Cochran, Ga., Perkins is still “kind of a country boy but a sophisticated one,” said his friend Dr. Chuck Ross, professor of physics and former dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences.

A dapper dresser with a neatly trimmed professorial beard, Perkins’ hobbies include fly-fishing at nearby Briery Creek Lake and target shooting. He owns an array of handguns and rifles and likes to customize triggers and hand load ammo. “On a good day, I’m an average shot,” he allows. (In high school, he had an unconventional physics professor who taught lessons via fly-fishing and firearms practice.)

Perkins considers himself annoyingly enthusiastic about grilling and smoking on his twin Big Green Egg barbecue cookers, and he’s also an ardent proponent of the stress-relieving benefits of CrossFit, working out a few times a week at Farmville’s CrossFit 1st Due box. (He jokes that between them, he and Neff, a martial-arts enthusiast, should be able to fend off any student or faculty complaints.)

Perkins and his wife live in a 110-year-old home in Prospect, just outside Farmville, where he was an active member of the volunteer fire department for more than 20 years. A motorcyclist who currently owns a Kawasaki dual-sport bike, Perkins enjoys off-roading and, in 2005, he drove his motorcycle to Texas in an unsuccessful attempt to meet his favorite novelist, Larry McMurtry.

This eclectic bundle of interests and attributes somehow melds together to form a person others trust, respect and just plain like—and having Perkins in a key leadership role has made some of Longwood’s challenges in recent years easier to face.

“The presidential transition was a huge event, just in the atmosphere of the campus,” said Marianne Radcliff ’92, rector of the Board of Visitors when Perkins was appointed provost. “I don’t know even now if he is aware of the effect he had by being a trustworthy, steady guide. No one has ever doubted his true affection for Longwood and his desire to do what’s best for the university.”

Professor Ferguson agrees. “He clearly brings his skills as a sociologist to the job in his keen observations of people and deep understanding of social relationships on this campus. As a result, he worked hard to ensure we weathered this period of transition successfully.”

Perkins himself simply says, “I have tried to do this job with as much gracefulness and humor as possible and not create any more drama for people than necessary.”

Well done. ☺

Introducing Dr. Joan Neff

New provost comes from University of Richmond



During her more than three decades at the University of Richmond, Dr. Joan Neff played an instrumental role in that institution’s ascent from regional to national prominence. As a professor, department chair, and, since 2009, associate provost, she was front and center as Richmond broadened its reach and impact without sacrificing its sense of community or its commitment to teaching.

President W. Taylor Reveley IV announced in March that Neff would become Longwood’s new provost on July 1, replacing Dr. Ken Perkins, who is turning his efforts at Longwood toward academic fundraising. Neff brings with her to Longwood not only a sterling record of leadership in higher education, both as a professor and an administrator, but also some other skills that are a bit unexpected.

Readers will have the opportunity to get to know the new provost better in a future issue of this magazine. For now, a few questions and answers here and online at magazine.longwood.edu provide an introduction.

First things first: You’re a fourth-degree black belt in tae kwon do? How did you get into that?

When my children were teenagers, we decided to try it as a family for recreation and fitness. After a few years, everyone else dropped out. I kept at it.

You’re also an accomplished church organist. Are your musical and martial arts hobbies complementary?

Yes! Both require self-discipline and practice, as well as coordinating the movements of hands and feet to develop muscle memory. They also both have a rhythmic structure and a sense of harmony. The only time they aren’t complementary is when you break a finger blocking a kick, which happened to me a few years ago. Fortunately the break was minor, and it healed quickly and completely.

Does tae kwon do ever come in handy as an academic administrator?

Yes, but not in the way you might imagine. It’s a great stress reliever. When I walk into the dojang, I have to leave work concerns or issues outside the door. At the end of class I feel relaxed and ready to go back to work with a fresh perspective.

How would you describe the job of provost?

The provost oversees the core mission of the university—educating the students. It’s the

provost’s responsibility to make sure the curricula are of the highest quality and to ensure the integrity of all academic programs. He or she is also a leader of the faculty, charged with recruiting, nurturing and retaining the best teachers and scholars in the field, and exciting them about the institution’s mission.

What attracted you to Longwood?

Longwood’s focus on providing students with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences while preserving access and affordability was very appealing to me. I also have a great affinity for the concept of educating “citizen leaders.”

But I actually think there’s something even more distinctive and special about Longwood. As I talked with President Reveley and others over the last few months, I really picked up on the wonderful and vibrant sense of tradition and continuity that energizes Longwood. The sense of history and place here really complement the mission in a way that you don’t find in many institutions.

How do you envision your first few months on the job?

Several themes have started to emerge, but before announcing any big goals, I want to learn more. My analytical side is very data-driven, and at this point, I need more detailed data—both quantitative and qualitative.

You’re a sociologist by training, with a long record of scholarly expertise and research.

How has that perspective influenced you as a leader?

Being a sociologist allows me to understand the relationship between the individual and the larger social whole to which he or she belongs. That really does help when you’re working to unite people of diverse backgrounds and viewpoints in the service of the common good. ☺



Dr. Joan Neff

Education: B.A., University of Delaware; M.A., The Ohio State University; Ph.D., The Ohio State University
Career: University of Richmond faculty member, sociology (1980-present), associate dean of arts and sciences (1986-94), associate provost (2009-present)
Family: Husband, Mike Banks, a photographer, three grown children — Jennifer, Patrick and Samantha — and four grandchildren.

THINK SUMMERS ARE QUIET AT LONGWOOD?
THINK AGAIN.

HEATING UP

THE CAMPUS IS BOILING WITH ACTIVITY
FROM COMMENCEMENT TO FALL MOVE-IN.

INTRODUCTION BY SABRINA BROWN * MAIN STORY BY BETH COPE

It may not be as widely known as the 5-second rule, but the myth that university campuses are whisper quiet in the summer is definitely worthy of “busting”—at least as far as Longwood is concerned.

While it is true that fewer classes are taught in the summer, the deluge of day campers, budding athletes, teenagers attending Girls State, and assorted Scottish dancers, firefighters, school nurses, teachers and other visitors more than makes up the difference.

Just how many people are we talking about? **Nearly 12,000.**

That’s a lot of high-tops, sandals and dancing shoes pounding the pavement between commencement and the beginning of classes in the fall—especially in light of the fact that enrollment during the regular year is just over 5,000.

“People always say, ‘What are you going to do this summer? It must be so quiet with the students gone,’” said Darlene Bratcher, director of conference and event services, who is responsible for booking and managing many of the summer activities. “I’m smiling, but I’m thinking—‘What will I be doing? I’ll be WORKING!’” she says with a chuckle. “There are weeks when we do not have an empty bed.”

Everyone agrees summers have gotten busier over the last five or 10 years, but numbers are difficult to

pin down because responsibility for events is spread among several offices and departments.

Bratcher said her records show about a 25 percent increase over the last 10 years in the number of people on campus for the conferences, camps and other events she manages. She normally brings in about 3,500 people each summer, and she regularly turns away another 200-300 she can’t accommodate.

The Office of Admissions reports that the number of prospective students and their families who visit campus in the summer has gone up dramatically over about the same period: a 92 percent increase from summer 2006 to summer 2014. And staff expect the numbers for summer 2015 to be even higher.

President W. Taylor Reveley IV has made increasing visitors to campus one of his strategic initiatives, with the end goal of raising awareness of the university and strengthening student recruitment.

With that in mind, all indicators point to a great summer for Longwood. The following pages provide a small sample of what’s happening.

TAG, You're It

Since 1980, kids with exceptional academic abilities have been flocking to Longwood for the **Talented and Gifted (TAG) Day Camp** run by Conferences and Event Services. This year more than 150 rising fourth-graders through rising seventh-graders are expected for the July 6-17 camp. Every applicant must have the support of a TAG coordinator at a Virginia school, and teachers must also apply, vying for a spot as an instructor by submitting a proposal for a class that is innovative and intellectually challenging.

Here are a few examples of the 10 classes that kids will dig into this year:

Haunted History: Is the White House haunted with the spirit of Abraham Lincoln? Is the legend of Sleepy Hollow more than a legend? History comes alive—or dead?—through this class.

Raising Eggbert McLongwood: Students put their problem-solving and engineering skills to work protecting a “bouncing, wobbling baby egg.”

Journey to Japan: On this “trip” to the Far East, students will become kamishibai storytellers, karate students and origami practitioners.



More than **800** young athletes will come to Longwood over the summer for **basketball, soccer and softball camps** coached by Longwood staff and players.

- 550 Boys Basketball (three camps)
- 75 Girls Softball
- 125 Boys Soccer
- 60 Girls Soccer

Play Ball

S'mores and More

In the **Global Village day camp** run by Professor of Economics Melanie Marks, rising second- through seventh-graders learn about the world around them through activities like the s'mores factory. In one activity, the 30 campers expected the last week of July will form an assembly line to create the classic American treat, while discovering which countries produce its ingredients.

Step 1: Break the graham crackers in half on the dotted line. Make sure the holes are facing the plate! **China is the world's No. 1 producer of wheat, a main ingredient in graham crackers.**

Step 2: If you are outside, you can roast marshmallows. We will use marshmallow crème. We have to spread it on both sides of the cracker. **Marshmallows were invented in Egypt 2000 years ago as candy—but the marshmallow plant's leaves and roots also are used to make medicine. In foods, marshmallow leaf and root are used as a flavoring agent.**

Step 3: Add three rectangles of a Hershey's chocolate bar. **Chocolate is made from cocoa beans, which grow in Southern Asia, Africa and Central and South America—all places below the equator.**

Step 4: Wrap the s'more, and put it in a decorative bag.

Yum!



Art on the Daily

No sign-up is required to visit the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts' free daily **Summer Art Studio**, which runs through Aug. 7. Organizers read children's books to kids, who make art projects based on the stories. Most popular is the two weeks of tie-dye. “We can get close to 100 people a day,” said Emily Grabiec, curator of education. “People get really excited.”



Camp JumpStart—“a jump-start to literacy” for young children (July 7-30; ages 3-1/2 to 5)

Reader's Theater—elementary-age kids act out storybooks (July 6-30; ages 6-10)

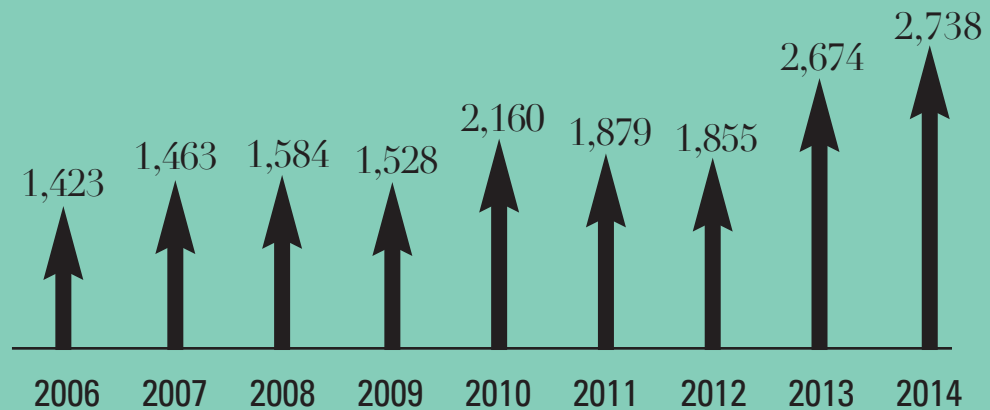
Camp LEGO (Language Enrichment through Games and Opportunities)—includes some toy-brick play and much more (July 7-30; ages 6-11)

Project Word—One-day spelling camp for older kids (every Monday in July; ages 10 and up)

Listen and Learn

Longwood Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services offers four camps designed to promote speech, language and communication skills for preschoolers to middle-schoolers and older. Students in the communication sciences and disorders graduate program run the four camps, which accept all children, including those with social and learning challenges.

GROWING WISE: GIRLS STATE, SUMMER SCHOOL, ORIENTATION AND MORE FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS



Summer tours and information sessions, which give prospective students and their parents the chance to check out Longwood's facilities and programs, have grown steadily over the past decade.

Kickin' the Tires

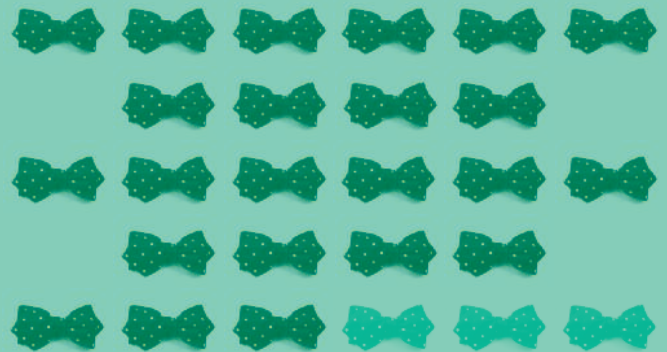
They Call Me MISTER

26 MEMBERS STRONG
88% HEADING INTO THE CLASSROOM

If you see a group of young African-American men strolling down Brock Commons in sharp-looking suits, you know Call Me MISTER's summer institute is under way. The national organization inspires young men from diverse backgrounds to become teachers, with 88 percent eventually heading into the classroom.

Professionalism and looking the part are an emphasis of the program, so Longwood's branch of Call Me MISTER, 26 young men strong after eight years in existence, started a "Suit Me Up and Call Me MISTER" initiative to provide suits to each participant.

Cainan Townsend '15 says Call Me MISTER provided his first exposure to "diverse men who were confident, who were competent, had vision." It was "completely enlightening. ... I can honestly say I wouldn't be the person I am today without it."



If they follow the trend, 23 of the 26 members (88%) will eventually find careers in the classroom.

Thousands of teens and young adults visit Longwood's campus every summer.

A Girls State of Mind

11

11 state and local officials—including the governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general of Virginia and the mayor of Farmville—met with their Girls State counterparts.

620

rising high-school seniors from across the state participated.

14

The girls form 14 cities and governments, and run for office to represent each.

41

The program has been based at Longwood for 41 years — longer than any other summer conference.

108

108 past Girls State participants applied to attend Longwood in fall 2015, and 22 are expected to enroll.



Virginia Girls State ✨ 41 Years Strong ✨ Took Over Campus June 21-27

2,600

students and parents are expected during orientation

Life as a Lancer officially begins with one of **six orientation sessions** held in late May and early June. New students are connected with a peer mentor, get tips on having a successful freshman year and match up the real people with classmates they'd previously met only on Facebook.

The **Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (YADAPP)**, scheduled this year for July 20-24, helps youth leaders learn how to combat drug and alcohol abuse in their communities. But it also gives some of them their first taste of college.

Blair Lockamy '00, who now serves on the Longwood University Foundation Board, attended YADAPP when he was in high school. "That was my first experience on a college campus. I didn't even visit another campus in Virginia," he said of his decision to enroll at Longwood.

2015 will mark YADAPP's 21st year at Longwood.

In that time, participation has doubled—from 300 to 600.

YADAPP @ Longwood = 21



About 500 students are enrolled at Longwood this summer, choosing from among 56 classes.



Summer School Zone

Professor Ann Cralidis' neurocognitive disorders class has one of the highest enrollments of any class on campus this summer: 25 graduate students, the maximum allowed for this course. Cralidis said she provides an intro to acquired neurogenic cognitive-communication disorders (for example, stroke, Parkinson's disease, dementia) and normal aging.

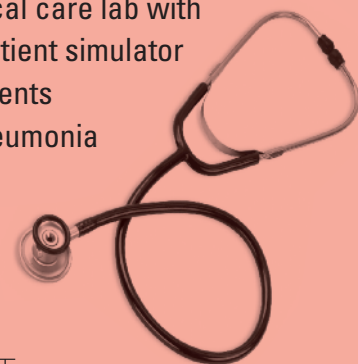
NEW TRICKS: FIREFIGHTERS, SCOTTISH DANCERS, NURSES AND MORE SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS



Shall We Dance?

As Longwood's summer winds down, the ballroom heats up, with 150 **Scottish Country Dancers** twirling and stomping the days away from July 24–Aug. 2. All ages will learn from world-renowned instructors in this Renaissance-inspired social dance form.

If there's ever a good time to be sick on campus, it'll be between July 12 and 16. Nearly 400 Virginia school nurses will descend on Longwood for four days of studying, networking and practicing their skills in Longwood's Clinical Simulation Learning Center. The center includes several realistic health-care settings with sophisticated, lifelike manikins, including a critical care lab with a Sim-Man high-fidelity patient simulator that can mimic medical events including heart attack, pneumonia and asthma attacks.



400 School Nurses



Fire Extinguishers

The **Virginia Department of Forestry** packed about 200 wildland firefighters and their equipment off to Longwood in late May for skills training. Classes were held on campus, and drills were held at nearby state forests like Goodwin Lake.

SECRETS OF CHAMPIONS brings its excellence training system to Longwood this summer, sharing a program used by top athletes and elite military units. And this conference isn't all talk: Participants follow a physical and dietary regimen meant to provide optimal energy throughout the day.

6:30 a.m.	 + 
8 a.m.	 
8:45 a.m.	 
9:45 a.m.	 
10 a.m.	 
10:45 a.m.	 
11:30 a.m.	 
noon	 

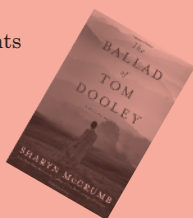


LEGEND

			
fruit snack	exercise	functional liquid nutrition	functional meal
			
guest speaker	academic session	walk / pair / share	rest / relaxation

Exercising the Spirit

“Let a man so account of us, as of ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. That’s the passage 800 participants in the family-friendly **Christian Family Conference** will consider this year. The five-day program has grown from 250 participants eight years ago.

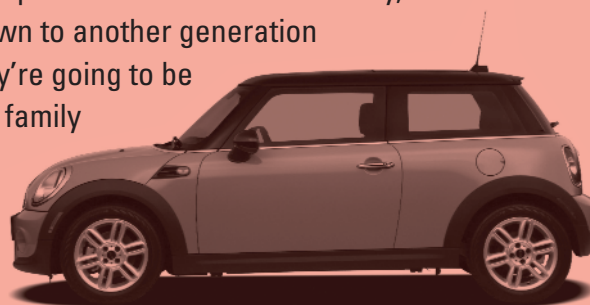


Top Shelf

Best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb comes to campus in July to speak to about 150 teachers, librarians and other educators attending the **Longwood Summer Literacy Institute**.

Behind the Wheel

Driver’s ed teachers impart crucial lessons. But who teaches the teachers? Dr. Vonnie Colvin, professor of physical education. She offers two **classes for driver’s education instructors** over the summer. “If we prepare these teachers correctly, it’ll trickle right on down to another generation of students—and they’re going to be on the road with your family and my family.”



Beep. Beep. Make way for driving instructors.



Amelia McConnell '16 turned her passion for underserved youths into a student organization.



Passion in Action

Students create after-school program to point underserved kids in a positive direction

BY KENT BOOTY

If Jarvis Randolph needed any help with his math homework, it was just over his shoulder.

The sixth-grader seemed to be managing well by himself this day, so his study buddy, Amelia McConnell '16, was content mostly to look on. McConnell's passion for underserved youths like Jarvis, however, is anything but passive. That's why she and four other Longwood students were hanging out with 10 energetic kids in a Farmville community center on a Thursday afternoon.

The Longwood students are members of Beyond the Numbers, a student organization started by McConnell, Molly Kabis '16 and Bharani Sankar '16 that provides mentors and tutors for youths in after-school programs. Currently numbering 25 volunteers, the group has been active since January 2015.

"Tutoring is part of what we do, but mainly it's a mentoring program—showing these kids love, showing them that we care," said McConnell, the organization's president. "Our motto is, 'Changing the Community One Kid at a Time.'"

During the spring semester, the mentoring

took place four afternoons a week in the community center at Parkview Gardens, an apartment complex a mile from campus. Volunteers also worked with children four afternoons a week at New Life Christian Academy, a church-affiliated school on the outskirts of Farmville.

Jarvis, a student at Prince Edward County Middle School, is one of about 10-15 elementary and middle-school students who participated regularly in the Parkview Gardens after-school program, which is affiliated with the Southside Virginia Family YMCA.

"On his last report card, his grades had gone up in all areas. The biggest improvement was in math—from an F to a C," said McConnell. "I told him, 'I'm proud of you,' and he said, 'I like knowing that people are proud of me.' He just needed someone to care about him."

On a typical afternoon at Parkview Gardens, several Beyond the Numbers volunteers, clad in blue T-shirts with the organization's logo, are waiting when the kids get off the bus at 3:45 and burst into the community center's cheery, light-filled room. The volunteers chat with them over a snack about their day, then help

them with their homework and, once homework is done, play with them outside (basketball is popular) or inside (often card or board games or on one of two computers).

"I love seeing the kids. Their smiles are contagious," said Alex Pham '17, who volunteered four days a week this spring and is Beyond the Numbers' promotions officer. "I got involved because of Amelia's passion, and now I'm also passionate. Many Longwood students don't realize there's such a need in the Farmville community."

The partnership at New Life Christian Academy, though it also involves mentoring, is primarily tutoring. New Life, where McConnell attends church, provides Beyond the Numbers with training materials and runs background checks on the volunteers.

McConnell's schedule this spring was usually three days a week at Parkview Gardens and once a week at New Life. Regardless of the venue or the frequency, she loves being a mentor.

"I go whenever I can. Whenever I can't go, it's a bad day," she said. "As I like to say, we do a lot of things because we have to, but this is



Andrew Law '17 and Gaby Tirado '18 chat and color with Makyla Johnson, 6.

something I want to do because it makes me feel complete.”

McConnell started Beyond the Numbers after what she calls the “trigger moment” during her freshman year, when she and two friends, taking a study break at 11 p.m. on

her roommate, Kabis, now Beyond the Numbers’ vice president. “These kids need one-on-one interaction,” Kabis said. “Sometimes they have bad days, but most days you can see the difference you’re making by showing them they’re important.”

Middle School (PECMS). “These guys motivate me to do something in life.”

Sabrina Pennington said her twin daughters, Heather and Ashley Alexander, who were fifth-graders last year at PECMS, had a better attitude about school after Beyond the Numbers

‘These kids light up when they get off the bus and see the Longwood students.’

— PATTIE COOPER-JONES, Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors

a Friday, saw three middle-school-age boys in line at McDonald’s.

“One of them said to me, ‘Where the party at?’ Then and there, I dedicated myself to providing a safe after-school environment for youths in the community. I was shocked by their comment and said, ‘Where are your parents?’ Now I realize they may have had only one parent, and that parent may have been at work.”

One of the friends with her that evening was

Gaby Tirado '18, who volunteered Tuesdays and Thursdays this past spring at Parkview Gardens, described the partnership as being “like a family.”

Jarvis isn’t the only Parkview Gardens youth for whom the Beyond the Numbers partnership has paid academic dividends.

“This has helped me in all my classes. It’s made English a lot easier and math a little too easy,” said Da’Mya Harris, who just completed eighth grade at Prince Edward County

volunteers became involved in their lives.

“They got their homework done a lot better,” Pennington said.

Another admirer is Pattie Cooper-Jones, property manager at Parkview Gardens, where she has lived for 32 years.

“I have been impressed by the love and affection and commitment of this remarkable group of students,” said Cooper-Jones, vice chairman of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors. “They have made all the difference in



McConnell watches while Treyvon Oliver, 6, works on his homework.

these kids' lives. It's been the magic piece of the puzzle. These kids light up when they get off the bus and see the Longwood students."

In a campus drive this spring, "Beyond the Backpack," Beyond the Numbers collected 72 backpacks for the Parkview Gardens kids—more than double their goal—which were given out at a picnic the organization held there in late April. The backpacks, said McConnell, were "filled with love for the summer"—books, art supplies and sports equipment.

On the Longwood campus, Beyond the Numbers is attracting attention.

"Amelia is an extremely dedicated, gifted young woman whose leadership skills exceed her chronological age," said Ann Bradshaw, faculty-scholar in the Cormier Honors College who is the organization's faculty adviser. "I'm impressed with her maturity, her relentless drive and her magnetism, which engages these children and their families. This program emulates the multidisciplinary education tied to service that is at the heart of citizen leadership."

Others providing guidance to McConnell include Hazel Duncan, executive director of the Longwood Foundation, and Sally Thompson, a member of Farmville Town Council. Duncan is sharing her expertise in how to run a nonprofit, while Thompson is offering contacts for resources and introducing McConnell to community members.

"Amelia is contagious," said Duncan. "I'm impressed that she knows at such a young age what she wants to do and that she has such a drive to help others. In the last year, Beyond the Numbers has raised about \$3,000, which is unusual for a student organization. They do a lot with a little."

Thompson, a retired teacher with an interest in young people, called Beyond the Numbers "an asset to our community. They have worked so hard, and their relationship with the youths at Parkview Gardens is fantastic."

McConnell considers Beyond the Numbers an "initial step" toward her dream of establishing a Boys & Girls Clubs of America chapter in

Farmville. She knows firsthand what a difference the club can make in the life of a child. McConnell grew up in a military family that was constantly moving from one base to another, and Boys & Girls Clubs provided "consistency."

"I'm a 'Club' kid born and raised," said McConnell. "I went to their after-school activities beginning at age 6, started volunteer coaching when I was 15 or 16 and have worked as a program aide for three years, first in Havre de Grace, Md., where my parents used to live, and last summer and this summer in Newport News, where they live now." A graphic design major, McConnell hopes to go to work for the organization after she graduates.

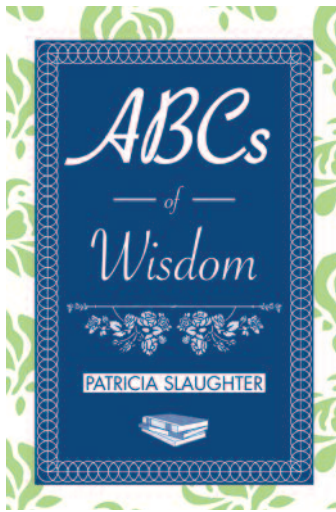
Due to her father's 30-year Army career (he retired as a colonel at the end of her freshman year), McConnell lived around the country and the world—Germany four times, Italy once—before graduating from high school in Carlisle, Pa. Two sisters, Alecia '12 and Ashlee '09, preceded her at Longwood. She credits her family with instilling in her a devotion to service.

"All of us are in missions work, work for a nonprofit or serve in the Army," said McConnell, the youngest of six children. "We were all raised to give back, to pay forward. My parents have been selfless their entire lives, but they never looked at us and said, 'You need to do work for others.' They led by example."

The youth services building at Carlisle Barracks, the Army base where McConnell's father formerly was stationed, is named for her brother, Andrew, an Army sergeant who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. The building was dedicated in September 2014.

McConnell vowed that her commitment to Beyond the Numbers (featured in a Longwood-produced video at go.longwood.edu/mcconnell) will remain strong even after she graduates.

"I am happy with where we have come, but the program's sustainability is always an issue, so we continue to reach out to underclassmen," said McConnell. "Our mission is to leave a legacy—a legacy that others want to be a part of and to continue." 🌟



ABCs of Wisdom

by Dr. Patricia Slaughter '62, Longwood alumna

This inspirational book features “practical, clever quotations” and “reads like a daily devotional for appreciating the finer things in life,” said one reader. Many of the thoughts came to Slaughter as she jogged or walked in the mornings, after which she wrote them down in a journal. “Only the laughter of children,” reads one of the book’s entries, “pierces the pounding of waves on the beach.” Slaughter, who was Patsy Carr when attending Longwood, retired in 2013 after a career as an educator, the last 16 years as principal of Trantwood Elementary in Virginia Beach. She has taught a principalship course as a George Washington University adjunct instructor for 18 years, and this past spring she supervised three Longwood student-teachers in Virginia Beach schools.

Published by Mascot Books, hardcover, 51 pages.

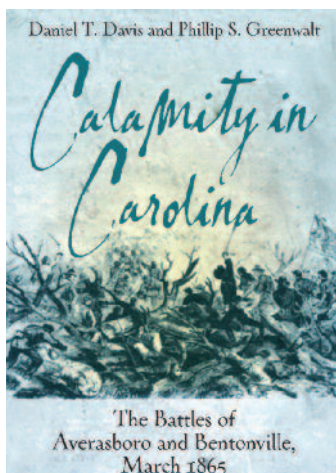


Política y autocensura en el teatro menor de Manuel Bretón de los Herreros: 1828-1861

(Politics and self-censorship in the short plays of Manuel Bretón de los Herreros)

by Dr. Javier Fernández Urenda, associate professor of Spanish

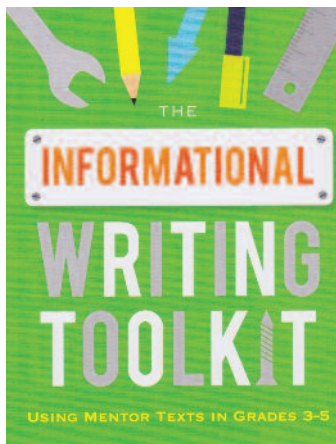
One- and two-act plays by the prolific playwright who revived the Spanish theater during the 19th century are the focus of this book. Despite the traditional perception, Bretón de los Herreros (1796-1873), about whom Fernández Urenda wrote his dissertation, had a “secret” political life and later modified many plays to hide their political content or make them palatable to the current government. In his research, Fernández Urenda found 18 short plays from the 1828-61 period that traditionally are not assigned to de los Herreros, some of which the dramatist didn’t publish during his lifetime. Fernández Urenda is a native of Spain whose academic interests include the idea of nation in 19th-century Spanish literature and “how literature interacts with power and politics.” *Published by the University of La Rioja Press, softcover, 244 pages.*



Calamity in Carolina: The Battles of Averagesboro and Bentonville, March 1865

by Dan Davis '05, Longwood alumnus, and Phillip Greenwalt

Part of the Emerging Civil War Series, this book examines two long-forgotten battles before the end of war. The battles were part of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston’s futile attempt to stop the Union armies under Gen. William T. Sherman that had rampaged through Georgia on their “March to the Sea” and were cutting a swath of destruction as they marched north from Savannah. The book, written in the series’ accessible style, includes more than 100 illustrations, new maps and analysis. Davis, a historian who lives in Fredericksburg, is chief historian of the related Emerging Civil War blog (www.emergingcivilwar.com) and the co-author of three other Civil War books. *Published by Savas Beatie, softcover, 168 pages.*



The Informational Writing Toolkit: Using Mentor Texts in Grades 3-5

by Dr. Sean Ruday, assistant professor of English

This practical textbook is based on the idea that, for students to write effective informational texts, they need to read good informational texts. Through high-quality books and articles, Ruday demonstrates how teachers can help students analyze the qualities of effective informational texts and then help students think of those qualities as tools to improve their writing. The book, part of the publisher’s Eye on Education imprint, includes assessment strategies and rubrics, classroom snapshots to show the writing tools in action, and templates and tools that can be photocopied or downloaded from the website: www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138832060. Ruday is a writing instruction specialist and the author of two other books on writing. *Published by Routledge, softcover, 148 pages.*

LONGWOOD CALENDAR

JUNE

20-SEPT. 13

Art Exhibition: *Power and Beauty Revisited.*

Works exemplify the great art-making traditions of 27 different cultures of North, West, Central and East Africa. Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2662.

20-NOV. 22

Art Exhibition: *The Quickening Image: The Wax-resist Drawings of David Dodge Lewis & Ephraim Rubenstein, A Twenty-Year Collaboration.* Large-scale, complexly layered, collaborative wax-resist drawings. Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2662.

20-27

Virginia Girls State: An immersion into American government. Guest speakers include Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring. Information: 434-395-2107.

22

Softball Camp. Helps young athletes hone their softball skills through expert training. Information: 434-395-2564.

JULY

5-10

Conference: Christian Family Conference. Attracts participants from around the nation and world who want to develop their faith in a family-focused atmosphere. Information: 434-395-2107.

6-17

Talented and Gifted Day Camp. Enhanced learning for rising fourth- through seventh-graders through fun and creative programs focused on art, dance and science. Information: 434-395-2022.

19-23

Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices. Helps teachers prepare diverse students for careers in STEM fields. Information: 434-395-2022.

20-24

Conference: Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP). Training for youth leaders to combat drug and alcohol abuse in their communities. Information: 434-395-2022.



DR. JORDAN'S BONFIRE AUG. 22

22-25

Men's Soccer Camp. For high-school male athletes desiring to take the next step in developing the essential aspects of the game. Information: 434-395-2564.

23-24

Summer Literacy Institute. For classroom teachers, school librarians, reading specialists, administrators and more. Sponsored by the College of Education and Human Services. Information: 434-395-2052.

24-AUG. 2

Conference: Call Me MISTER. Recruits and trains teachers from traditionally underrepresented groups. Sponsored by the College of Education and Human Services. Information: 434-395-2022.



AUGUST

5

Lancer Day at Nationals Park. 5:30 p.m., picnic; 7 p.m., first pitch. Tickets and information: 434-395-2138.

20-23

New Lancer Days. Activities for new students. Information: 434-395-2694.

23

The G.A.M.E.: Greatest Athletics March Ever. Rally starts at 6:15 p.m., Willett Hall; soccer game at Athletics Complex. Information: 434-395-2694.

24

Recital: First Night Faculty Gala. 7:30 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

28

First Friday Back. 4 p.m., Iler Field. Information: 434-395-2119.

CELTIC MUSIC OCT. 14

SEPTEMBER

1

Alzheimer's Walk. 5 p.m., Lancaster Lawn. Information: 434-395-2103.

8

Meet the Greeks. 6 p.m., Blackwell Ballroom. Information: 434-395-2119.

10

Convocation. 4 p.m., Lancaster Mall. Information: 434-395-4806.

11-12

Alumni Reunion: Classes of 1970 and 1975. Information: 434-395-2129 or longwoodlink.com.

12

Maugans Alumni Center Grand Opening. Information: 434-395-2129 or longwoodlink.com.

18

Rock the Block: Music, food, games and giveaways. 5 p.m., Longwood Landings. Information: 434-395-2414.

18-20

Family Weekend. Information: 434-395-2414.

25

Inter-fraternity Council Walk. 5 p.m., Iler Field. Information: 434-395-2119.

27

Dr. Jordan's Bonfire: "The History of Oktoberfest." 9 p.m., Iler Field. Information: 434-395-2414.

OCTOBER

2

Color Wars. 4 p.m., Iler Field. Information: 434-395-2414.

2-3

Alumni Reunion: Decade of the 2010s. For the classes of 2010-15. Information: 434-395-2129 or longwoodlink.com.

3

Oktoberfest. Noon, Lankford Mall. Information: 434-395-2103.

6

Executive-in-Residence: Rear Adm. J. Scott Burhoe, president, Fork Union Military Academy. 7 p.m., Blackwell Ballroom. Information: 434-395-2045.



MR. IMAGINATION OCT. 9-JAN. 3

9-JAN. 3, 2016

Art Exhibition: *Fire!: The Resurrection of Mr. Imagination.* Featuring more than 130 expressive works by Mr. Imagination (Gregory Warmack, 1948-2012), a charismatic artist who created diverse and engaging art from the detritus of daily life. Opening reception: Thursday, Oct. 8, 6 p.m. Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2662.

14

Chamber Music Series: Julie Fowles, Celtic music. 7:30 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

17

Longwood Athletics Benefit Celebration. The Omni Hotel, Richmond. Tickets and information: 434-395-2138.

24

Día de Los Muertos. Traditional activities and fun arts and crafts in celebration of The Day of the Dead. 10 a.m.-noon, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2662.

24

Concert. Longwood Honors and All Choirs. 7:30 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: 434-395-2504.

29

Friends of the Greenwood Library Speaker: Elizabeth Varon, author and Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia. 7 p.m., Greenwood Library Atrium. Information: 434-395-2431.

29

Concert: Chamber Singers and Camerata Singers. 7:30 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: 434-395-2504.

30

Senior Recital: Tyler Gage, trumpet. 7:30 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

31

Senior Lecture Recital: Samuel Andrews, composition. 4 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

NOVEMBER

5

Concert: Wind Symphony. 7:30 p.m., Jarman Hall Auditorium. Information: 434-395-2504.

6

Senior Recital: Whitney Hackney, voice, and Amelia Cohen, clarinet. 7:30 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

7

Senior Recital: Melissa Tussing, voice. 7:30 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

14

Senior Recital: Katie Fountain, voice. 7:30 p.m., Molnar Recital Hall in Wygal Hall. Information: 434-395-2504.

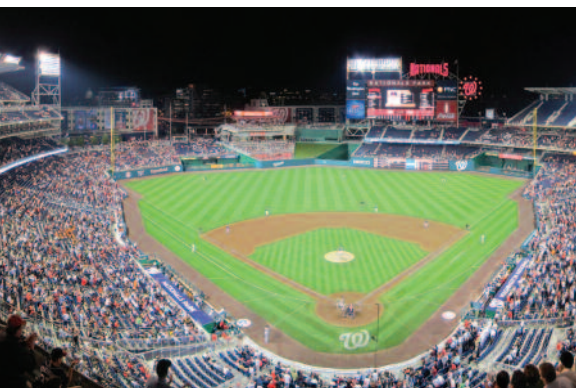


MAUGANS ALUMNI CENTER GRAND OPENING SEPT. 12

*All events are free unless otherwise stated.
Visit longwood.edu for updated information.
Persons with disabilities who wish to arrange
accommodations or material in an alternative
format may call 434-395-2391 (voice) or 711 (TT).*

Lancer Club plans summer, fall events

Save the date for two upcoming events sponsored by the Longwood Lancer Club, the official development arm of the Department of Athletics. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Trey Eggleston with the Lancer Club at 434-395-2138 or egglestonm@longwood.edu.



Lancer Day at Nationals Park

Join your fellow Longwood alumni at Nationals Park at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5, for a day of food, fun and baseball during the Washington Nationals game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. The event includes a pre-game picnic with food and drink before first pitch at 7:05 p.m. Tickets for the game and pre-game picnic are \$67; tickets for the game only are \$37.

Longwood Athletics Benefit Celebration

The third annual Longwood Athletics Benefit Celebration returns Oct. 17 to The Omni Hotel in Richmond. The event will include live and silent auctions, food, drinks and dancing. New this year will be a partnership with the Longwood College of Business and Economics Annual Golf Tournament at Chesdin Landing in Richmond. The golf tournament and LABC both take place on Oct. 17, so sign up for both to enjoy a day full of alumni and athletics celebration.

Glory Day

June 9, 1980, remains unforgettable for two former baseball players featured in *Sports Illustrated*

In the summer of 1980, not many people outside Longwood College knew of John Crosby '81 and Doug Toombs '83. Competing as an NCAA Division III independent in rural Southside Virginia, Lancer baseball was unknown.

But a glimmer of the national spotlight shined on the baseball duo and the former all-women's college when Crosby and Toombs were featured in the June 9, 1980, edition of *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces In the Crowd." Since 1956, "Faces" has featured the feats of amateur athletes. While a few such as Tiger Woods, Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Bo Jackson become household names in the sports world, most do not.

The entry from 35 years ago reads as follows:

"Crosby, a 5'11" junior centerfielder at Longwood College in Farmville, Va., had the most stolen bases in NCAA Division III for the second consecutive season—62 in 68 attempts this year, 35 in '79. He batted .375 this season, had 10 steals in one doubleheader and nine in another. Toombs, 5'8" designated hitter at Longwood, led Division III with a .565 batting average—52 hits in 92 at bats. He had 10 doubles, four home runs, and 33 RBIs. The Lancers finished the season with a 19-11 record."

Crosby remembers former Longwood Sports Information Director Hoke Currie pointing out that he led the nation in stolen bases, but did not think much more about it.

Both men moved on from Longwood to pursue careers.

Crosby has been a teacher for 28 years, the last 18 with the Richmond City Public Schools. Toombs, who retired from UPS as a delivery driver, is now known as "The Hit Doctor" for his work as a hitting instructor in Chesterfield County and as the sponsor of seven youth baseball teams. Toombs is also the head baseball coach for the American Legion Post 361 in west Richmond. Last year, Post 361 won the District 11 Championship and finished third in the state.

But the memory of their moment in the spotlight is still sweet.

"To look in that book and see Chase City,

Virginia, a very small town. It was amazing," said Toombs. "There are a lot of my clients now who really don't know who I am, and they go on the Internet and Google my name. I have customers come in here and say, 'Hey, you led the nation in hitting.'"

Former Head Coach Buddy Bolding, who had just finished his second season as the Longwood skipper in 1980, gives his players all the credit.

"All I did was put John Crosby in a place where he could steal bases, and I threw batting practice to those boys sufficiently to enable them to perform," said Bolding. "And, of course, I put Doug Toombs in a place where he could best perform. If there is anything that I did, it was essentially to lower the reins on their mounts and let them run."—*Rohn Brown '84*
Read more at magazine.longwood.edu.



The mention of Longwood in *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd" feature brought attention to the fledgling baseball program.



1,000 WORDS

To feel for yourself the joy, agony, excitement, drive and determination of the 2014-15 athletics year, browse through the slideshow you'll find in the online June issue of *Longwood* magazine at magazine.longwood.edu. University photographer Mike Kropf '14 captured the Lancers in a series of stunning and evocative images like this one of a quiet moment in the dugout. Enjoy.

Character Counts

Head men's basketball coach honored by Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Fresh off a trip to the Big South Championship semifinals for the first time in school history this past March, men's basketball Head Coach Jayson Gee was named the recipient of the 2015 John Lotz Barnabas Award. The award, presented by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), goes to the basketball coach who best exhibits a commitment to Christ, is a person of integrity, encourages others and lives a balanced life.

"The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is honored to recognize Coach Jayson Gee as the recipient of the 2015 FCA John Lotz Barnabas Award," said Jeff Martin, FCA executive vice president of ministry programs and resources. "Coach Gee exhibits all the qualities associated with this award, not only as a coach but as a husband and father. He is a longtime leader and supporter of the FCA ministry."

Gee received the award April 4 in a formal ceremony at the FCA-sponsored National Association of Basketball Coaches luncheon during NCAA Final Four weekend in Indianapolis, Ind.



Coach Jayson Gee

"I am deeply honored and humbled by this acknowledgement from FCA," said Gee, a 26-year coaching veteran now heading into his third season at Longwood. "As a coach and mentor, I run my program with emphasis on five pillars that align our values with the FCA's mission. I receive this award as encouragement to continue on the journey of impacting the lives of our student-athletes."

Longwood Athletics Director Troy Austin praised Gee's leadership of the program.

"Jayson Gee is a person of immense character

and integrity, and he leads his program based on those values," said Austin. "The biggest impact a coach has is in how he or she aids the growth of a student-athlete off the court. Coach Gee's commitment to developing his players in facets beyond basketball is what makes him special."

Gee wrapped up his second season in Farmville by leading the Lancers (11-23, 5-13 Big South) to three wins in their final four games, including a quarterfinal upset of No. 1 seed Charleston Southern in the Big South Championship. The win propelled Longwood to its first conference semifinal since joining the league in 2012-13 and capped a season in which the Lancers won the most overall and conference games in their three seasons as a member of the Big South.

The honor puts Gee among a group of recent Barnabas Award winners that includes Mercer's Bob Hoffman (2014), Indiana's Tom Crean (2013), Northern State's Don Meyer (2012), Texas A&M's Billy Kennedy (2011) and Gee's mentor and former coaching associate, Cleveland State's Gary Waters (2010). 🌐

For the Books

Longwood says goodbye to 3 record breakers

As Longwood's athletics programs continue to climb the ranks in Division I, the decades-old records of legendary Lancer athletes continue to fall. Three Longwood student-athletes in the Class of 2015 rewrote the record books this year and leave the university at the top of several prestigious lists:

Malin Allgurin, a business administration major from Varnamo, Sweden, the two-year No. 1 singles player on the women's tennis team.

Megan Baltzell, a sociology major from Stafford, the All-American and home-run slugging backstop on the softball team.

Aaron Myers, a physics major from Newport News, the right-handed ace of the baseball team.

All three broke longstanding Lancer records in their senior seasons that had stood since

long before they stepped foot on the Longwood campus.

Allgurin broke the school's Division I wins record in 2015 after compiling a four-year record of 59-50 to become Longwood's first 50-match winner in the Division I era. That record-setting career, which finished just five wins shy of Longwood's all-time wins record, came despite playing at the No. 1 slot in her final two years, where she faced the opposition's top player every time she stepped onto the court.

Baltzell finished as the owner of 15 school records, most notably the most home runs (76), RBIs (230), hits (256), doubles (57), runs scored (242) and walks (166) of any Lancer in school history. Even more remarkable is the fact that she set five Big South records even though only three

years' worth of her statistics counted toward those marks. (Baltzell's freshman stats did not count because Longwood was not a member of the Big South that year.) Her accomplishments include the most home runs (67), RBIs (195), walks (141) and runs scored (195), and highest career batting average (.421) in Big South history.

Myers made his mark on the school record books following a four-year career in which he became the school's all-time strikeouts (319), innings pitched (338.0) and saves (17) leader while finishing with the second-lowest ERA (2.91) in the history of Longwood's storied baseball program. Myers set the strikeout record trifecta as a senior, adding to his career strikeout mark by setting the school's single-season mark (115) and tying the single-game mark (14).

—Chris Cook

What a Way to Go

Softball ends record-breaking season with Longwood's first NCAA Tournament win



The 2015 Big South Champions

With another Big South Championship, another trip to the NCAA postseason and a seasonlong display of outright dominance at the plate from one of the greatest athletes to ever come through Farmville, the Lancer softball program gave the Longwood community plenty to celebrate in 2015 and made history in the process.

From the towering home runs that came off the bat of two-time Big South Player of the Year Megan Baltzell to the school's first-ever Division I NCAA postseason win, softball's 2015

campaign instantly became the stuff of Longwood legend.

The Lancers won both the Big South regular season and tournament championships and earned a bid to an NCAA Regional for the second time in the past three seasons. That success extended beyond just making the NCAA's field of 64, however, as the Lancers upset in-state foe Virginia

Tech 6-4 in extra innings to earn Longwood its first-ever Division I NCAA postseason win.

The championship and NCAA berth followed an award-winning regular season during which the Lancers swept the league's three major awards. The Lancers became just the second program in Big South history to win Player of the Year (Megan Baltzell '15, a sociology major from Stafford), Pitcher of the Year (Biz McCarthy '17, a kinesiology major from Dunnsville) and Coach of the Year (Kathy Riley) in the same season.

During the Big South Championships, Longwood received tremendous efforts from Baltzell, McCarthy and Libby Morris '15, the Big South Tournament MVP. A sociology major from Dillwyn, Morris returned from a potentially season-ending knee injury to post a 3-0 record with a 1.47 ERA in 19 innings pitched in the tournament. Meanwhile, Baltzell went 4-for-7 at the plate with eight RBIs and eight runs scored to earn All-Tournament Team honors.

Baltzell made even more history as a senior, leaving Longwood as owner of nearly every major offensive record in school history and as the Big South's all-time career leader in home runs, RBIs and walks. In addition, she ends her career ranked ninth in NCAA history with 76 career home runs, including two seasons with 27 or more blasts.

"Looking back on it, I'm really fortunate to be able to coach a player like Megan," said Head Coach Riley, who has managed the Lancers for the past 18 seasons with a career record of 578-318-1. "She has played an instrumental part in our success throughout her entire career. She's left a legacy here that we hope some of the kids who come in after her will try to emulate." —Todd Lindenmuth

Making the Grades

Student-athlete valedictorian sets the pace for academic accolades across all sports



Kelsey McDonald '15

Longwood student-athletes had collectively one of the most successful academic years in the school's Division I era in 2014-15, highlighted by a class valedictorian, a five-year high in grade-point averages and an entire trophy case worth of academic awards.

'To have this kind of success across the board speaks volumes about the work of many people, including the student-athletes themselves.'

— TROY AUSTIN, Athletics Director

The exclamation point that punctuated the monumental year came during Longwood's commencement, when Kelsey McDonald '15, a four-year starter and all-conference player on the women's soccer team, received the university's Sally Barksdale Hargrett Prize, given to the senior with the highest GPA in the graduating class (see right). Also Longwood's first Division I Academic All-American, McDonald recorded a 3.99 GPA as a business administration major to become the second Longwood student-athlete to receive valedictorian recognition in the past four years.

McDonald, of Kennett Square, Pa., headlined a Longwood scholar-athlete contingent that also included soccer teammate and Big South Graduate Fellowship recipient Taylor Cave '15,

a kinesiology major from Virginia Beach, and Big South Lacrosse Scholar-Athlete of the Year Liz Trainer '15, a kinesiology major from Ellicott City, Md. In total, 53 student-athletes made the Dean's List during the fall and 56 in the spring, while 13 appeared on the fall President's List, and 12 received that honor in the spring.

"The academic excellence our student-athletes displayed this year is a testament to their commitment to fulfilling the obligations of being Longwood student-athletes," said Longwood Athletics Director Troy Austin. "To have this kind of success across the board speaks volumes about the work of many people, including the student-athletes themselves, our coaches for recruiting the right kind of players, Maya Ozery for her work in guiding the student-athletes toward their academic goals and our entire university for creating an environment where we demand academic excellence alongside athletic success."

Students in Longwood athletics programs recorded a cumulative GPA of 3.07, the highest in five years. Women's soccer took top marks among all programs with a 3.43 GPA, while men's golf posted the highest GPA of men's teams at 3.38. Accordingly, McDonald

and men's golfer Jason Schumacher '15, a business major from Glen Allen, took home the school's prestigious Henry I. Willett Scholar-Athlete Award as Longwood's top scholar-athletes.

That success extended across the board as team GPAs ranged from 2.70 to 3.43 with men's cross country, men's soccer, field hockey and lacrosse all recording five-year highs. The men's basketball team and women's cross country squads logged their highest spring GPAs in the past five years, and the women's cross country squad went on to receive special recognition from the NCAA for compiling its fifth consecutive perfect Academic Progress Rate (APR) score of 1,000. —Chris Cook

In Her Own Words: Valedictorian Kelsey McDonald '15

It was truly a moment of utter shock and euphoria hearing my name announced at the 2015 commencement ceremony as the recipient of the Sally Barksdale Hargrett Prize for Academic Excellence. I was focused solely on not tripping as I walked to the stage to shake President Reveley's hand, attempting to smile through my confusion and disbelief. Reality didn't really set in until I got back to my seat and read a text from my mom saying she couldn't stop crying. "Tears of pride and joy," I believe were her words.

Coming into Longwood as a scared little freshman, I never thought my college career would end like this. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of the athletics department, specifically Maya Ozery and the women's soccer staff, as well as the understanding of the amazing College of Business and Economics faculty.

This award is truly a testament to all of the hard work, dedication and energy that both of these groups have put into ensuring my success. For example, whenever I had to miss class for an away game, my professors would send an email wishing me luck and offering any help I might need instead of my having to grovel about when to schedule the makeup exam.

I owe this honor to many people: my parents (aka my biggest fans), who showed me the value of hard work; my teammates, who constantly pushed me to be my best; my coaches, who encouraged me never to settle; and my professors, who supported all of my academic and athletic endeavors.

I am beyond thankful for all of these people in my life because without them I wouldn't be who I am or where I am, today. I am also forever grateful for all the opportunities that Longwood has given me over the years, and I will always be proud to be a #LancerForever.





Sheila Seagle

Anything new? Contact alumni database manager

Alumni, please keep in touch with Sheila Seagle. An alumni biographical specialist in the Office of University Advancement, she maintains the alumni database. It's important to contact her (seaglesv@longwood.edu) when you move, get married, have children, start a new job, learn about a fellow alumni who have died or have any other news.

"My main job is to make sure the alumni database is current," said Seagle, adding that the database has records on more than 34,000 alumni dating back to 1899.

Keeping the database current ensures that alumni continue to receive *Longwood* magazine, reunion mailings and news about other special events in their areas. Much of the correspondence by alumni relations is through email, so current email addresses, in addition to "snail mail" addresses, are crucial. Seagle, who works closely with the Office of the Registrar, enters students into the database when they are seniors, transfers them to alumni status when they graduate and updates each alum's record as new information becomes known.

"A lot of my job is research," she said. "Alumni and others often contact me when they're doing genealogical research."

Other times, Seagle is able to update the database through her own initiative. For example, she learned from an alumna's obituary that she was one of four sisters—each of whom attended Longwood during the 1920s.

Seagle joined Longwood in March 2009. A native of Washington, N.C., and a 1987 graduate of Meredith College, she lives in Lunenburg County with her husband, Doug, and their two children.

Alumni couple honor professor with scholarship for needy students



Jason Blount '90 and Carol Wisch Blount '89 created a scholarship in honor of Dr. Wayne McWee (center), Jason's mentor.

Carol Wisch Blount '89 almost didn't finish college. She had the grades and the work ethic—just not enough money.

Instead of being forced to drop out, however, she received a scholarship from an anonymous donor halfway through her junior year. It saved her college career and changed her life, as well as the life of Jason Blount '90, her future husband.

This spring the Blounts decided it was time to pay it forward.

"If she doesn't get that money, she has to leave school, and we don't fall in love and get married," said Jason, president and owner of Cold Harbor Financial, explaining what motivated him and his wife to give \$25,000 to create a scholarship for students with financial need and high academic achievement. Another motivation was a desire to honor Jason's favorite professor, Dr. Wayne McWee.

The Wayne McWee Scholarship will be awarded annually to a rising junior or senior in the College of Business and Economics.

"I hope our story will spur other alumni to contribute to the scholarship, both to honor a great professor and to help students," said Jason, who announced the establishment of the scholarship on campus April 3. "Dr. McWee always took the time to talk to me, gave me his knowledge and wisdom, and helped me more than he knows."

McWee, a professor emeritus of business who retired June 1 after a 31-year Longwood career, was touched by the honor. "For a teacher even to get a little note from a student saying you made a difference in his life is won-

derful, but to have one endow a scholarship in your name is a wonderful, wonderful thing," he said.

The breadth of McWee's influence at Longwood is impressive. He served as the university's chief academic officer, interim dean of the business school, chair of two departments and chair of the Faculty Senate. He was involved in the transition to Division I athletics, the initial accreditation of the business school and the creation of new academic majors.

One of the most rewarding aspects of his career, however, was getting to know his students and guiding them in their careers.

"Jason was a good student but wasn't sure of where he wanted to go. I suggested that he consider a career in financial services," McWee said. Obviously it was good advice.

Jason began his successful career as a self-employed financial adviser two days after graduating from Longwood. He is currently an independent financial adviser with Raymond James. Cold Harbor Financial, which he opened in 2002, is located in Mechanicsville.

Both Jason and his wife are glad they can share their success with deserving Longwood students who otherwise might not be able to stay in school. Even now, the difficulty Carol had is fresh in her mind. She had to leave Longwood twice—first in the middle of her freshman year and again after the fall semester of junior year.

"My parents pieced together money for me to go here," said Carol, who taught elementary school for 17 years and is now marketing director for Cold Harbor Financial. "After I left the second time, I got a call ... about an anonymous donor who had left money for me. I packed my stuff quickly and returned to classes."

Rising senior Timothy Davis '16 should be spared a similar experience. A double major in accounting and information systems security from Charlotte Court House, he was named the first recipient of the McWee Scholarship. —*Kent Booty* 🍷



(clockwise from the top) Lily Kate Charlish, 3, daughter of Mary Charlish '04, and Landon Burgess, 3, son of Tom '01 and Joelle Burgess '02; Molly Johnson, 4, daughter of Randall '01 and Sarah Johnson '02; and Silas Perkins, 4, son of Paul and Nicole Wright Perkins '05, enjoyed Elwood and getting wet at the Great Wolf Lodge Alumni Weekend.

Water slides, pizza and kids

Weekend at Great Wolf Lodge offers an energetic 'mini-reunion'

Randall Johnson '01, his wife, Sarah '02, and their daughter attended the past two Great Wolf Lodge Alumni Weekends, where they were joined this year by their infant son. They plan to keep coming back.

"We definitely have a good time at that event," said Johnson, who lives in Concord. "We like to play in the pools and water slides. It's just fun family time."

Another alumni family who attended the event the last two years were the Mays: Sally '02, Ryan '01 and their two daughters, who live in Mechanicsville. Sally and Ryan like to reconnect with Longwood friends.

"We meet up with four or five families and make it our own mini-reunion," said Sally. "We usually spend one night, order pizza, catch up and let our kids grow up together. We are looking forward to next year."

First-time attendees this year included Joelle Burgess '02 and her husband, Tom '01, and their two sons. They were accompanied by Mary Charlish '04 of Sterling, Joelle's best friend and sorority sister, along with her husband and their two sons.

"We had a great time," said Joelle, who lives in Ashburn. "It was awesome to let the kids play together and to see the Longwood tent in the water park and to get a discounted rate for the night. We will definitely go back next year."

More than 100 alumni, family members and friends attended the 2015 event, which was held in March in Williamsburg.

Alumni can learn more at longwoodlink.com about the 2016 event, to be held March 4-6. Use "Longwood University Alumni" for the group name and 0316LONG for the booking code. The reservation cutoff date is Feb. 4, 2016. 🌐

New head of Alumni Relations, Alumni Board president focus on strengthening ties

The Office of Alumni Relations is being energized by two new leaders this summer.

Ryan Catherwood, a nationally known thought-leader in the field of alumni engagement, will put his skills to work for Longwood as assistant vice president for alumni relations in early July, taking over from Nancy Britton Shelton '68, who led the office for 40 years.

Kendall L. Lee '01, associate director of government relations at Virginia Commonwealth University, is the new president of the Alumni Board, succeeding Kathleen Early '92.

Catherwood's passion for working with alumni stems from a love of bringing people together face-to-face—and a fascination with deploying cutting-edge digital strategies to make that happen. Prior to joining Longwood, he was director of engagement strategy in the office of alumni, parent engagement and annual giving at the University of Virginia.

"I am excited to come to a university with such close bonds to its alumni. There truly is a unique camaraderie among members of the Longwood family," said Catherwood. "Nancy has built a wonderful, vibrant alumni network. I'm looking forward to building on those efforts already in place with some new, forward-looking ideas and really enhancing the family that exists."

Lee, of Glen Allen, also plans to strengthen ties between alumni and the university.

"I plan to support alumni involvement through activities and events that create a sense of connectedness with the university," said Lee, who previously was vice president. "I also plan to promote diversity by increasing the involvement of minority and young alumni in the life and support of the university."

The Alumni Board also has a new vice president and four new members; two members were recently reinstated. Taking over as vice president is Tammy Bird Jones '81, of Glen Allen. New to the board are Byron W. Bracey '81 of Severn, Md., Cydney Cherry Cavender '75 of Portsmouth, Matthew L. Crawford '06 of Chesapeake and Rebecca Ann Snyder '05 of Dillwyn. Dale Baake '07 of North Chesterfield and W. Hunter Edwards '05 of Glen Allen were reinstated. Members serve four-year terms.



Kendall Lee '01 (left) and Ryan Catherwood



Fall Reunion changed to Sept. 12

The Classes of 1970 and 1975 will make history at the 2015 Fall Reunion, Sept. 12. They will be the first classes to enjoy the new Maugans Alumni Center for a reunion.

The reunion originally had been announced for Oct. 16 but was changed to coincide with the Maugans Alumni Center grand opening Saturday, Sept. 12. Be on the lookout for a save-the-date communication. Please visit longwoodlink.com for more information.



Keep sending us your news and class notes

Thanks to your submissions, the Class Notes section has become a popular feature of *Longwood* magazine. Let's keep a good thing going. If you have any news from your professional or personal life, we'd love to hear about it. Please email the details to alumni@longwood.edu. Remember to give us your full name, the year you graduated and the degree you received. Please also send us a contact phone number or email address in case we have questions.

ClassNotes

1950s

Lois Anne Gary '58 has a granddaughter who recently completed her freshman year at Longwood. Her granddaughter will be the third generation to graduate from Longwood, the first being Gary's mother, **Ormond Mildred Marshall '27**.

1960s

Louise Hardaway Boswell '62, of Farmville, celebrated her 107th birthday on May 8, 2015.

1970s

(Bette) Bonnie Anderson '70 was awarded the Paul R. Cramer "Best Faculty Award" in February after 32 years' teaching music at the Steward School in Richmond. The award recognizes the faculty member who exemplifies "balance, perspective and humor." She led the Steward music department singlehandedly from 1983-2002 and created multiple new music programs for the school, writing and directing all of them.

1980s

Chris Calkins '81 was, in September 2014, one of three Virginians to receive the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for his "dedication to preserving the Civil War battlefield landscape of Virginia." He is park manager for Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park near Rice.

Brenda Bonuccelli '82, licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Richmond, is working with Bon Secours Community Mental Health providing counseling to the Spanish-speaking community in Richmond (she learned Spanish in the Peace Corps) and teaching in Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work.

Horace Scruggs '85, who is a composer and plays several instruments, is instructor of choral music at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville. In February 2015, he presented *The Odyssey of Soul*, which displayed African and African-American musical traditions. In addition to Longwood, Scruggs studied at Shenandoah Conservatory and Berklee College of Music. He teaches students of all ages, leads choirs and produces recordings for local music projects.

Jim Gandorf '86 was named executive director of the Child Life Council, the leading non-profit professional association serving child life specialists, in March 2015. He has 24 years' experience in nonprofit association leadership and over the past 15 years has served as associate executive director of the Mathematical Association of America, executive director of the Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired and executive director of the American Board of Opticianry/National Contact Lens Examiners. Most recently, he was recruited as vice president of association services for the National Glass Association/Window & Door Dealers Alliance. Earlier in his career, Gandorf served as a captain in the U.S. Army.

Mark Marshall '87, PGA Professional at Lake Monticello Golf Club in Palmyra, obtained PGA Master Professional designation in teaching and coaching on June 24, 2014. Less than 1 percent of PGA members (only 357 since the program's inception in 1969) have earned Master Professional designation. There are currently 26,000 PGA Professionals in the United States.

1990s

Nancy Buckner Welch '90, M.S. '92, was appointed superintendent of schools for Mathews County effective July 1, 2015. Previously

she was assistant superintendent for nine years. She began her career in Mathews as an elementary school teacher in 1996.

Mike Taylor '92 has been the Pittsylvania County sheriff since 2007. Taylor, who earned a degree in business at Longwood, has worked in the sheriff's office for 40 years. Under his leadership as sheriff, the office recently completed its second reaccreditation, put jail inmates to work, created an auxiliary, enlisted volunteers and sponsored programs on identity theft. The sheriff's office also helps sponsor Christmas events for the Boys and Girls Club in Chatham, Oak Grove Residential Care Facility and needy families. Taylor and his wife, Becky, live in Ringgold and have two adult sons.

Lt. Col. Christopher G. Strack '92 has served in the armed forces since 1992, when he began as a second lieutenant. He has traveled around the United States and to Iraq during his service. Among other accomplishments, he has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

Continued on Page 44

Supporting science education



Jenny Sue Glasco Flannagan '92

In March 2015, the Virginia Department of Education awarded \$1.6 million in grants as part of an initiative to enhance teachers' knowledge of science and math and their ability to teach the subjects. Among the proposals that received funding was one put together by **Jenny Sue Glasco Flannagan '92**, associate professor and director of the Martinson Center for Mathematics and Science at Regent University. Flannagan led the effort to submit the proposal, which received a \$293,287 grant, on behalf of Regent University, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Virginia Association of Science Teachers. The funding is supporting science training this summer for 85 teachers in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Two professors from Longwood—Dr. Suzanne Donnelly, assistant professor of science education, and Dr. Melissa Rhoten, professor of chemistry—are assisting with the training. "Children love science, and they are born to be scientists," said Flannagan, who is a member of the Longwood Foundation Board. "If we want our students to be interested in a career in science, engineering or even mathematics, the time to plant the seeds of interest, belief and excitement about the subjects begins in the elementary grades."

Yo-ho-ho

Rum distillery in the Outer Banks is the realization of a dream for alumnus and friends

Sometimes friends get together over a drink or two and make big plans. Maybe they dream of one day going into business together and living out their days on the water doing something they all really love.

Usually it's just words, but not for Scott Smith '05 and three of his buddies.

Person of Interest

On New Year's Day 2014, they all quit their jobs and embarked on building a business that they hoped would bring back the tradition of rum made locally on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Today the four longtime friends are the owners and operators of a new, state-of-the-art distillery—Outer Banks Distilling—located in a historic building in downtown Manteo.

“We did the renovations ourselves, the planning, the research and the testing. It's been a labor of love, and we're happy about how it has all turned out,” said Smith.

Called the first “legal” distillery on the Outer Banks, the new company taking shape includes a small-batch distillery producing Kill Devil Rum, white rum and spiced rum, with plans to add gold and aged rums and even seasonal varieties.

After years of research, and, yes, that included tastings, the makers of Kill Devil Rum have committed to quality with their new product, promising only high-grade ingredients and using only high-end distilling equipment. That business philosophy is paying off: The first bottles of Kill Devil Rum hit local North Carolina store shelves on May 5 and sold out in a matter of hours.

“We use a copper pot still that lets us create a more subtle flavor,” said Smith proudly. “We can completely control the process in our three 1200-liter tanks that allow us to manage exact temperatures throughout the fermentation process.”

With experience in brewing and bartending, the four friends behind Outer Banks Distilling—Smith, Adam Ball, Kelly Bray and Matt Newsome—had an understanding of the basics. But what gave them the ability to take chatter among chums and turn it into a budding business?



Scott Smith '05 and three friends recently opened the first 'legal' rum distillery in the Outer Banks.

‘The broad education I received at Longwood helped me to be open to realize what I wanted to do, and gave me the ability to learn how to do it.’ – SCOTT SMITH '05

“The broad education I received at Longwood helped me to be open to realize what I wanted to do, and gave me the ability to learn how to do it,” said Smith.

Looking back about 15 years, Smith was recruited to play baseball at Longwood. His sister had attended Longwood, so there was a family history, and he had his heart set on being a Lancer. An injury ultimately kept him off the field but didn't stop this member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity from earning a degree in communication studies with a minor in history.

It was his fascination with history, along with an entrepreneurial spirit, that attracted

him to the idea of opening a distillery on the Outer Banks. The town of Kill Devil Hills is believed to have been named for pirate-era rum “strong enough to kill the devil.” Barrels would turn up in the wreckage of ships just off the coast in what is known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic. There are even legends of a cache of rum being hidden behind the nearby hill where the Wright Brothers first took to the skies.

“The area has a very rich distilling history and, well, I still think I'm a pirate,” said Smith with a chuckle. “I live on the beach, drive my boat to work and make rum for a living. Yes, it's a pretty nice life.”—*Dan Cawley* 🍹

In Memoriam

LISTED IN ORDER OF CLASS YEAR

Catherine Boyette Cobb '37 died April 27, 2015.
Jane Baldwin Hurt York '38 died May 3, 2015.
Gene Grabeel '41 died March 2, 2015.
Bertha McLaughlin Johnson '41 died April 13, 2015.
Celia Sosa Snead '41 died March 5, 2015.
Ruth Jones Duvall '42 died Feb. 19, 2015.
Sara Cline Dabney '42 died Feb. 13, 2015.
Mary Cox Carr '43 died April 9, 2015.
Betty Ann Askew '45 died March 28, 2015.
Elaine Bray Gardner '45 died March 9, 2015.
Lindsay Watkins Hayes '45 died March 2, 2015.
Susan Durrett Salter '45 died Feb. 28, 2015.
Lucy Bralley del Cardayre '46 died March 4, 2015.
Nancy McCauley Gregory '46 died May 5, 2015.
Margaret Louise Orange '46 died April 11, 2015.
Shirley Slaughter Embrey '47 died Feb. 1, 2015.
Almera Rosser Collier Harris '47 died May 8, 2015.
Constance Christian Marshall '47 died Feb. 13, 2015.
Anne Charlton Miller '47 died March 28, 2015.
Helen Worrell Simmons '47 died Feb. 19, 2015.
Geraldine Joyner West '47 died Feb. 21, 2015.
Barbara Crowther Edwards '48 died April 11, 2015.
Ann Fulgham Gale '48 died Feb. 18, 2015.
June Clark Wood '48 died March 9, 2015.
Mary Callis Turnbull '49 died April 1, 2015.
Grace Mallory Rives '49 died Jan. 30, 2015.
Joan Hahn Shackelford '49 died Feb. 28, 2015.
Virginia Diggs Lane '50 died Feb. 12, 2015.
Louise Turner Cundiff '50 died March 24, 2015.
Helen Hardin Luck '50 died Feb. 18, 2015.
Barbara Hankins Bowry '52 died Jan. 31, 2015.
Dorothy Gregory Morrison '52 died April 25, 2015.
Paige Bunn Prince '52 died April 26, 2015.
Margaret Terrell Reese '56 died May 1, 2015.
Charlotte Fudge Grant '57 died May 7, 2015.
Sarah Schuler Williams '58 died Jan. 26, 2015.
Sandra Parker Griffith '60 died Feb. 10, 2015.
Doris Webster Hickman '61 died Feb. 1, 2015.
Mable Healy Shanaberger '61 died March 5, 2015.
Diana Snow Campbell '62 died May 2, 2015.
Lucy Trotter Peters '62 died April 22, 2015.
Patricia Brooks Stewart '64 died Jan. 31, 2015.
Anne Marie Haley Atkins '65 died Feb. 21, 2015.
Carol Sue Gee '66 died Feb. 24, 2015.
Beverly Rhine Doughty '68 died Jan. 22, 2015.
Barbara Mullins Thorpe '68 died March 4, 2015.
Anne Langhorne Foster '71 died Feb. 21, 2015.
Wanda Spicer Taintor '71 died April 3, 2015.
Virginia Riggs Berno '81 died April 10, 2015.
Jerome Kersey '84 died April 10, 2015.
Angela Marie Sims '05 died March 29, 2015.
Lynn Ann Gainsback '09 died Feb. 26, 2015.
Anjelica Marie Hadsell '18.

ClassNotes

Continued from Page 42

D. Sam Lowery '97 is an Army Reservist and was recently promoted to the rank of colonel at the National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville. He currently resides in South Boston and is a Spanish teacher at Halifax County High School.

Poldi Moreno '98 began his new role as principal of Appomattox County High School on June 1. He had served since 2006 as an assistant principal with the Appomattox County school division, at both the middle and high schools, and he also previously served as principal of the middle school. Moreno worked previously in Portsmouth, where he was a Spanish teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School and athletic director at Norcom High School. In addition to his bachelor's degree from Longwood, he earned a master's degree at Regent University and his doctorate at Virginia Commonwealth University.

2000s

Debra B. Woltz, M.S. '02, is the career and technical coordinator at Halifax County High School. Since 1998, she has taught various dual-enrollment technology courses for Halifax County students through Danville Community College and Southside Virginia Community College. In addition to her Longwood degree, Woltz has an Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and an undergraduate degree in accounting from Averett University.

Stefanie Mancuso '08 and Jason Norris were married on March 28, 2015.

Cathleen Fate Minnekine '08 and **Christopher Scott Minnekine '09** were married Sept. 13, 2014, in Cape Charles. During their time at Longwood, where each received a B.S. in business administration, they were affiliated with Delta Sigma Pi.

Kathy Riopelle Roberts, M.S. '09, was appointed in March 2015 to the seven-member editorial board that will evaluate and revise the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) learning standards and program guidelines. Roberts is the school librarian at Rivers Edge Elementary School in Henrico County.

She was the 2013 AASL sponsored ALA Emerging Leader and has served in various roles for the association.

Holly Cooney '09 is a financial analyst for the Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C. She recently became engaged to David Hammond, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College.



Todd Stonnell '09 leads an interactive workshop at the LCVA.

Todd Stonnell '09, an art therapist, led an interactive workshop at the LCVA in April on how art and creativity promote self-expression and can relieve stress. Throughout his career, he has worked with a range of clients from adolescents to adults and is currently practicing at Williamsville Wellness Center in Hanover.

2010s

Paige Lynn Tucker, M.S. '11, is a full-time reading specialist at Spring Run Elementary School in Chesterfield County and a doctoral student in the curriculum leadership program at the College of William & Mary. She currently serves on the State Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Committee. She also served on the governor's Teacher Cabinet in 2013 and was selected a Teacher Ambassador for the New Teacher Project in 2004, which allowed her to travel to high-need areas in Virginia and recruit teachers. Tucker has an undergraduate degree in sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sara Meyerhoeffer '11 and **Jacob Babb '12** recently became engaged and are planning a fall 2015 wedding. Meyerhoeffer is domestic violence coordinator for the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services. Babb is

a process manager in Capital One's banking division.

Emily Bacalis '12 is a community manager for Relay for Life, an organization that raises money for cancer research. She is based in Richmond and organizes six relays around Virginia.

Kimmy Sullivan '12 is the field hockey coach at Mountain View High School in Stafford County. She was a physical education teacher and field hockey coach at T. Benton Gayle Middle School, also in Stafford, before joining Mountain View's staff in 2013. She initially served as an assistant to her mother, the previous field hockey coach at Mountain View. Kimmy Sullivan played field hockey for four years at Longwood.

Gabrielle V. Pedro '14 and **Travis W. Fredrick '12** plan to be married Nov. 6, 2015, in Orlando, Fla.

Scott Haizlip '12 is an SMB account manager for Convergent Technology Group.

Caroline Villarreal '14 will be a traveling leadership consultant for Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity during the 2015-16 school year. A member of ZTA, she will be responsible for meeting with local chapters across the country, supervising membership recruitment and assisting with leadership development, officer education and chapter organization. Villarreal served this past year in Longwood's Office of the President as the university's first Presidential Fellow, bringing a student perspective to a variety of initiatives and activities. Her year included visiting the White House, crafting Dr. Jim Jordan's very own Convocation cap, co-founding a Presidential Student Advisory Committee and assisting with the planning and implementation of the 2015 commencement ceremony.

Jeff Havenstein '14, a former Longwood basketball player, is a financial analyst for Morgan Stanley in Baltimore. 📞

Please email your Class Notes to alumni@longwood.edu. Remember to give us your full name, the year you graduated and the degree you received. Please also send us a contact phone number or email address in case we have questions.

Chris O'Shea



A Longwood connection helped Ashby Dodge '98 find her labor of love.

Lifeline

Alumna works for organization dedicated to providing suicide prevention and crisis intervention for young people

About four years ago, Ashby Dodge '98 was a social worker in New York City when her friend, Jason Mraz, a celebrated recording

Person of Interest

artist she'd known since her Longwood days, asked her to accompany him to a fundraising gala where he was performing.

She accepted the invitation, and it changed her life.

The gala was for The Trevor Project, an organization founded in 1998 by the creators of the Oscar-winning short film "Trevor," which is about a gay 13-year-old boy who attempts suicide when rejected by friends because of his sexual orientation. Today The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.

"I'd never heard of the organization before but had loved the film," said Dodge. "After that night, I knew I had to work for them."

Shortly after the gala, she began exploring opportunities and eventually was offered the job of senior crisis services manager in The Trevor Project's New York office. About a year later, she was promoted to crisis services director, which includes responsibility for overseeing The Trevor Lifeline, a confidential 24/7 service

that offers trained counselors via a toll-free number.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among young people, and LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers, Dodge said. There is hope, however. Statistics prove that one supportive person reaching out to a young person in crisis can reduce his or her risk of suicide by 30 percent.

about learning life tools. As a social worker, it was important that I was able to build and learn coping mechanisms on how to be an independent, successful person. Longwood provided a beautiful, safe and welcoming atmosphere in which to learn those lessons."

After graduating, she headed to Manhattan, where she embarked on a busy acting career

'In working with LGBTQ youth, I've found a way to use my education in clinical social work to help a population that is near and dear to me.' — ASHBY DODGE '98

Dodge approaches her work each day with empathy, compassion and optimism to ensure that every youth who calls will receive that help.

"In working with LGBTQ youth, I've found a way to use my education in clinical social work to help a population that is near and dear to me," said Dodge. "I long for a future where youth feel protected and have a place to seek help if they need it. It's very important to me to be that person who sees and hears people for who they are."

Born into a Navy family in Virginia Beach, Dodge grew up mostly in Hawaii. She completed high school back in Virginia Beach and then moved on to Longwood, where she earned a BFA in theatre with an emphasis in drama therapy. "For me, college was primarily

that included musical theater, daytime dramas, commercials and voice-over work.

After several years, she went back to school and earned a master's degree in social work. Dodge is married to her partner, a fashion photographer in New York City. Together, they have a baby boy, Sawyer.

Dodge said she hopes to continue her work with The Trevor Project, helping to reach more at-risk youth.

"We run the nation's only 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention lifeline for LGBTQ youth. It's really one of the best resources there is," she said. "Our job is big and admittedly tough. Clearly we'd love to be out of business. Until then, we'll be here." —Patrick Folliard

Gothic Romance

Alumna pursuing her dream of becoming a medieval scholar is selected for prestigious research seminar



Ever since she can remember, Melissa Ridley Elmes, M.A. '09, has been fascinated with medieval literature and culture.

Initially, she was attracted to the 19th-century romantic ideas of chivalry and heroics embroidered onto the era. Later, through

the seminar, led by renowned medieval scholar Dr. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, paired medieval texts depicting survival in the face of disasters like the great flood with early modern ones that carry the stories they offer into new realms, Elmes said. "Throughout the seminar, we had complete access to the collection from



Melissa Ridley Elmes, M.A. '09, handled rare Renaissance and medieval documents in her Ph.D. research at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

course work in medieval literature and history, she grew to appreciate a more realistic picture of the Middle Ages, with its gothic arches and harsh realities.

Now a doctoral candidate in medieval literature at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Elmes is writing her thesis on feasts and feasting in medieval British texts. For her, a day well spent includes hours of uninterrupted research. So naturally she was delighted to be selected earlier this year to participate in a 10-week seminar at the Folger Institute, a dedicated center for collections-focused research and advanced study in the humanities located at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Titled "The Scale of Catastrophe: Ecology and Transition, Medieval to Early Modern,"

the Folger's archives. It was extraordinary."

Located a block from the U.S. Capitol, the Folger Library houses the world's largest Shakespeare collection and major collections of other rare Renaissance and medieval books, manuscripts and works of art. "The Folger is a working library, endowed with the intention to be used," said Elmes. "Unlike most special collections, you're not required to wear gloves or have someone looking over your shoulder making sure that you don't write in the books."

Among the incredible materials Elmes handled throughout the seminar were Reformation-period illustrated Bibles; a 15th-century hunting manual that a 19th-century owner bound in deer hide; hand-painted maps from the 17th century; and letters, pamphlets and

plague accounts listing deaths.

"When something horrible happened like the great fire of Northampton, they'd put out an inexpensive pamphlet for the masses dramatically describing the deaths and damage with religious sermons sprinkled throughout," she said. "Looking at this yellowed page that was written when these disasters happened and imagining how terrified those people were is a visceral experience. It makes it so much more immediate."

Medieval history continues to hold the interest of people today, she said, pointing to the popularity of the *Game of Thrones* books and the television show based on them.

"The *Game of Thrones* books are indebted to medieval history and documents. Those dinners where people were hacked to death really happened," she said, giving the Blood Feast of

Person of Interest

Roskilde in 1157 and the Black Dinner in 1440 as examples.

Folger Institute seminar participants are selected by a faculty committee, said Dr. Owen Williams, assistant director for scholarly programs at the institute. "They must be engaged with the topic but also bring something more to the table. The discussion is pitched at a very high level, and Melissa was a valued addition. With her polish and scholarly background, she excelled."

A Williamsburg native, Elmes began her college career at Longwood. After two years, she transferred to William & Mary to study classics, foreign languages and education, and graduated with a degree in French and secondary education. After several years of teaching high school in Virginia, she once again heard the call of Chaucer and went back to school, ultimately receiving a master's degree in medieval literature from Longwood in 2009.

At Longwood, said Elmes, Professor Larissa "Kat" Tracy brought her back full circle: "She was so passionate and knowledgeable. She opened things up in medieval studies for me. I'd dreamt of being a professor, but I had been discouraged by people who said I'd never get a job. Professor Tracy said I could do it—she gave me the shot of courage that I needed to pursue my dream. The training I received in her classes made it possible for me to be the kind of scholar who can do this work." —Patrick Folliard



Joan Weidmann Rollins '84 and Duke Rollins '82 remain committed to each other and to Longwood after more than 30 years.

Variations on a Theme

Sparks fly time and again for Joan and Duke Rollins

The “fireworks” came for Joan Weidmann '84 and Duke Rollins '82 one December night in front of Lancaster Hall, where they met after a Christmas mixer and talked into the wee hours.

The lightning struck nearly six years later, but this time the sparks that were flying didn't have anything to do with falling in love.

Longwood Couples ♥

It was Father's Day weekend, and the pair—an item since that winter night at Longwood—were at the Outer Banks with their parents. One morning a storm came up, and everyone huddled, wet, under an ocean-front house. Duke and Joan leaned against a chimney.

The sky flashed white, and lightning struck the chimney, traveling down and passing through Duke's back. “It knocks us all off our feet,” said Duke. “My heart stops beating, and I stop breathing.”

Thanks to Joan's quick-thinking father, who administered CPR, Duke survived. A few months later, he and Joan announced their engagement.

“So there were lots and lots of lightning jokes in the wedding,” said Duke, including gems like, “I guess it took an act of God to get you to marry this girl!”

But he needed no such prodding. He says he had been wooing Joan since he met her at Longwood in 1980, chatting her up during increasingly frequent “chance” encounters.

“I thought it was all coincidental,” said Joan.

“I would call it a strategic interaction,” said Duke. “I had a big crush.”

That crush has evolved into a 28-year marriage, and the couple's Longwood connection

now extends to their daughter, Paige Rollins '15, who graduated in May. The Rollinses also have a 15-year-old son, Kyle, a sophomore in high school, and they hope he'll consider Longwood when it comes time for college.

Joan says she knew Paige would love Longwood, but she feared the university might not live up to all the tales Paige had heard over the years. Like the time Duke and his friends dropped a truckload of sand in their residence hall for a beach party. “Indoors!” confirmed Duke. “In our hallway.”

But the hype didn't prove too much for Paige, who interned in the Office of Alumni Relations this past year and started work right after graduation as a full-fledged staff member focused on increasing engagement among young alumni. “We say she bleeds blue and white,” said Joan.

Joan and Duke also stay in touch with the university through Duke's volunteer work with the College of Business and Economics' Corporate Advisory Board. He raises funds for the college and helps Dean Paul Barrett align curricula with industry needs. In his day job, Duke directs sales for Tyco Integrated Security.

Joan, “blessed to be a stay-at-home mom” in Centreville, re-engaged with her Longwood sorority after Paige joined. Those relationships provided a boost when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013. (She recently recovered after a bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction.)

“I've gone and done Relay for Life twice with them now. It's a beautiful thing,” she said, describing the annual cancer research fundraiser.

Of course, most crucial is her husband, who “has been amazing through it all.” But she said she always knew he would be—his “humor and his lovingness” have been on display since the day they met at Longwood. —*Beth Cope* 🍷

2 new alumni staff focus on building Lancer family

If you graduated in the last decade or so, you'll soon be getting a little extra attention from the Office of Alumni Relations.

Paige Rollins '15 is working with younger alumni—those who graduated within the last 10 years—in a new position she began June 1. Nicole Wright Perkins '05, who joined the Alumni Relations staff in February, continues



Legacy alums Paige Rollins '15 (left) and Nicole Wright Perkins '05

to forge closer ties with alumni and bring new ideas to the office.

Rollins, a communication studies major (public relations concentration) from Centreville, interned in Alumni Relations during the spring 2015 semester. She said she “had a blast” helping with the Milestone Reunion in April and is excited to launch Alumni Relations' young alumni program.

“I want to grab them right after they graduate and keep them involved,” said Rollins, whose parents are Longwood alumni (see story at left). “I've always bled Longwood blue.”

Rollins was senior class president and a member of the Cormier Honors College, Mortar Board, the Order of Omega, the Longwood Ambassadors, SGA and Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

Perkins' familiarity with alumni will come in handy in her new role: Her great-grandmother, Edna Blanton Smith '42, initially attended Longwood from 1919-23, then returned and completed her degree. Other members of Perkins' family who attended Longwood include an aunt and great-aunt.

Perkins said the things she most enjoys about her new job are reconnecting with fellow alumni and seeing their passion for the university.

Perkins and her husband, Paul, live in Farmville and have a 4-year-old son, Silas.

The Education Gap

Making sure no child is left behind means starting academic learning long before kindergarten

by Dr. Sara Miller

Why have so many children been left behind? That should be the central question as Congress debates reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—formerly known as No Child Left Behind. The intent of the law was to ensure that all students were proficient readers by 2014, but it fell short of this goal.

Why is this so important? Because reading at grade level by third grade has been shown to be not only a significant predictor of high-school performance but also of graduation and college attendance.

Ask any kindergarten teacher who has worked with disadvantaged children—kids from homes and communities with limited re-

sources—and the answer is clear: The reason they are left behind is they never had a chance to begin with. By the time many of these children entered formal schooling, they were so far behind their more advantaged peers that the goal of proficient reading by third grade seemed unattainable. When children enter elementary school unable to state their names, use a pencil or correctly hold a book, they need a tremendous amount of language and literacy exposure to catch up with their peers.

I have had the opportunity to work with many disadvantaged students. I have seen children enter kindergarten unsure of the difference between letters and numbers or how one would use them. In contrast, some children walk into elementary school speaking complex sen-

tences, writing a lot of words and bringing with them the enrichment of being surrounded by books at home. These children have the requisite skills to make it to grade-level reading in third grade, but many of their peers won't make it.

These problems are acute all across Southside Virginia. Often families here and in other rural

areas find there are limited options for high-quality day care and preschool—options that expose children to music, art, active social experiences and structured literacy activities. This lack of access to early learning opportunities forces families to make incredibly difficult choices and, in too many cases, to settle for less than ideal child care options.

This has to stop. We must assist families in the very early years of children's development because it becomes increasingly difficult to make up for an early lack of language and literacy. But what does that look like?

As President Barack Obama said in the State of the Union address, a firm commitment must be made to provide quality preschool for families with young children. And the commitment needs to make an impact on more than just children at the margins—we should serve students from all economic and social backgrounds.

In Southside and Southwest Virginia, some of the most economically depressed regions in the state, community-based organizations and institutions are well-poised to serve as the touch point for high-quality early childhood education. In Farmville—the town that serves as a hub for six surrounding counties—Longwood has the potential to serve this function, and, indeed, planning has already begun to offer high-quality affordable early child care to members of the community. The university has strong ties to other educational organizations and can serve as a model for nationwide change.

If the revised ESEA is to have a chance of being successful, it must address student readiness for school and the availability of high-quality early learning opportunities.

Quality early childhood education cannot continue to be a luxury available only to families who can afford it—all children deserve rich early educational experiences. Every one of us must advocate for other people's children as if they were our own. This is the only way to make the American dream truly an option for all Americans. If we are to leave no child behind, we must ensure that all children get to the starting line. 🌐



Experts point to many reasons why it missed the mark—lack of funding and focus on high-stakes testing, among others—but there is a simpler explanation: lack of access to early childhood education.

There is one key data point that educators reference all the time: the percentage of children reading on grade level by third grade.



Dr. Sara Miller is an assistant professor of education and co-coordinator of the elementary and middle school education programs at Longwood.

Leaders Building Leaders.

As citizen leaders, Longwood alumni understand the power of lifelong learning, strong value systems and a commitment to serving others for the greater good of society.

This year, Longwood University will introduce the **Citizen Leader Society**, which puts a well-deserved spotlight on the powerful contributions of our alumni donors.

It's about leaders building leaders, and we hope you'll join us.

Look for details soon!

LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY
go.longwood.edu/givingsocieties



"To the citizen leader, service is not just an extracurricular activity."

- Longwood University Board of Visitors,
Mission Statement



Longwood University Foundation Inc.
201 High Street
Farmville, VA 23909

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Lynchburg, VA 24506
Permit No. 215

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

No state funds were used to print this publication.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Longwood is making plans to show off its new home for alumni—the Maugans Alumni Center—at a grand opening celebration set for Saturday, Sept. 12. Look for more information about the activities that are planned in future communications from the Office of Alumni Relations and at longwoodlink.com.

