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longwood

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

SPRING 2019

Our **Joan**

Longwood has claimed Joan
of Arc as its inspiration for
more than a century

In the News

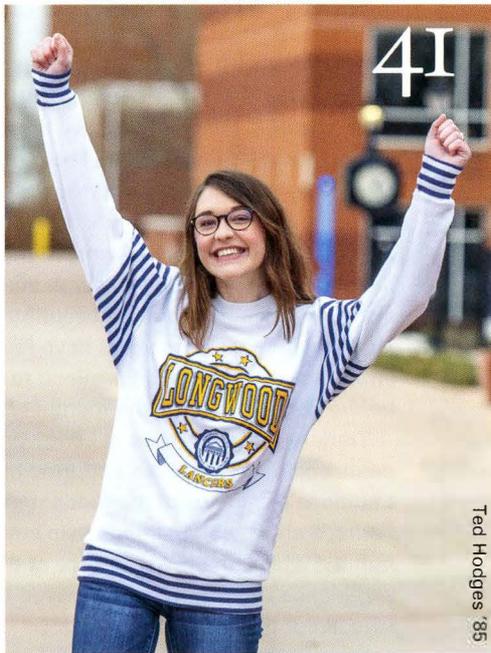
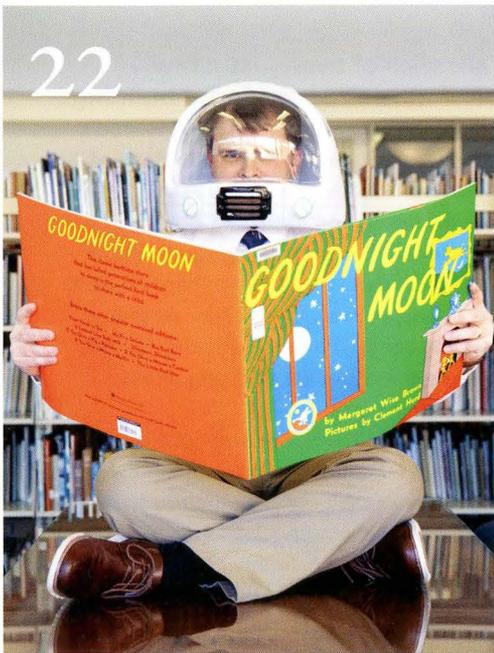
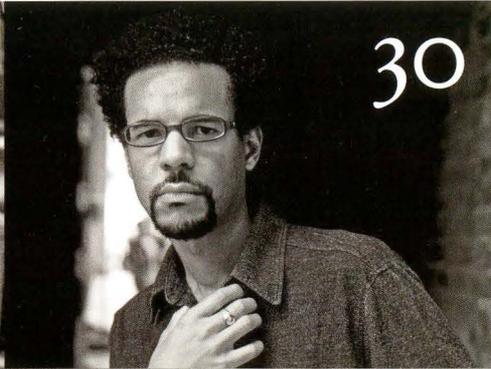
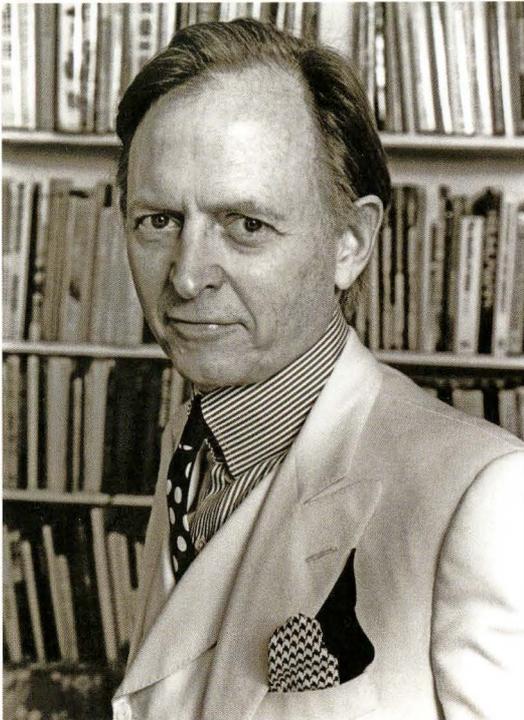
Literary Talent Scout

**Off the Shelf: An
Unforgettable Librarian**





35



ON THE COVER

Sculptor Alexander Stoddart’s monument, installed on campus last semester, provides a 21st-century interpretation of Joan of Arc. *Alexander Stoddart (Scottish, 1959-); Joan of Arc, 2018; bronze.* Story on Page 24.

COVER STORY

24 A Tale of Three Joans

Monuments to the iconic figure testify to Joan of Arc’s central role at Longwood

FEATURES

10 A Different World

Alumni at the venerable *Washington Post* are thriving in the midst of a revolution in the news industry

Page 15: Journalists in smaller markets play a critical role

Page 16: Alums make the news must-see TV

18 A Shining Moment

Six alumni are recognized for their contributions to Longwood and their communities

22 Q&A: Off the Shelf

Brent Roberts will make you forget everything you thought you knew about librarians

30 Talent Scout

Dos Passos Prize is often first in line to recognize top American writers

DEPARTMENTS

3 OnPoint
Art that glows in the dark, construction update, an unexpected multigenerational connection to Longwood, and more

32 LongwoodCalendar

34 InPrint

35 LancerUpdate
A record-setting men’s basketball season, the new Voice of the Lancers, and more

39 AlumniNews
Sweatshirt magic (Page 41), shadowing program brings students and alumni together, exploring the rainforest, and more

48 EndPaper
Longwood is working to help turn the tide of Virginia’s teacher shortage

Ted Hodges '85

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SPRING 2019

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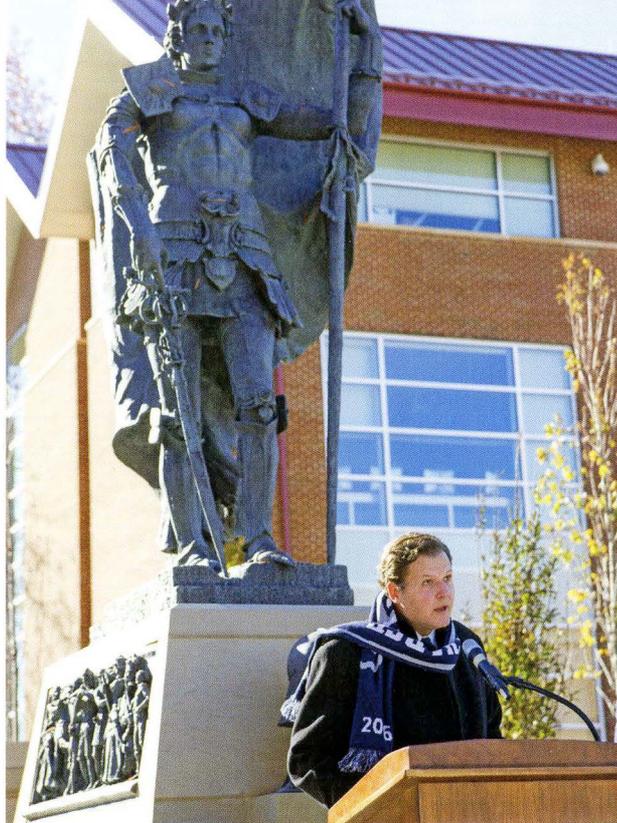
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Published March 2019



President Reveley at the dedication of Longwood's newest Joan of Arc statue in November 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you're visiting campus after an absence of even just a few years, you'll notice quite a number of new and wonderful buildings and spaces. In all of them, we have worked hard to carry forward Longwood's distinctive spirit. In that vein, I am especially proud of the new statue of Joan of Arc,

created by acclaimed Scottish sculptor Alexander Stoddart, which was dedicated in November and now stands formidably at the south end of Brock Commons.

In this issue of the magazine, Matt McWilliams delightfully recounts the story of Longwood's proud history with our patron hero, dating back more than a century and now extending to three beautiful statues. The article explains why so many students here over the years have found a deep connection with Joan of Arc—a strong young woman, determined to overcome the obstacles and prejudices before her and assume the mantle of leadership.

Traditions matter. Here at Longwood, they tie together the generations of students and alumni with an enduring bond. Even as institutions grow and evolve, traditions remind us of the fundamental and timeless strengths at their hearts. Perhaps above all, traditions help create and preserve our special sense of community, which, in the experience of the many alumni in my family and in my own experience as president, has proved the essential ingredient in what so many love about this place.

Longwood's faithful honoring of Joan of Arc is among our strongest and most enduring traditions, and this latest statue is a remarkable addition to our campus, powerfully strengthening this connection for a new generation. Come see it for yourself. It is a world-class piece of sculpture that on its own is worth the trip. And there is so much else here that is new as well—from residence halls to the Upchurch University Center to our soon-to-open new admissions building across High Street from the Rotunda. All of it reflects the best of our past as well as the future.

W. Taylor Reveley IV
President

What Do You Get...

...when you cross an art class with a biology class?
Art made with glow-in-the-dark bacteria



Sitting in a biology laboratory on the second floor of Chichester Hall, Kamarin Bradley '19, a graphic design major, carefully pulled a sheet of aluminum foil out of her notebook. On it, she had carefully cut out a stencil, a minion from *Despicable Me* hollering the word "BIO!".

After she fit the foil into a Petri dish with the help of nearby Tori Acosta '19, a biology major, Bradley took a paintbrush and began dabbing clear liquid onto the stencil, creating an invisible piece of art.

Photobacterium leiognathi strain KNH6—glowing bacteria that in just a few hours would begin to emit a soft blue-green light, revealing the pattern the students had created.

"Welcome to our interesting adventure," said Trubitsyn, assistant professor of biology who initiated the collaboration.

Many of the students' artworks adopted a Longwood-based theme—a rotunda, Lancer logo or CHI symbol—but many of Rice's students lifted images from their sketchbooks: intricate drawings of flowers or characters

As the microbes consume nutrients in the bottom of the Petri dishes, they emit the light, which can only be seen in pitch-black rooms. Once the nutrients are gone, the bacteria stop glowing.

"These bacteria are fascinating," said Trubitsyn. "They come from ponyfish, found in

Jada Russell '20, a biology major, shows off her creation made with *Photobacterium leiognathi* strain KNH6.



'Art, as in science, is often a collaboration.'

—LAUREN RICE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ART

It wouldn't be invisible for long—at least not at night.

The project is a collaboration between Dr. Denis Trubitsyn's upper-level microbiology class and Lauren Rice's art class titled, aptly, Introduction to New Media.

New media indeed: The clear liquid that Bradley and Acosta carefully painted onto the bottoms of their Petri dishes was teeming with bioluminescent microbes—scientific name

that required delicate strokes to encourage the luminescent bacteria to multiply and glow in perfectly straight lines.

"Art, as in science, is often a collaboration," said Rice. "We share ideas and work together. There exists a whole history of ephemeral art—that which is made to not last for a long time. With this collaboration, we have about three days to enjoy the glow of the artwork before it disappears."

the Indian and Pacific oceans, and have a really interesting symbiotic relationship. The bacteria get nutrients from the fish, and live in a special organ in its belly where they shine light downward, effectively reducing shadows that reveal the ponyfish's location to potential predators. These types of relationships are very important in nature, and, of course, we are echoing that same collaboration with art students in the classroom."—*Matthew McWilliams*

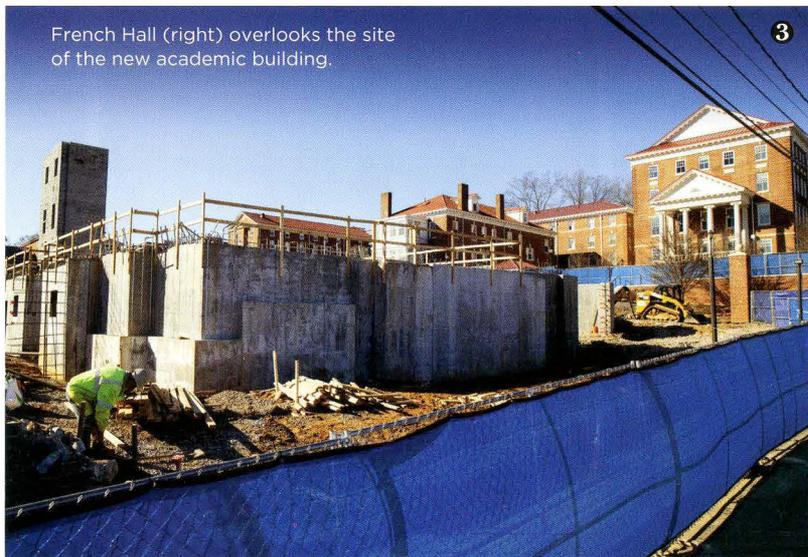
The new admissions building faces High Street and Ruffner Hall.

1



French Hall (right) overlooks the site of the new academic building.

3



2 The renovation of Frazer Hall (foreground) is about 50 percent complete. Adjoining Curry Hall will receive the same treatment.



Visitors to campus these days can see the fulfillment of several goals of Longwood's Master Plan happening before their eyes. The work includes construction of two new buildings—one for admissions and the other providing academic space—and the renovation of Frazer Hall, a student residence.

1 Admissions Building

The new admissions building, located directly across High Street from Ruffner Hall, will include a welcome center for visitors and a display focused on Farmville and Longwood history. Construction is at about the halfway mark with completion expected by August of this year. The facility will provide seven times the space of the building previously occupied by the admissions office.

2 Frazer Hall

Work on the Frazer Hall renovation also is about 50 percent complete, with much of the interior framing and rough-in plumbing and electrical work finished. The building is on schedule for occupancy by fall 2019. As part of this two-phase project, nearby Curry Hall

will get a similar makeover after students move out at the end of this semester. The second phase of the project also includes installing new neighborhood landscaping.

3 Academic Building

Longwood's new academic building is about 15 percent complete and is expected to open its doors by fall 2020. It will provide four stories of additional classroom, research and faculty office space. Construction includes a pedestrian tunnel that will cross the east-west corridor of campus, providing access from Venable Street to Brock Commons. The goal is to have the building meet LEED Silver standards for a healthy, highly efficient and cost-saving green building.

Progress Report

Am I Blue?

For a growing number of lakes in the U.S., the answer is no, professor's research shows



Dr. Dina Leech (center) has found that the dominant lake type in the U.S. has shifted from clear blue to greenish brown and murky.

The fresh water in America's lakes is increasingly turning greenish-brown—which has negative consequences for water quality, fish and the aquatic food chain.

Lakes in the continental United States are progressively becoming “murkier,” according to a research paper co-authored by Dr. Dina Leech and recently published in *Limnology and Oceanography* (read the full article at <https://aslopubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com>). Leech, associate professor of biology at Longwood, is the lead author of the research, which reveals that from 2007-12, the dominant lake type in the U.S. shifted from clear blue to greenish brown and murky. Approximately 45 percent of lakes were blue in 2007, but by 2012 that figure had decreased to only about 28 percent. In those same five years, murky lakes increased from 23 percent to 35 percent.

“Blue lakes typically are those that do not show evidence of nutrient pollution or elevated organic matter while murky lakes have high levels of both,” Leech said. “A shift toward murkiness is a management concern because murky lakes tend to have more algae, including potentially harmful cyanobacteria. And with poor quality food at the base of the food web, over time murky lakes may not be able to support a healthy fishery.”

Leech's research was published in *Limnology and Oceanography's* special research newsletter, which highlights selected submissions that have been judged on their originality and intellectual contribution to the fields of limnology and oceanography. *Limnology and Oceanography* is a journal published on behalf of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. The journal's unifying theme is the understanding of aquatic systems.

Using data from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Lakes Assessment Program, Leech and the other researchers demonstrate that many lakes across the U.S. are increasing in both total phosphorus and dissolved organic matter concentration. The results emphasize that many lakes are simultaneously “greening” and “browning,” with potentially negative consequences for water quality and food web structure. The findings show that murky lakes significantly increased in the Northern Appalachian, Southern Plains and Xeric ecoregions.

The research suggests that more work needs to be done to reduce nutrient and/or organic matter runoff, particularly from agricultural areas. There also may be links to climate change—for example, changes in precipitation patterns that influence runoff—although these are harder to pinpoint.—*Lauren Whittington*

“SmallTalk”

overheard on the Longwood campus

“It's really important that we honor and have pride in our history but also that we allow allies to join us and show their humanity.”

Dawn Porter (via the Internet), filmmaker, screening of her documentary *Spies of Mississippi* about the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, February 2019

“You don't read a poem. It reads you.”

Frank Bidart, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Longwood Authors Series, February 2019

Race is a biological nothing. It's a social construct. But it's a sociological everything in this country.”

Lawrence Ross, author of *Blackballed: The Black & White of Race on America's Campuses*, campus lecture, February 2019

“By honing our mountaintop imaginations, we can begin to see and think independently and to teach our children to be independent thinkers as well.”

Sydney Trent, social issues editor at the *Washington Post*, Martin Luther King Jr. Week keynote address, January 2019

“I was inspired by my 11th-grade math analysis teacher. It wasn't bells and whistles. She did her job well, I respected it and I worked hard.”

Brandon Taylor '07, instructor of mathematics at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology, Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium, November 2018

“We have to have faith in ourselves to have the ability to change things for the better, even if it's just one person at a time.”

Ellen Oh, author of the *Prophecy* and *Spirit Hunters* books, Summer Literacy Institute, July 2018

An Artist and Old Lace

Photographer featured at LCVA has Longwood connections that go back more than a century

Eva O'Leary, an artist whose photographs are on exhibit at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts through March 31, has never seen her great-great-grandmother's wedding dress. O'Leary hasn't seen the photographs that connect her professional work with her great-great-grandfather's avocation.

Benedict Chatelain, however, has seen—and even touched—the delicate dress, worn in 1907 by a young bride who was an alumna of the State Normal School in Farmville, later known as Longwood University. Chatelain also has held in his hands scores of photographs taken by that young bride's groom, who taught at the same school.

It's exciting stuff for someone who loves history and its artifacts, and Chatelain, who works in the archives in Greenwood Library, loves to tell the story of how the items came into Longwood's possession.

It all started with a letter from Elizabeth Kaites, granddaughter of the young couple and grandmother of O'Leary. Kaites knew about her grandparents' connection to Longwood and had a large collection of their belongings that included not only the wedding dress but also personal correspondence, another dress and 160 early 20th-century photographs, a number of them featuring Longwood students.

"She wanted the materials to go somewhere they could be preserved for future generations and used to tell the history of the university,"

said Chatelain. Kaites donated the materials to Longwood in 2017.

The woman who wore the wedding dress was Mary Venable Cox, a relation of the woman for whom Cox Hall was named. She graduated from the State Normal School in 1900 and then traveled to New York to further her education at the Teachers College at Columbia University. After returning to Farmville in 1904 to teach algebra, she met John Chester Mattoon, who also was teaching at the college.

His classroom subject was manual arts, but he apparently loved photography, capturing images not only of students in the archery and mandolin clubs but also of the Appomattox River and Buffalo Creek.

John and Mary married and had a family.

Chatelain hopes that the Mattoons' great-great-granddaughter, O'Leary, will one day visit the archives to see the collection in person and find out about her ancestors.



A photo of Mary Venable Cox Mattoon, Class of 1900, is surrounded by her wedding dress. Both items are in the Greenwood Library archives. The photography of Mattoon's great-great-granddaughter, Eva O'Leary, is currently on exhibit at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts.

"It would be a joy for me to get to help her learn something about her family that she didn't know," he said.

To see some of the photos from the collection, visit digitalcommons.longwood.edu/mattoon.—Sabrina Brown

Belly Dancing, Anyone?

Students from across campus turned out early in the spring semester to learn more about Longwood's 175 student organizations, which range from belly dancing to student government. Held each semester, Involvement Fairs help students connect with others who share their interests, find a place where they can lend a hand as a volunteer or get involved in a cause.

❶ Sigma Alpha Iota is Longwood's music fraternity. ❷ Members of the club football team compete against club teams at other schools. ❸ The Club de Español gives students the chance to practice their Spanish and learn more about the culture of countries where the language is spoken.



Put Me In, Coach

Coaching groups create a sense of belonging for freshmen and mentors with shared interests



One Tuesday evening a little more than a month into his freshman year, Jaelon Hariston was learning to run the state-of-the-art equipment in Longwood's communication studies broadcast studio. Hariston, with a booming voice and larger-than-life personality, was using the equipment to film improv comedy skits, and had starred in two of the three student skits.

‘ If they have questions, I’m a point of contact for them to go through to help them work out those problems.’

— CLINT WRIGHT, COACHING GROUP MENTOR

“This is awesome!” Hariston ’22 exclaimed after getting a crash course in operating the large broadcast TV camera.

Hariston is one of the students in Clint Wright’s first-year coaching group—an innovative new approach to helping freshmen acclimate to college life that Longwood introduced and piloted in the fall semester. The 60 groups, led by faculty and staff coaches and built around shared interests, provide the kind of mentoring support that has long been one of Longwood’s trademarks. Wright, the broadcast studio managing editor, leads a group made up mostly of art majors who are interested in film and performance.

Wright applied to be a first-year coach because he liked the idea that he’d be able to give new Longwood students a sense of direction. With his access to the professional studio equipment—what he likes to call his “playground”—he knew he could give his group something tangible that they could focus on and have fun with.

“Coaching groups are an interesting concept,” he said. “It’s this idea of creating a non-curricular experience that allows students to come together and create a sense of belonging in their freshman year that is not necessarily tied to a faculty member they deal with on a daily basis. If they have questions, I’m a point of contact for them to go through to help them work out those problems.”

Dr. Emily Heady, senior director of student success and retention, said the coaching-group model is a best practice in use at a number of colleges and universities, but Longwood is one of the few to offer it to all incoming students. There are some early indications that the implementation of the coaching groups has been a success, including a significant reduction in the overall number of freshmen who ended

their first semester on academic probation.

The coaching groups are built around shared interests. The majority of students in Wright’s group—16 out of 18—are graphic and anima-

tion design majors. They were placed in his group because they all said they had an interest in film and movies in a survey prior to orientation.

After meeting for the first time and learning they had access to the broadcast studio, the students decided that filming a sketch comedy show would be a fun project for their group to undertake. They decided to meet weekly to brainstorm ideas and write content, and spent close to two hours in the studio filming three sketches for their initial episode of “Skit Happens.” They filmed two subsequent episodes during the rest of the fall semester. In addition to writing the scripts, they got experience running the cameras and sound boards, and also gained exposure to some of the video editing process.

The students had so much fun with the project, they continued their group into the spring semester and have been working on an additional episode of the show. They also plan to form an official club on campus. They’ve already picked a club name—Studio 105, which is the room number of the broadcast studio in French Hall.—*Lauren Whittington*



Clint Wright (right), broadcast studio managing editor, is the coach for a group of freshmen who have a shared interest in film and movies. As an outgrowth of their coaching group, these students created an improv show called ‘Skit Happens’ that they write, act in, film and edit.

Hiba Abu Chabke '19

Profit and Nonprofit

Art students sell their work, sharing proceeds with scholarship fund, food bank

Call it a taste of business school for art students.

More than 700 handcrafted items made by students and alumni went up for sale at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts at the end of the fall semester, not only offering the community unique gifts for the holiday season but also giving students an opportunity to raise money for a scholarship and a community donation.

Students in the studio arts program sold their own work, raising more than \$4,000, which was shared with a newly created student scholarship and a donation to FACES, the local food bank.

"I'm very proud of my students for pushing through adverse conditions this semester after our regular studio space was damaged by Hurricane Michael," said Adam Paulek, asso-



ciate professor of art who leads the ceramics program. "They have all risen to the occasion and found the kind of perseverance that they'll need as they develop as artists. The art itself is top-notch, and I'm proud of them for donating much of the proceeds to scholarships and a

worthy organization in town."

The Longwood student art sale is a well-established annual event, but this is the first time the proceeds have gone toward funding the Student Collective Arts Scholarship. Nearly \$1,400 of art sales went toward the scholarship, and \$500 went to the food bank.

"Selling artwork is part of the curriculum in the studio arts at Longwood," said Angela Bubash, associate professor of art who leads the metalsmithing and jewelry program and helped organize the show. "All students in the design in craft program understand that selling their art is

part of being a working artist, so this is a great opportunity for them. But it doesn't end there. This is an important part of our outreach into the community, showing off the skills of our students to a wider audience."

Quality Time

Research project looks at impact of activities that bring families together

It might be an easy peanut butter bird feeder made from ribbon and cardboard tubes. It might be making cookies.

These are examples of the projects some Farmville-area children have been taking home in their backpacks as a way to encourage families to sit down and spend time together, creating extraordinarily valuable involvement that many families say they just can't seem to find time for.

During the last year, Longwood students have been sending home pre-packaged family activities to area Head Start classes and collecting data on whether those families feel closer to each other.

"The biggest thing parents say is they don't have the time to engage with their children as much as they want to," said Kayla Barner '19, who is analyzing the data and will present key findings at a conference in April. "We designed these activities to specifically address that challenge, and we're using the data to make them even more effective."

The multiyear project run by Dr. Lee Bidwell, professor of sociology, and Dr. JoEllen Pederson, assistant professor of sociology, involves multiple students and will culminate in some of them, including Barner, presenting at the Virginia Social Science Association conference this April.

The project began three years ago when Pederson and Bidwell embarked on a needs assessment in the community looking at family involvement. Using data gathered from parents and teachers in Prince Edward County, the professors and students took two tracks: developing and gathering data on easy, age-appropriate family activities within the Head Start community, and developing activities for parents and children at Madeline's House, a local domestic violence shelter. In all, more than 80 students in three classes took part in the research project.

Haley Schultz '21, a psychology and sociology double major and member of the Corm-



Dr. JoEllen Pederson (left) and Dr. Lee Bidwell are wrapping up a three-year research project that involved more than 80 students.

ier Honors College, has adapted the family activities for distribution at Madeline's House, where children deal with "adverse childhood experiences" like witnessing intimate partner violence.

Those activities, revolving around things like gardening and cooking together, and creating string art, done in safe, stable, nurturing relationship environments, help children build resilience in dealing with some of the trauma they have experienced, said Schultz.—*Matthew McWilliams*

Territorial Imperative

Brock Experience will take students to Puerto Rico



Next year, groups of Longwood students will travel to Puerto Rico—a Caribbean territory that has been the subject of intense debate since a devastating hurricane struck the island in September 2017.

While there, they will ponder the question of what responsibilities the United States has to its territories—and, by extension, broader, interdisciplinary questions about what it means to be American and the nature of our compact with one another as citizens.

The course is the newest Brock Experience, a growing series of immersive, citizenship-focused courses at sites around the United States made possible by a \$5.9 million gift from Joan '64 and Macon Brock in 2016. This latest offering—complementing nearly a half-dozen other Brock courses already existing or in the pipeline—will be developed by Dr. Melanie Marks, professor of economics. Receiving the two-year faculty fellowship to

Before Hurricane Maria, many were unaware that Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States.'

—DR. MELANIE MARKS,
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

develop a Brock Experience is one of the top honors for a Longwood professor.

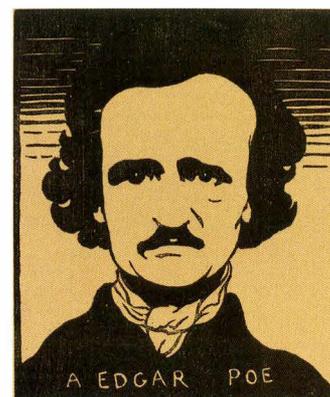
There are no easy answers to the questions surrounding the status of Puerto Rico—and that's a big part of what defines a topic for a Brock experience. On the ground, Longwood students will interview Puerto Rican residents about their perceptions, visit local schools and businesses, and talk with officials to explore these questions more fully and dive into the civic—and uniquely American—debate.

At no time was the issue of the United States' responsibilities to its territories in higher relief than when Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm, took deadly aim at Puerto Rico, devastating the island. Storm damage was estimated at more than \$8 billion. Recovery has been slow and beset by numerous problems, both political and structural.

On the U.S. mainland, a debate played out in the press over what the responsibility of the United States government was to the citizens of Puerto Rico, amid some misconceptions about the role of the territory in American society and government.

"Before Hurricane Maria, many were unaware that Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States," Marks wrote in her proposal. "Puerto Ricans travel freely to the mainland, pay Social Security taxes, participate in Medicare and are subject to federal law. Yet they have their own constitution, no electoral votes in presidential elections and Congressional representation is nonvoting."

CrashCourse



ENGL 215: Virginia Literature

Instructor

Dr. John Miller, associate professor of early American literature

What They're Reading

John Smith, *The Generall Historie*; Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*; John Pendleton Kennedy, *Swallow Barn*; Edgar Allan Poe, *Tales*; Thomas Nelson Page, *In Ole Virginia*; Ellen Glasgow, *The Romantic Comedians*; Edward P. Jones, *The Known World*.

Present Meets Past

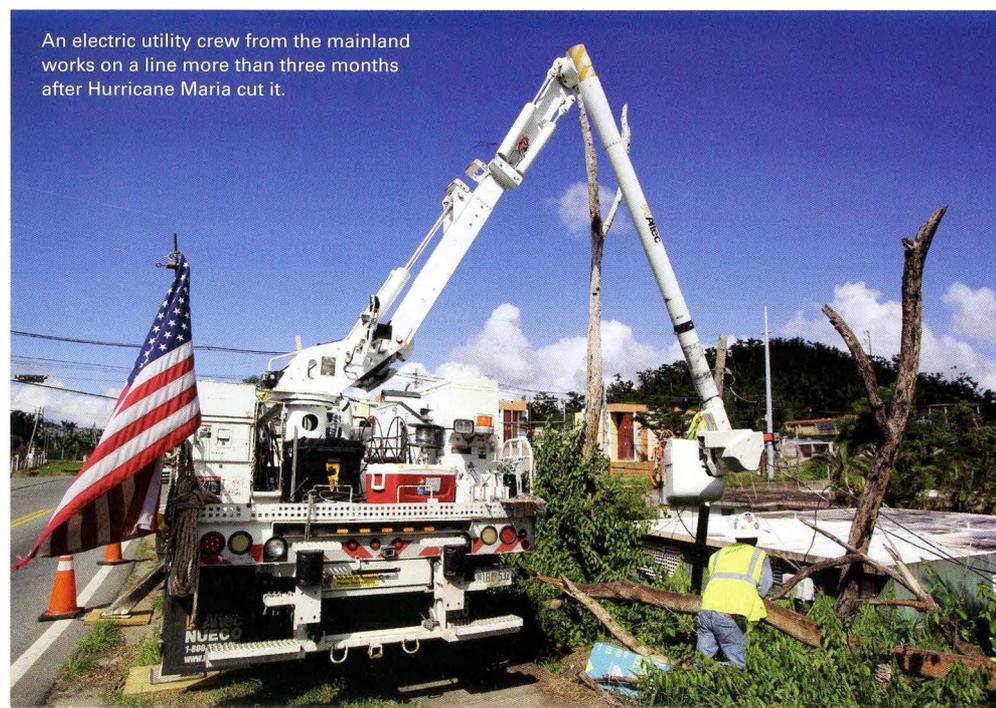
Students often find relevance to their own lives in these historic texts, making them more meaningful. They explore the influence on present-day Virginia culture by asking questions: Why do our heroes still echo John Smith? How are we still entertained by the Gothicism perfected by Poe? What aspects of Longwood's curriculum fulfill Jefferson's vision of public education?

Fresh Perspective

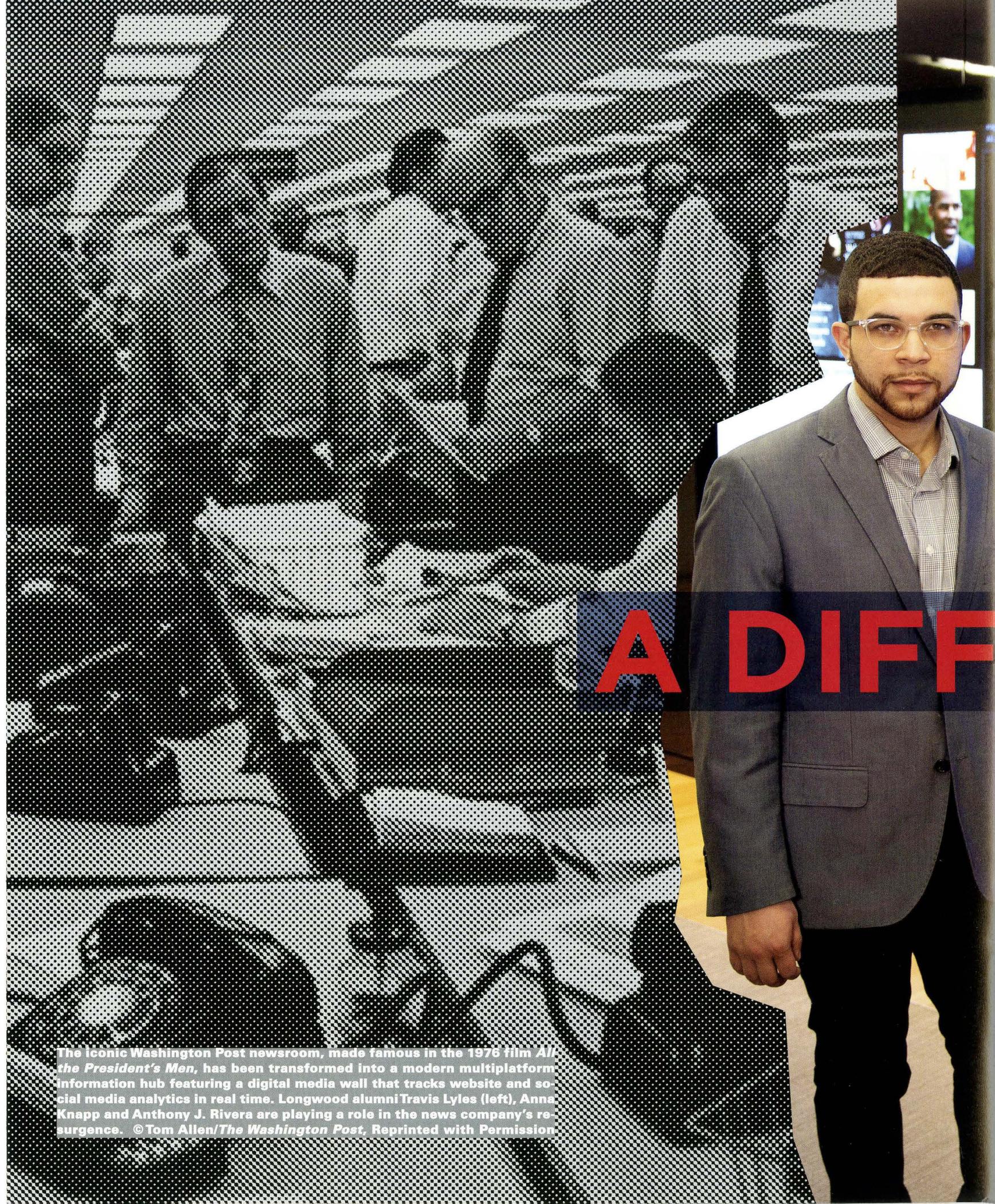
Miller had taught a version of the class before, but it was focused more on literature. "The outcomes associated with the new Civitae curriculum allow us to investigate more creatively and thoroughly the links between the literature and the history of the commonwealth," he said.

Lasting Legacy

As conversations continue about Confederate monuments in cities and towns across the South, Miller's class begins the conversation in historic texts. "Analyzing the legacy of 19th-century texts set on plantations allows us to explore the literary roots of 'The Lost Cause,' that nostalgia for an imagined pre-Civil War society that also fueled the building of so many of the Confederate monuments that are the center of controversies today," he said. "We're able to explore what those monuments meant to the people who built them and the psychological investment that their defenders have in them today."



An electric utility crew from the mainland works on a line more than three months after Hurricane Maria cut it.



A DIFF

The iconic Washington Post newsroom, made famous in the 1976 film *All the President's Men*, has been transformed into a modern multiplatform information hub featuring a digital media wall that tracks website and social media analytics in real time. Longwood alumni Travis Lyles (left), Anna Knapp and Anthony J. Rivera are playing a role in the news company's resurgence. © Tom Allen/*The Washington Post*, Reprinted with Permission



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United Kingdom	4,953	(2%)
India	2,324	(0.76%)
Germany	2,308	(0.75%)
Mexico	1,366	(0.45%)
Netherlands	1,147	(0.37%)
France	1,065	(0.35%)
Sweden	962	(0.31%)
Australia	732	(0.24%)
Other	14,369	(5%)



ERENT WORLD

BY LAUREN WHITTINGTON

**LONGWOOD ALUMNI
AT THE VENERABLE
WASHINGTON POST
ARE THRIVING IN THE
MIDST OF A REVOLUTION
THAT HAS SHAKEN
THE NEWS INDUSTRY
TO ITS CORE**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON WONG

Nothing compares to the pure adrenaline rush **TRAVIS LYLES '15** gets when he's about to tweet breaking news to 13.3 million followers. Especially when it's exclusive.

Such was the case on an otherwise slow news Sunday in September 2018 when Lyles, a social media editor at the *Washington Post*, wrote a breaking news tweet that he knew would instantly go viral—getting tens of thousands of retweets.

The *Washington Post* had an exclusive interview with Christine Blasey Ford, the woman who accused then-Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault three decades earlier. The California professor was speaking publicly for the first time, and Lyles would be the first to tweet the story to millions of people around the globe.

He crafted a series of tweets that would go out from the *Post's* primary Twitter account. Then he waited to hit the Tweet button.

"My heart was beating very fast," he said. "I remember that day as being very surreal because I got to handle that story, which compelled news coverage for the next two months."

Lyles is among a handful of Longwood alumni who work at the *Post*. He and **ANTHONY J. RIVERA '03** are part of a burgeoning digitally focused newsroom that has been transformed in recent years and reoriented to focus on multimedia storytelling.

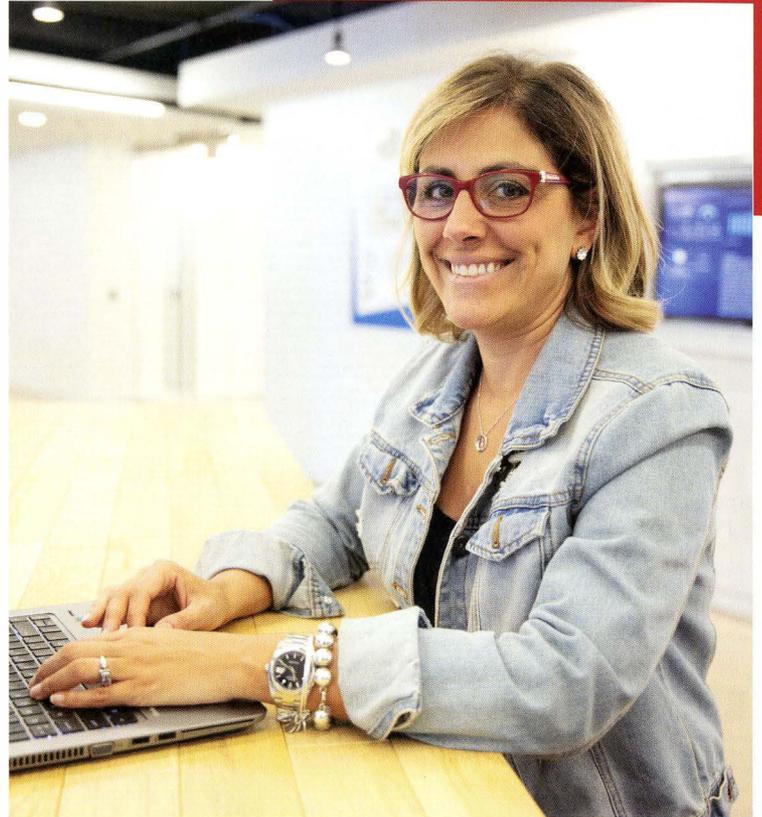
A NEW AGE OF JOURNALISM

Founded in 1877, the *Washington Post* is enjoying a resurgence under the ownership of Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, who purchased the paper from its longtime owners, the Graham family, in 2013. In 2017,

It's been a roller coaster. We went through a dip, **BUT NOW WE ARE IN A GROWTH TRAJECTORY. IT'S A REALLY EXCITING TIME.'**

—ANNA KNAPP '97

the newspaper more than doubled its digital subscriptions and grew digital advertising revenue, turning a profit for the second consecutive year despite the challenging overall landscape for the media industry.



Anna Knapp is a global media account manager responsible for advertising sales across all of the *Post's* platforms in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast region.

The news business has struggled to adapt to the loss of print advertising and the digital media revolution over the past decade—with many newspapers closing and others facing layoffs and marching orders to do more with less.

But, in that landscape, there are Longwood alumni like Lyles who are thriving in the new multimedia age, from the *Post's* newsroom in downtown Washington, D.C., to television stations and community newspapers from Suffolk to Danville to Norfolk [see stories on Pages 15-17]. These journalists are delivering pertinent news and holding government officials accountable at a time when many say it has never been more important.

"It's been a roller coaster," said **ANNA KNAPP '97**, who has worked in advertising and marketing at the *Post* for more than two decades. "We went through a dip, but now we are in a growth trajectory. It's a really exciting time."

BREAKING NEWS

Between 2004 and 2018,

62 DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND 1,749 WEEKLIES—

20% of the total in operation in 2004—closed or merged.

—THE EXPANDING NEWS DESERT/UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Knapp is a global media account manager responsible for advertising sales across all of the *Post's* platforms in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast region. During her tenure, she has managed and grown a \$12 million account portfolio.

But in an industry where paying your dues has historically been a requirement of getting a foot in the door, she began where many in the news business do—at the bottom. Her first job at the *Post* was as an intern in the circulation department call center.

“You had to be in your seat by 5:30 a.m. and ready to take calls from subscribers, most of whom were complaining about not getting their newspaper,” she said.

Twenty years later the *Post* still has print subscribers, but news is more often delivered to their electronic devices via push alerts, email and social media channels than it is to their physical doorstep. The *Post's* rebirth has been driven by keeping a focus on traditional journalism while being innovative in how the news is presented and disseminated—that's where Lyles and Rivera are on the front lines.

CHANNELING THE NEWS

When Bezos took ownership of the *Post*, one of his first initiatives was launching a new, more visual mobile app. Rivera was hired as a digital producer in 2015 to work on curating content primarily for the app. Now a multiplatform editor, he is part of the team that curates and copy edits news that is pushed out to the app and also to platforms like Apple News.

“News is treated differently for the mobile app vs. the homepage,” Rivera said. “It's a different experience for the user. It's much more visual.”

IN THOSE WHITE-KNUCKLE TIMES, WHEN I KNOW WE'VE GOT BIG BREAKING NEWS, that's the part of the job that's rewarding.'

—ANTHONY J. RIVERA '03

He creates some original digital content as well and occasionally writes longer feature stories for the newspaper. In 2016, Rivera wrote a week-ahead briefing focused on the presidential campaign that was exclusively for Apple News.

Unlike Lyles and Knapp, Rivera took a less traditional path into journalism and working at the *Post*. An English major, he took creative writing classes at Longwood and worked for the writing lab, but he didn't envision becoming a journalist. It was five years after he graduated from Longwood that he began thinking about a news career.

“Something clicked in my head and I said, ‘I want to write,’” said Rivera, who had always had an interest in politics and current events. “I really wanted to tell a story and get down to the truth of something. I just felt this sudden draw to go into journalism.”

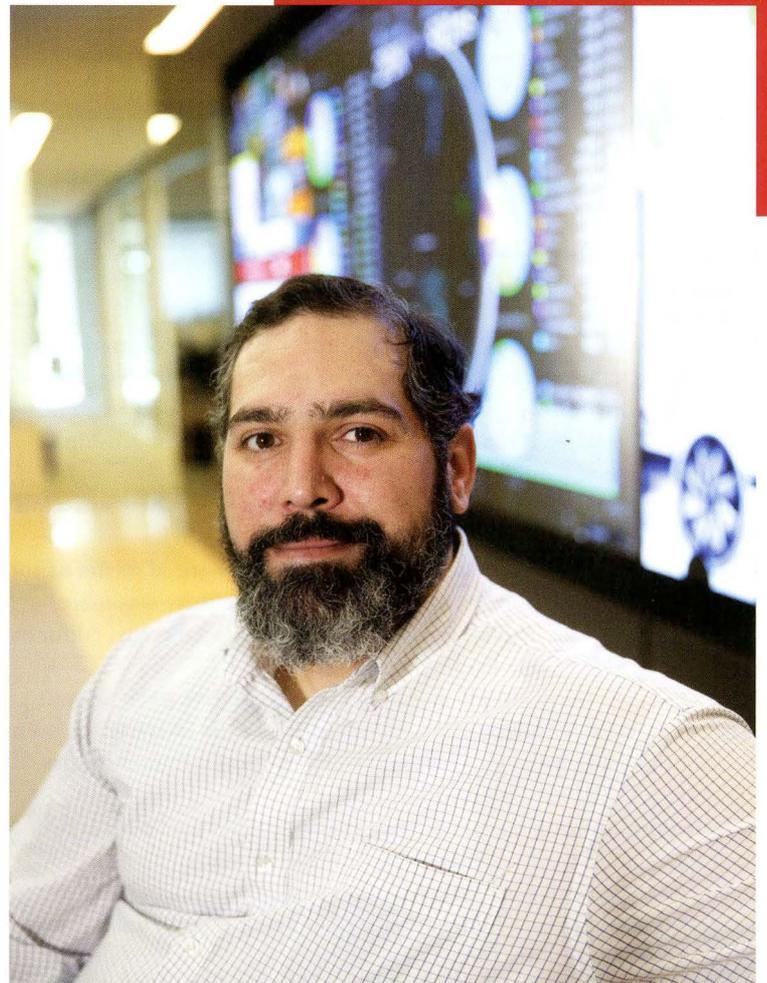
While bartending and writing a blog about the D.C. bar scene, he decided to get a master's degree in journalism and public policy at American University. That led to an internship and freelance job on Capitol Hill working in radio production, where he spent close to a year interviewing members of Congress and helping to write the first draft of history. Now instead of chasing lawmakers to gather news, he's pushing breaking news alerts out to millions of mobile devices. It's a similar adrenaline rush, and he's hooked.

“In those white-knuckle times, when I know we've got big breaking news, that's the part of the job that's rewarding,” Rivera said. “I'm constantly telling myself I can't believe I'm here and getting to be part of what's happening in the newsroom.”

Lyles feels the same way.

The *Post* creates roughly 500 pieces of content a day, including long- and short-form stories, videos, podcasts and breaking-news alerts. As a social media editor, Lyles' job is to decide how to best disseminate that content on social platforms. He is part of the six-person core social team that runs the publication's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

ANTHONY J. RIVERA '03



After bartending and writing a blog, Anthony Rivera earned a master's degree in journalism and public policy at American University. In 2015, he went to work for the *Post*, where he is a multiplatform editor.

“We have 13.3 million Twitter followers, 6.2 million followers on Facebook and 1.6 million followers on Instagram,” Lyles said. “A lot of people are relying on us to get their news. Our job is to react to news as it happens and get it out as quickly as possible.”

Just a decade ago it would have been hard to imagine that a 25-year-old would be making editorial decisions about how the *Post’s* content is disseminated, which is what Lyles is doing as he reads headlines and stories and then decides where to put them on social media.

About a third of Lyles’ time is spent managing the *Post’s* Instagram account, which has doubled its followers since he took over. When he was hired in 2017, he was given a mission to devise a new strategy for the account. Lyles decided to focus more on news photos instead of photography associated with feature stories.

“If you look at our Instagram account, you’ll know just about everything you need to know about the news that day,” Lyles said. “My goal is for it to be our best photography and videos, and it’s really working for us.”

Journalism is more important now than ever, whether it’s national news or local. **THERE AREN’T MANY THINGS YOU CAN DO THAT ARE MORE CRUCIAL TO DEMOCRACY THAN BEING A JOURNALIST.’**

—TRAVIS LYLES ’15

CRUCIAL TO DEMOCRACY

Lyles, who was a communication studies major with a concentration in digital media, always knew he wanted to be in the news business. He traces his affinity for breaking news to his years at Longwood when he worked on *The Rotunda* staff. After graduating, he got an internship with *Business Insider* in New York. That led to a full-time job blogging about business news in the entertainment industry. Then there was a job opening for a social media editor.

“I had to make a decision whether I wanted to be a social media editor or if I wanted to be a reporter,” Lyles said. “I felt like there was more opportunity in social media.” He was later hired as social media editor at the *Virginian Pilot* before landing at the *Post*.

A decade ago, the positions that Lyles and Rivera have today weren’t found in the news business. The rapid evolution of the industry has been both exciting and challenging for Longwood’s communication studies program.

“As seniors, our students are often applying for jobs that didn’t exist when they started their college careers,” said Jeff Halliday, an associate professor in the department. To keep up, the department’s faculty changed the way the communication studies major is structured, significantly tweaking the curriculum.

“It is really a unique time for teaching media,” Halliday said. “It is fascinating to watch and to help our students identify their niche in a market that’s continuing a rapid transformation.”

It’s still a tumultuous time in the news business. In January, about 1,000 jobs in media were lost as the result of layoffs at BuzzFeed, HuffPost and Gannett, the country’s largest newspaper chain.

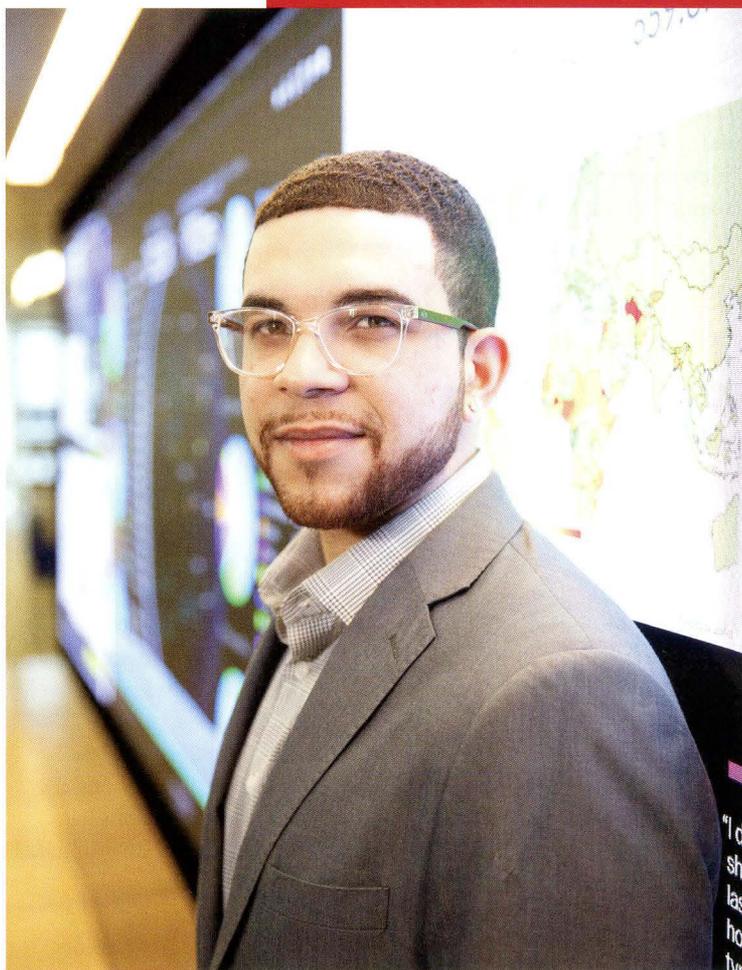
Knapp remembers rounds of buyouts and various restructurings at the *Post* over the past two decades and has seen the ebb and flow of the digital revolution through the advertising and marketing prism. The format and business model of traditional journalism is likely to change more in the future—with the nonprofit model increasingly being explored and tested.

Meanwhile, news executives, from billionaire media company owners like Bezos to the smaller local news publishers, are still adjusting and trying to find a formula that works.

Though Lyles, Knapp and Rivera followed different paths, they have similar advice to anyone interested in a journalism career today: be persistent, be nimble and be willing to embrace change.

“There are still a lot of journalism jobs out there and a lot of companies are hiring,” said Lyles. “Journalism is more important now than ever, whether it’s national news or local. There aren’t many things you can do that are more crucial to democracy than being a journalist.”

TRAVIS LYLES ’15



The adrenaline rush of tweeting the *Post’s* breaking news to 13.3 million followers never gets old for Travis Lyles.

Journalists in smaller markets play critical role in their communities

Whether it's working at the *Washington Post* or covering local news stories in communities around Virginia, many alumni journalists see their jobs as practicing one of the purist forms of citizen leadership.

"No matter what type of journalism you are in, it's a powerful tool to create change and to impact society for the better," said **HALLE PARKER '18**, who was editor-in-chief of *The Rotunda* while at Longwood. After graduating last year, she landed a job as the county government reporter for the *Danville Register & Bee*.

During her first week on the job, a 7-month-old was abducted by her father from a Danville gas station and taken to North Carolina. The baby was found two days later, and Parker scored her first big story when she got an exclusive interview with the child's mother about the ordeal.

"That's what you call being thrown right into the fire," Parker said.

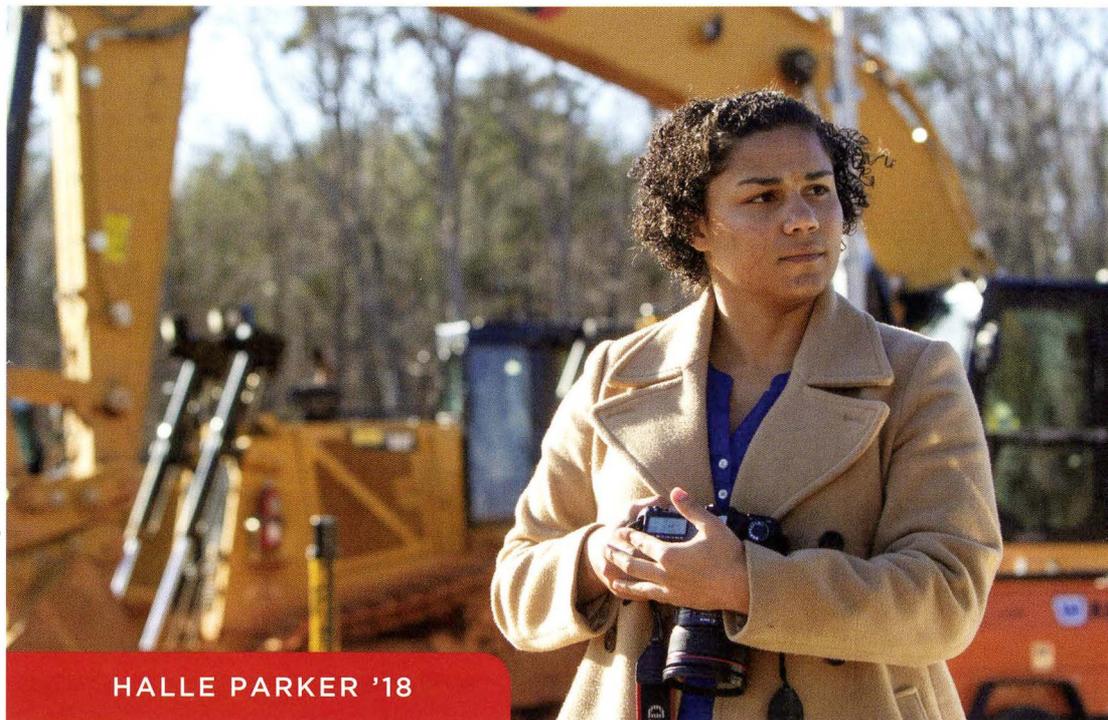
TRACY AGNEW COOPER '06, like Parker, began her career in local newspaper journalism shortly after graduating from Longwood. She was hired as a reporter for the *Suffolk News-Herald* in 2006, later was promoted to news editor and, in 2017, she became the editor.

"Community news is absolutely vital," Cooper said. "We are the ones who are there covering kids' sports and community events, and holding local leaders accountable."

She started at the Suffolk paper at a time when the newspaper business model was on the precipice of a major shift. News outlets were beginning to pay more attention to their online presence and websites, social media was in its infancy, and publishers were looking for ways to replace traditional advertising revenue after Craigslist virtually killed classified ad sales.

Her paper is one of the success stories.

"The *Suffolk News-Herald* is still going strong. Our readership has actually grown over the past few years—digital readership as well as print," she said, adding that print readership is 30,000, and the website regularly has more



David Duncan Photography

HALLE PARKER '18

than 100,000 unique visitors and gets 300,000 page views a month.

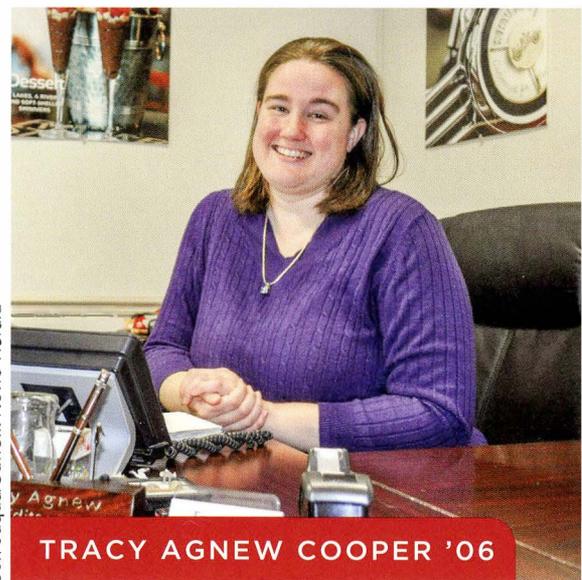
Still, local newsroom resources are tight.

In her short time with the Danville newspaper, Parker has seen the number of reporters shrink from four to three—in a five-person newsroom that once employed 20. Photographers were among those cut, so Parker is responsible for taking photos and sometimes video when she reports a story. Her versatility as a multiplatform reporter gave her an advantage in the hiring process.

"I have social media experience, too, so the managing editor sought my advice on how to make our social media more engaging," Parker said. "You have to make yourself as invaluable as possible in the current job market."

Despite the thinning resources, Parker said she is still hopeful for the future. She hopes to one day report from overseas as a foreign correspondent.

"I'm optimistic about the future of news because I know that people have to have it," she said. "I view journalism as a public service. There's always going to be a need for good storytellers."—Lauren Whittington



Jen Jaqua/Suffolk News-Herald

TRACY AGNEW COOPER '06

(top) Her assignments as a reporter/photographer for the *Danville Register & Bee* take Halle Parker far afield. She's one of three reporters at the paper, where the newsroom staff has shrunk from 20 to 5. (above) Tracy Agnew Cooper has risen from reporter to editor at the *Suffolk News-Herald*, whose print readership has grown to 30,000 over the past few years.

Alums make the news must-see TV

AUTUMN CHILDRESS '18 grew up in the TV news business—literally. As a child she would sometimes wake up at 3 a.m. to go to work with her mother, a morning news anchor at the local ABC affiliate in Richmond.

"I'd sleep under her desk until it was time to go on air," Childress said. "Then she'd wake me up, and I'd watch her do the news. I knew that it was cool, and I really wanted to do it."

Her career choice was sealed when she arrived at Longwood and took Professor Jeff Halliday's intro to public speaking course. She decided she wanted to follow her mother's footsteps into a broadcast TV career. Four years later, that's exactly what she did.

Childress started her job as a dayside reporter at WHSV in Harrisonburg just weeks after graduation. On a typical day she turns around two stories for air by 5 p.m., which she shoots and edits herself. She's also responsible for writing web stories and coming up with additional web-exclusive content.

Halliday, an associate professor of communication studies, cites Childress as an example of Longwood's ability to prepare graduates for journalism careers. "If you come here to be a journalist, you can be a journalist," he said. "It's very possible if you work hard."

Longwood's communication studies program, which traces its modern origins to the late Dr. Bill Stuart, has roughly doubled in size since Halliday was hired as the university's first full-time media professor in 2007. There are currently more than 200 students in the major.

"It's exciting to see how many people who cut their teeth here are leading really fulfilling careers in the news business," said Halliday, a former TV sports anchor and reporter, and former radio talk show host.

Childress arrived at Longwood at the same time a state-of-the-art \$1 million broadcast studio in a newly renovated French Hall was coming online. "It's a cornerstone of the digital media concentration, and I think it's a real jewel for the school," said Halliday.

By the time she graduated, Childress had shot, edited and produced two award-winning short documentaries and had a dynamic highlight reel to send to potential employers.

The resources available to Childress are in stark contrast to those that were available to **PHILIP TOWNSEND '06**, a two-time Emmy Award-winning journalist who was at Longwood more than a decade earlier and also majored in communication studies.

Currently the weekday co-anchor of the 4 p.m. newscast at WVEC 13 NewsNow, the ABC affiliate in Hampton Roads, Townsend recalls there was only one broadcast journalism class offered when he was a student, and he graduated without a résumé tape. He spent the summer after he graduated working to create a tape and eventually was hired as a production assistant at WVEC. He landed his first reporting job at WHSV in Harrisonburg—the same station where Childress now works.

Historically, getting a start in TV news involved cutting your teeth behind the scenes at a small-market station before you could get hired as an on-air reporter. But the old dues-paying system isn't as rigid today.

"When I first started, they would only hire reporters who had experience in other markets," Townsend said. "Now we have two or three reporters straight out of college."

Anchored by a strong cadre of faculty, Longwood's communication studies program is continually evolving to ensure graduates are competitive.

"The backbone of who we are as a program is making sure we are staying on target with professional expectations," Halliday said. "That includes changing and tweaking the course offerings so that our graduates stand out in the job market."

"Whether it's traditional news, or documentary filmmaking, or social media management, or public relations content, our students should graduate with the ability to do all of those things."

NATHAN EPSTEIN '11, a sports reporter for WAVY, the NBC affiliate in Portsmouth and Hampton Roads, has seen those changes firsthand.

"When I got into the business, everything that we did for the web was secondary and the



Autumn Childress followed in her mother's footsteps to a job reporting the news for television.

Courtesy of Autumn Childress '18

Philip Townsend has won two Emmys for his work in TV news.

Longwood Alumni in the Media

In addition to the alums mentioned in the preceding pages, many other Longwood alums work in the media. Below is a partial list.

Will Armbruster '10

Digital content manager, WRIC TV (Richmond)

Kyle Centers '10

Junior video editor, National Geographic

Farah Walton '10

Marketing consultant, Sinclair Broadcasting

Claire Turck '11

Manager, Digital Customer Care, Washington Post

Ashley Hodge '13

Staff writer, The Gazette-Virginian (Halifax County)

Michelle Goldchain '14

Web producer, Education Week (Washington, D.C.)

Kevin Green '14

Digital content producer, WAVY TV (Portsmouth)

Eric Hobeck '14

Assistant district manager, circulation, The Daily Progress (Charlottesville)

Nick Conigliaro '15

Morning news reporter, WRIC TV (Richmond)

Briana Adhikusuma '16

Business reporter, The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk)

Taylor O'Bier '16

Digital producer, WAVY TV (Portsmouth)

Ri'Shawn Bassette '17

Multimedia journalist, WALB TV (Valdosta, Georgia)

David Pettyjohn '18

Reporter, The News Virginian (Waynesboro)

If you are an alum and work in the media, Longwood magazine would like to include your information in the next issue's Class Notes. Please send your name, your graduation year, your job title and where you work, and any other information you'd like to share to browncs2@longwood.edu.

Ryan Bengford/WVEC 13

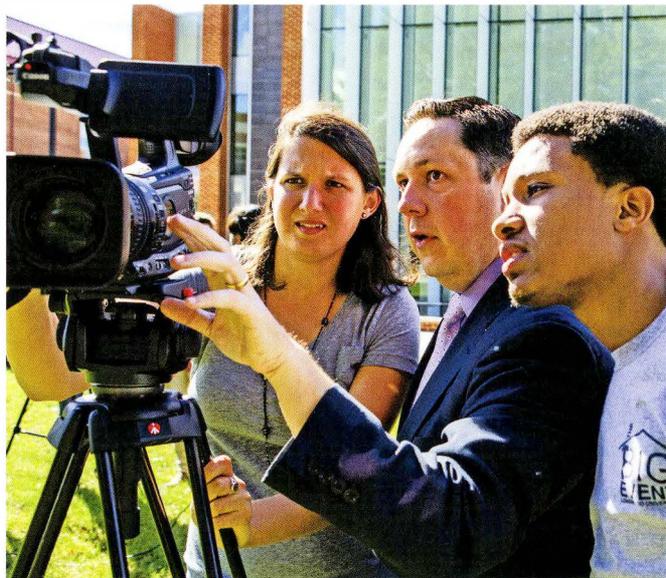
PHILIP TOWNSEND '06

on-air product was the primary focus," he said. "Now I think the on-air product is still first, but not by much."

Epstein arrived on campus at the same time as Halliday, who served as his mentor—a relationship that continues to this day. On occasion, Epstein returns to campus to visit one of Halliday's classes or to report a story, which he did recently when he covered Longwood's men's basketball team and first-year coach Griff Aldrich.

While the TV news business hasn't been hit as hard as print journalism, the industry faces similar pressures based on viewers' changing habits. Increasingly people are getting news exclusively from social media, and more and more consumers are ditching cable and satellite services—primarily watching streaming services instead.

"You have to be digitally minded to get into this industry now. It's not just about being



"If you come here to be a journalist, you can be a journalist," says Jeff Halliday (center), associate professor of communication studies at Longwood.

on TV," said Townsend, who did a stint at a station in Dallas before returning to Hampton Roads as an anchor in 2016. "I can't wait to show news to people at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. anymore. They want to see it on Facebook as soon as I have it." —Lauren Whittington

MA Shining Moment

Alumni recognized for their contributions to Longwood and their communities

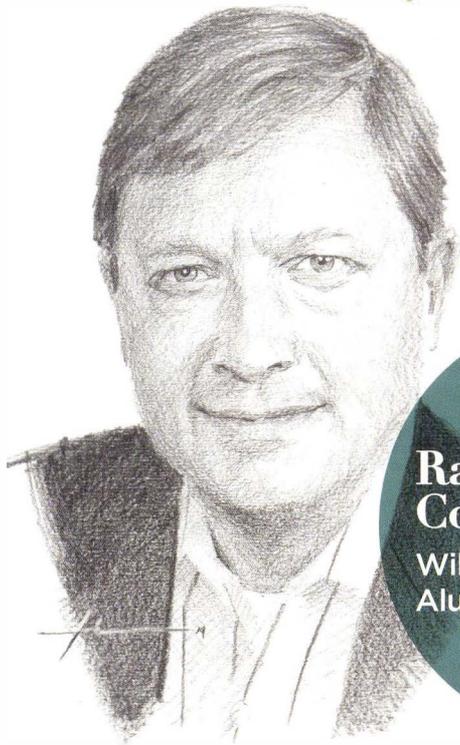
BY PATRICK FOLLIARD

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIKE THEUER

Surprised, but honored. That sums up how this year's six deserving recipients felt on learning they had been recognized in Longwood's annual Alumni Awards program. Together they have logged years of effort, service and invention, all working hard to add value to their communities. Additionally, they are uniquely connected by their love for Longwood University.

They range from a law enforcement officer to a librarian, and all have benefited from and significantly contributed to the university. Earlier this month, they joined the impressive roster of alumni and allies of the university who have been singled out for their dedication, professional success and big-heartedness since the awards program began in 1970.





Randy Copeland '86
William Henry Ruffner Alumni Award

“I’ve always liked to try new things,” said Randy Copeland, CEO of Velocity Micro, a privately held boutique computer manufacturer located in Richmond. “Those experiences have given me the skills to sink or swim. Fortunately, I’ve usually been able to swim.”

Speaking of sink or swim, Copeland had never been to the campus when he arrived to start classes at Longwood. His father’s plan was that he would major in biology and then go on to dental school. But when Copeland got a C in Organic Chemistry, he was advised to change his major to business. That’s when things began to click.

“I became excited about my business classes, made friends and, in my sophomore year, met my wife.”

After graduating, he went to work for his father, whose company manufactured plumbing products. Copeland started at the bottom, dragging heavy sacks of marble dust across the warehouse, but it wasn’t long until he rose to the position of salesman—the company’s first. On the side, he built and sold computers, an interest that would explode into a lucrative, gratifying business.

His original plan for Velocity Micro was to build CAD workstation systems for the kitchen/bath design industry. **The company soon took off, earning an Editors’ Choice award from prestigious PC Magazine for its high-end PCs and workstations.** Velocity Micro’s product line also includes Android tablets, external optical drives and monitors. Customers include retailers like Best Buy and Amazon as well as corporations, universities and government agencies.

In 2010, Copeland was invited to be a Longwood Entrepreneur in Residence. He shared his business philosophy—“I think being ethical is the best way to be more profitable”—mentoring business students and speaking to both large and small groups on subjects such as international business, marketing and business ethics.

His own college experience 20 years past, Copeland found the students weren’t that different.

“I noticed students were engaged in varying degrees. Some were very excited. They reminded me of myself in those days. Others not so much. You get out of school what you want. For me, that was a lot.” •

When Jean Ridenour Appich ’52 learned she was receiving an award, she thought a mistake had been made: “Certainly there must be people who’ve done more than me?”

But in conversation, she reveals a long history of service: For decades she helped organize class reunions every five years and alumni activities in between. She served on Longwood’s Foundation Board and on the Alumni Board as president. And then there were the fundraising and development efforts. But it all seemed more like fun than work, she said.

As a high-school senior, Appich already knew that that she wanted to teach physical education at the middle-school level in Richmond. She heard about Longwood’s reputation for job placement and applied.

“Two other girls and I lived on the second floor of Main building [now Ruffner Hall]. Our central location guaranteed lots of company,” she said. **From the start, she loved the physical education program, which taught her everything from coaching skills to modern dance.**

Shortly after graduating, Appich was married and moved to El Paso, Texas, where her husband was stationed at Fort Bliss. She didn’t stay long, however, returning that September to Virginia, where she went straight to work teaching physical education to seventh- and eighth-grade girls in Richmond.

The experience was a joy, but after two years she became pregnant with the first of her three children and had to stop working. “In those days a woman couldn’t teach past her fourth or fifth month,” she said. “I really missed it.” Over the years Appich volunteered with numerous organizations in Richmond, including the YWCA, where she helped with swim-

ming and other exercise programs. She also was an elder in her church.

Appich, who lives at Westminster Canterbury in Richmond, says she doesn’t get around as much these days. “But I was able to make my 65-year reunion. About 15 or 16 of us showed up, along with three husbands. We thought we were right cute,” she added with a chuckle. •



Jean Ridenour Appich '52
Page Cook Axson McGaughy Lifetime Loyalty Award



Judy Deichman '10
Thomas Jefferson
Professional
Achievement
Alumni Award

In the summer of 2015, Nottoway Middle School librarian Judy Deichman noticed that, even though the library was open, “the kids I really needed to reach weren’t coming.” She reasoned that the students may not have had a way to get to the library, which is located in Crewe, a rural area without public transportation.

Her solution: take the books to the students.

That same summer, she got a grant to pay for the books, but the county didn’t appropriate funds for a vehicle. Undaunted, Deichman went in search of wheels. A local preschool owner near her home in Chesterfield donated a 27-year-old small bus soon after. With help from school employees and parents, Deichman retrofitted it with bookshelves, signage and a P.A. system so music could announce its approach just like an ice cream truck.

When she climbed behind the wheel for the Nottoway Book-A-Way Summer Bookmobile’s maiden voyage in the summer of 2016, she learned that unairconditioned buses can be stiflingly hot. She pressed on, delivering books Monday through Thursday. The following summer, she added federal lunches for about 65 eligible students on her route.

“They’re glad to see the bus coming. It’s an important part of their day,” Deichman said.

And it’s just as important to Deichman—a realization she made one day when she was volunteering in the library where her five children attended school. “I thought to myself, ‘I love this. Libraries are where I’m meant to be.’”

She enrolled in Longwood’s librarianship program, a mix of online and face-to-face classes helmed by a pair of enthusiastic and accommodating professors. Two years later she had earned a Master of Education in school librarianship and found a position where she could make a difference.

Deichman, who received the 2018 American Association of School Librarians’ (AASL) Innovative Reading Grant, would like to see more bookmobiles on the road.

“It’s vital to prevent summer slide, especially for kids who’d otherwise have no access to the library during summer months.” •

Otis Brown likes to say that “Longwood is not out chasing other institutions’ rabbits. The university does what it can and does it right.” Though not an alumnus, Brown undeniably has played a role in shaping Longwood into what it is today.

He led the formation of the Longwood Real Estate Foundation, which, using the public/private partnership plan and bolstered by his leadership, allowed the university to expand off-campus, university-managed housing for students in both Lancer Park and Longwood Landings.

“A large part of the Real Estate Foundation’s early success was due directly to our excellent board members,” said Brown. “They had a good grasp of what the foundation should and should not do. If it didn’t make sense financially, then we didn’t do it.”

Brown served on the Board of Visitors from 2003-11, including a term as vice rector. And he was a member of the visionary committee that recognized the potential of Hull Springs Farm, a 662-acre property bequeathed to the university that is situated between two tributaries to the Potomac River and just a short distance from the Chesapeake Bay. Today Hull Springs Farm is a living, breathing outdoor classroom for budding scientists, archaeologists and conservationists—and more developments are on the horizon.

Brown’s connection with Longwood began while he was an undergraduate at the University of Richmond. “My wife is an alumna of Longwood, or Longwood College as it was known in those days. When we were dating, I’d drive out to Farmville to see her.” **Over the years, his attachment to Longwood has only increased.**

Gov. Mark Warner initially asked Brown to serve on the Longwood Board of Visitors. “Four years later, then-Gov. Tim Kaine asked me to continue, so I was involved as more than a casual person,” said Brown, a longtime Chesterfield resident.

He spent much of his career in public service to the commonwealth. In 1966, when he was just 32, he was appointed director of the Virginia Department of Corrections and Welfare. From 1972-77, he served as Virginia’s secretary of health and human resources. Following that, he consulted until 1989, when he took over the State Fair of Virginia and served as president for 15 years. •



Otis Brown
Horace Mann Honorary
Alumni Award



**Betty Andrews
Eike '65, M.S. '73**

**Nancy B. Shelton
Spirited Contributor
Award**

Officially a cataloging specialist in Longwood's Greenwood Library, Betty Andrews Eike unofficially doubles as an in-house historian. When co-workers from Special Collections and Archives need someone to identify people or places in old photographs, they go to Eike. Occasionally she remembers the face and not the name, but often she nails it.

Her knowledge is impressive but not surprising. After all, Eike has worked at the library for 50 years, and her campus association goes back even further. Most of her family either worked or graduated from Longwood. Eike, a lifelong Farmville-area resident, arrived at Longwood as an undergraduate in 1961, and, with the exception of two years when she taught in public school, she was on campus earning degrees and then working at the library.

In the 1970s, Eike rode her Honda motorcycle to work. Since then, she and the library have changed.

"When I started, we used the old card catalog. Now we have an electronic library system. The changes are vast and have been amazing to see. Today I catalog everything from traditional print material to multimedia and electronic resources like streaming videos and e-books," she said.

Eike remembers when the library moved to its present location in 1991. "That was hard work but terrifically exciting. **Administrators, faculty members, staff and students helped reshelve books in the new building.**"

Despite the changes, Eike's devotion to Longwood remains steadfast. The library is where she feels most effective and engaged. Eike has lost her husband, Gene, a well-known broadcaster in Farmville, and her immediate family. Now the library is her home, she said. "That's one reason I've stayed so long. You just don't give up on your family.

"Probably one day I'll keel over in the library, be stamped 'discard,' and rolled out with the other discards," she joked. Until then you'll know where to find her. •

For Officer Robert "Robby" Newman, a Roanoke city police officer and U.S. marshal carrying out high-risk warrants, each workday is different, but there are similarities: "You're dealing with a lot of people—some new and some you've seen before—who are experiencing what's often a crisis in their life. You have to be there to help them figure it out."

Community policing is part of the job, he said. "We're encouraged to interact with people in our area. This includes after-school homework programs and events for organizations like Big Brothers and Big Sisters. It fosters a positive relationship."

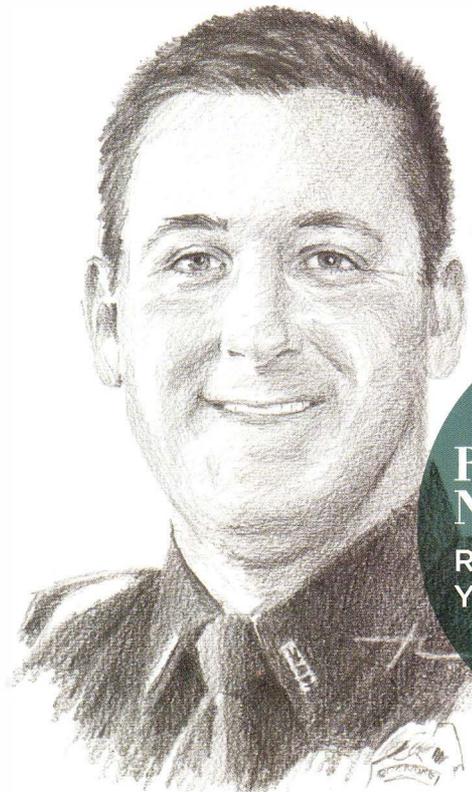
In addition to dealing with the public, Newman also helps in training new police officers and is a member of the tactical response team. Future goals include becoming a task force officer with the U.S. Marshals and later getting into command staff. "I never want to get too far from the streets. It may change here and there as circumstances change. That's something I'll re-evaluate as it comes."

He decided to pursue a career in law enforcement in his sophomore year at Longwood. It seemed a familiar and viable professional trajectory, he said. "It's really interesting to take what you've studied at university and apply it to real life. Sociology taught me a lot about people. And from criminology, I learned a lot about case law and the details of our justice system.

"But relationships are without a doubt the biggest thing I took away from Longwood, personally and professionally," he said.

He met his wife, Brooke, during their freshman year at Longwood. And as an outfielder on Longwood's baseball team, he shared a unique relationship while living, studying and playing with his teammates. Today, he counts these Lancers among his closest friends.

"When I first graduated from the Police Academy, I was most interested in high-speed chases," Newman said. "Today I consider intervening in young people's lives and making a positive impression on them equally as important." 🍓



**Robert
Newman '12**

**Rotunda Outstanding
Young Alumni Award**

A man in a white shirt and tie is peering over a bookshelf in a library. The bookshelf is filled with books, and the man is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a library aisle with more bookshelves.

QUESTIONS
Q&A
ANSWERS

Greenwood Library Dean
Brent Roberts will make
you forget everything
you thought you knew
about librarians

BY MATTHEW McWILLIAMS

Off The Shelf

We all know someone like Brent Roberts, but we don't always expect a quirky, colorful personality like his from a librarian.

He is well-known on campus for turning conversations and meetings into fits of laughter. (He'll sing his favorite *Hamilton* song—"Dear Theodosia," if you're wondering—at the drop of a hat.) He's also known to use his disarming humor to find allies for the constant stream of new ideas he and his staff have for making Greenwood Library a more integral part of the community.

One of those ideas was applying for a National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant, which aims to build a better community around reading one book. He's also deeply involved in the annual Virginia Children's Book Festival, which brings authors, illustrators and thousands of children to campus. And he's ushered in changes to make the library more accessible and useful for students.

We sat down with Dean Roberts to talk about the NEA Big Read grant and more.

Hello, Dean Roberts.

Hello, sir. It's a pleasure to be here on the Merv Griffin Show!

Let's first do a typical question all librarians get: What books are you currently reading?

I'm reading *The English Girl* by Daniel Silva on my Kindle—see, even librarians embrace technology. I've just finished *Where the Water Goes* by David Owen (because I'm involved in the Colorado River Brock Experience), *That We May Be One* by Tom Christofferson and a book called *Red Joan* by Jennie Rooney.

What's going on with the Big Read grant that everyone is talking about?

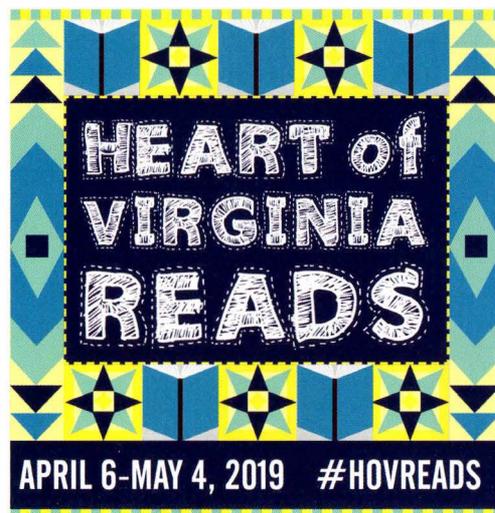
It's a huge deal. We got \$15,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to develop community-wide programming and discussion around the book *Burning Bright* by Ron Rash. The book is a rich tapestry of Appalachian history, culture, poetry and music all wrapped up in one collection of short stories.

What kind of programming is on tap, and what will it do for the community?

I hope it brings the community together to talk about current issues in our region. That's

really the purpose of the Big Read, using the book as a springboard. The reason we chose *Burning Bright* is that it deals with a lot of the challenges that Southside Virginia faces. The opioid crisis of the present, the Civil War of the past, poverty, alcoholism and drug abuse, arson—they are all there.

We'll have a great kickoff on April 6 at the farmers' market in downtown Farmville with some introductory discussion, demonstrations, live music, food trucks and distributions of the book. Then there will be more discussions throughout the month at various locations in town, dramatic readings, musical events and even a storyteller telling Jack tales at the public library. [Jack tales typically involve a young hero named Jack who must overcome the challenges of harsh mountain life using intelligence, bravery and, occasionally, trickery.]



'I hope it brings the community together to talk about current issues in our region. That's really the purpose of the Big Read... .'

— Brent Roberts, Greenwood Library Dean

You say often that you want Greenwood Library to be more than just a campus building.

What we are trying to do with the Big Read grant exemplifies what we are trying to do with the campus and the community in general. We are the most promiscuous library you have ever seen. We'll partner with anybody if it brings people together and raises the cultural life of

the community—for example, the Longwood Center for Community Music, Virginia Children's Book Festival, LCVA and the Department of English and Modern Languages. We are preparing true citizen leaders, armed with compassion, confidence and empathy to go forth into the world.

That last sentence would have been better with a third "c" word.

Communism? Coriander?

How are librarians involved in the classroom?

Librarians have played a key role from the very early stages in building our new Civitae core curriculum. Information literacy is a central aspect in both the Foundations level—most English 165 classes will have exposure to a librarian—but also in the Perspectives level. As a result, there are opportunities at every level in Civitae for students to interact with librarians and develop greater facility with navigating the information overload.

Tell me about information literacy.

Well, it's finding, accessing, evaluating and deploying information in a professional way. This goes back to President Reveley's discussion about the habits of democracy, so that people can come together and talk through their issues. I would add that one of the habits of democracy is information literacy. It doesn't do people any good to come together and talk unless they are well-informed and well-prepared with solid source materials.

You're a well-known history buff. Now that you've been in Virginia for three years, are there any sites still on the must-see list?

I haven't been to a lot of the Civil War battlefields. I'd like to visit Chancellorsville and Manassas particularly.

How many steps do you have to take when you walk into your house before you reach a bookshelf?

Well, there are books right inside the entryway, so about two.

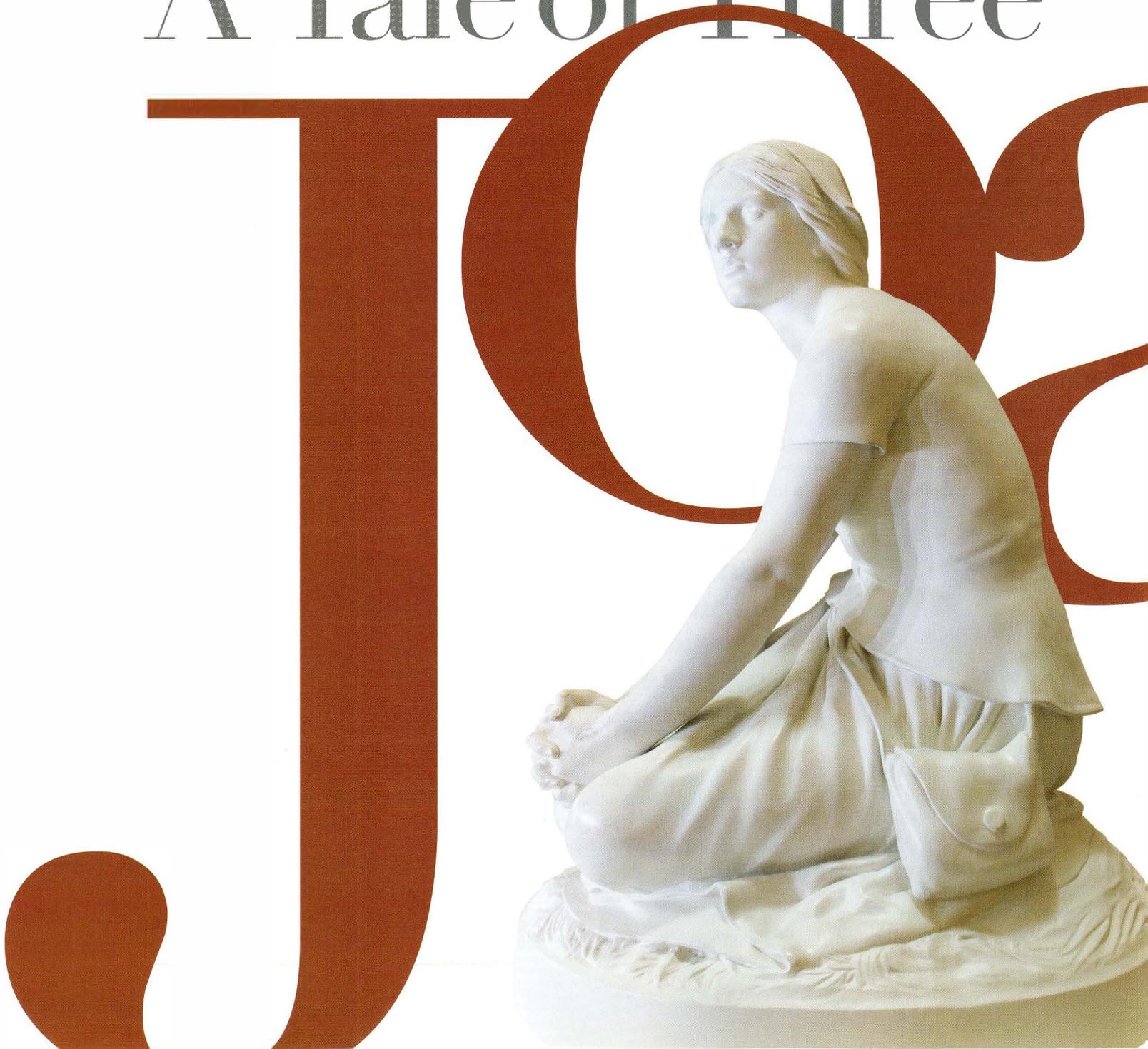
What's your favorite part of the day here?

Generally it's late afternoon toward the end of the semester. I can step out of my office, and the atrium is packed with people. Then I walk upstairs to group study, and every one of those tables is packed with young scholars. That's what really warms my heart! ☺

With monuments to the iconic figure from one end of campus to the other, Longwood has drawn inspiration from Joan of Arc for more than a century

BY MATTHEW McWILLIAMS

A Tale of Three





AIAS

Like many good stories, this one begins with a legend. Here's how it goes. It was 2001, and Ruffner Hall was on fire. The flames spread quickly in every direction. For everyone watching, it was as though the heart of Longwood was being destroyed. The fire spread quickly toward the historic Colonnades, where countless graduation pictures have been taken and CHI Walks initiated, and there was nothing to stop it.

Except there was. For there stood Joan of Arc astride her horse, sword held high—Joanie on the Pony—glowing bright red from the heat, fighting back the flames from burning more of her beloved college. And somehow, almost miraculously, the Colonnades were untouched.

As legends go, it's a pretty good one. But, of course, it would be Joan who kept the flames at bay. Joan the beloved patron hero of Longwood, the inspiration for students, forever the First Lady of Longwood.

A HERO FOR THE AGES

“Here she will stand for a thousand years,” said President W. Taylor Reveley, just before the newest statue to Joan of Arc was dedicated in November, more than a century after the first sculpture was placed under the Rotunda.

That the story of a French peasant teenager who helped drive the English out of France has survived for more than six centuries is remarkable. Perhaps even more remarkable is that the story continues to inspire devotion today.

She was only 19 when she was burned at the stake, having been turned over to the English and convicted of heresy and cross-dressing in a politically rigged trial. Her death was only two years after she arrived in Orleans, a French city that had been under siege by English forces for a year.

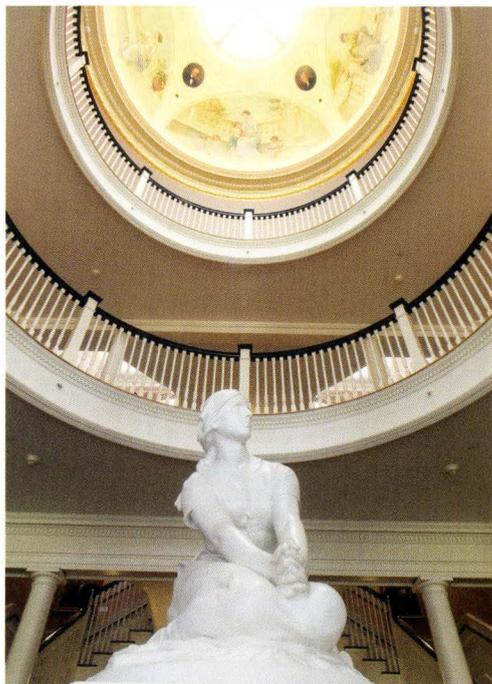
Claiming that God had instructed her to lift the siege, she led French forces to victory nine days later.

It’s a story of courage and faith and leadership, and one that resonated particularly strongly in the early 20th century, as women across the globe staked new ground for themselves.

A GIFT FROM THE CLASS OF 1914

In 1914, President Joseph Jarman was looking for a statue to put under the Rotunda. At the same time, Maria Adams Bristow Stark, class president, was looking for a subject for her commencement speech.

Longwood didn’t go looking for a heroine, but the time was ripe to find one. In 1914, women’s suffrage was in full swing across the country. Several states had already granted women the right to vote, and within five years Congress would pass the 19th Amendment. As the world erupted into global war, women found themselves in new roles.



Purchased as a gift by the Class of 1914, this depiction of Joan of Arc, affectionately known as Joanie on the Stony, is centered under the dome of the Rotunda. *Henri-Michel-Antoine Chapu (French, 1833-1891); Joan of Arc at Domrémy, 1870; cast by P.P. Caproni and Brother of Boston, 1914; plaster; collection of the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts.*

On campus, Stark, anxious about her upcoming commencement speech and, suffering from writer’s block, turned to her favorite English professor, Dr. James Grainger, for help. The pair took stock of the world and settled on a timely theme: Leadership of Women.

Stark could have used as a subject any number of women’s suffrage heroines: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul. Instead, for reasons we may never know, she chose Joan of Arc, who at that time was undergoing a worldwide resurgence. France had marked the 500th anniversary of her birth, and she was about to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

Quickly the choice became more than just a commencement speech theme.

“At the same time that I was struggling for a theme, the Senior Class was deliberating over an appropriate gift to the College,” Stark wrote in a letter years later. “Fortunately, we

had learned from Dr. Jarman that he had long wished to have a suitable piece of statuary for the Rotunda. After much research and several consultations with Dr. Jarman, the class of 1914, on his recommendation, decided that their gift to the College would be a statue of ‘Joan of Arc Listening to the Voices,’ as sculptured by Chapu.”

That summer, the seated figure of Joan of Arc, eyes gazing up at the heavens, hands clasped in pious prayer, her simple dress cascading in gentle folds onto the rock where she is resting, arrived on campus and was placed under the Rotunda. Soon she would be known on campus as Joanie on the Stony.

As an icon, Joan of Arc is the ultimate blank canvas, taking on all brushstrokes, often reflecting back what people want to see in her. She has, in fact, stood as a symbol for opposing forces throughout the last 600 years, sometimes simultaneously: French nationalism, French defeatism; the Catholic Church, opposition to the church; patriotism, emancipation; audacity, largesse; the far political right, women’s liberation; biblical literalism, LGBTQ+ rights. She’s Saint Joan, canonized by the same church that convicted and killed her five centuries before.

“She is both used and abused by a great many groups,” said Dr. Kelly DeVries, a professor of medieval history at Loyola University in Maryland, who authored a seminal work about Joan in 2011 and spoke at Longwood’s annual Medieval Conference that year. “Historically speaking, what we have is an incredibly brave, spiritually obsessed, devoted, zealous woman who changed history. It never happened that way before and hasn’t happened that way since. But her story is so powerful and so inspiring that a lot of different types of people see themselves in her, and that’s why she endures more than six centuries after her death.”

This is perhaps the most important realization in understanding how a 15th-century



“After much research and several consultations with Dr. Jarman, the class of 1914, on his recommendation, decided that their gift to the College would be a statue of ‘Joan of Arc Listening to the Voices’... .”

—Maria Bristow Stark, 1914 class president

Defining [Longwood's] identity and affirming itself as a college for women ... has a lot to do with why Joan of Arc not only was chosen in the beginning, but **why her story resonates so powerfully through generations of students.**

—Dr. Kat Tracy, professor of medieval literature



French teenager became the defining cultural touchpoint at a small teachers college in Southside Virginia. The women there saw something of themselves in her.

ANOTHER JOAN COMES TO CAMPUS

For 13 years, Joanie on the Stony presided over Longwood's women. Her central place under the Rotunda made her, practically, a landmark in the hub of daily campus life, which bred a deep familiarity with her figure. Students met at the statue before heading to the dining hall, between classes or before heading downtown. Unlike other women's colleges around the state that had the same Joan of Arc statue—Radford, James Madison, Mary Washington—the figure stirred something deep inside students at Longwood. Something that demanded more of Joan of Arc.

“Part of this puzzle is Longwood itself,” said Dr. Kat Tracy, professor of medieval literature at Longwood. “It’s the third-oldest public university in Virginia and has always been its own place, unaffiliated with any other university, so it was free to develop its own culture. Defining its identity and affirming itself as a college for women—especially with Hampden-Sydney right down the road—has a lot to do with why Joan of Arc not only was chosen in the beginning, but why her story resonates so powerfully through generations of students.”

An early note from CHI to freshman students illustrates just how campus burned with the intensity of feeling:

This your challenge. With the spirit of Joan as your guide, seek to grow in mental stature as you quietly contemplate the advice, the wisdom, the inspiration of your administration, your faculty, and especially of your friends—the upperclassmen, the girl next door,

the roommate ... Let the boundless faith of Joan permeate your life and spur you on to the highest endeavor. Dream, hope, plan with her, and with greater maturity go on to build the tangible out of your intangible dreams. To feel the spirit of Joan of Arc and to sense her vision of the ideal is to enlarge the spirit of the college and to watch it grow.

Enter Lucy Hale Overbey '27.

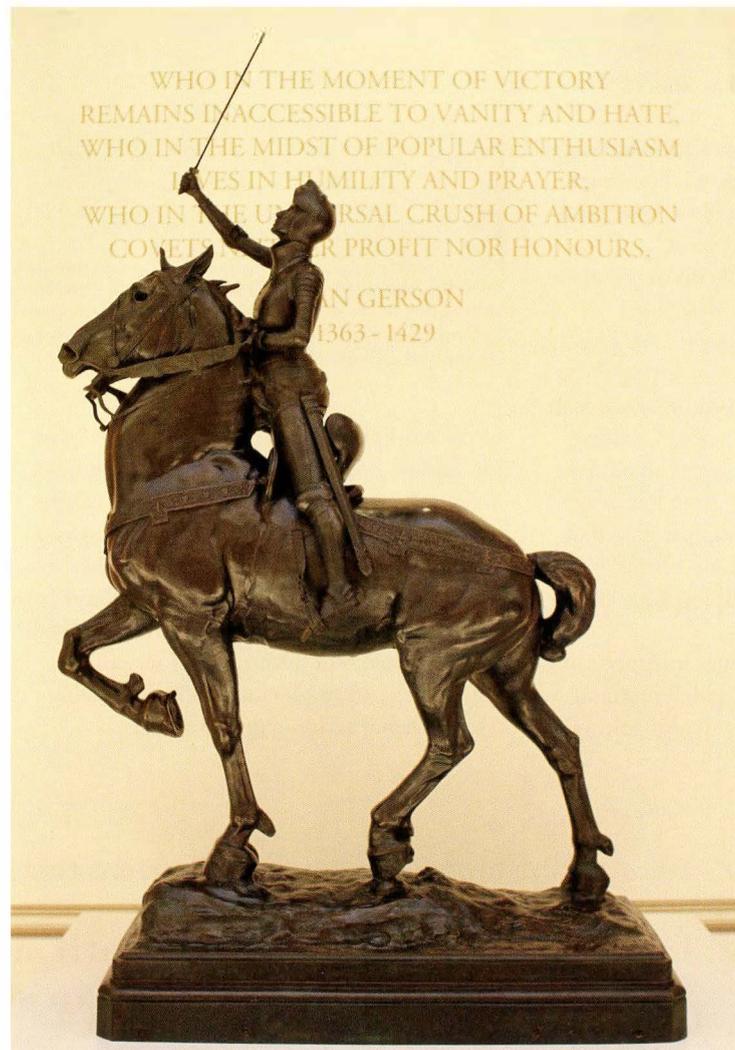
Since 1914, students like Overbey had devoted countless hours to the study and compilation of everything Joan of Arc. Hundred-page

scrapbooks were filled with clippings, original poetry, photos and postcards of their heroine. They professed their devotion to her example in lengthy Rotunda columns. They dedicated page after page of the *Virginian* yearbook to her spirit.

So strong was this devotion that Overbey and her fellow members of the Joan of Arc chapter of Alpha Delta Rho, a national service sorority, decided they simply must have another statue of their heroine on campus. The one that caught their eye was not an image of the pensive teenager they passed in the Rotunda every day, but of a strong, straight military hero.

What is most striking about the Joan of Arc depicted in Anna Hyatt Huntington's triumphant sculpture is not the scale, her position astride her horse or even her military armor instead of a dress. It's her posture.

Huntington's Joan of Arc is rigid, her legs and back ramrod straight in the saddle, arm pointing straight up with her sword extended. It's a marked departure from the soft and innocent teen girl contemplating



The Joan of Arc sculpture fondly known as Joanie on the Pony is a reduced version of the bronze 1915 monument *Joan of Arc* by Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington. Longwood's copy, based on a casting of Huntington's monument in New York City, was a gift from the artist in 1927 in response to a request from students. Huntington was one of the foremost American sculptors of the early 20th century. *Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington (American, 1876-1973); Joan of Arc, 1920; bronze; collection of the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts.*

angelic voices. This is a militaristic Joan, aggressive, sure of herself and her mission.

The sculpture inspired Overbey to write these impassioned words to Huntington in 1926:

“To raise [the money for the statue] means that we will have to make the greatest sacrifices we have ever made,” wrote Overbey. “However, each of us is fired with such a keen desire to have this statue that nothing can stop us... . And it’s your statue, Mrs. Huntington, that has inspired us... . We have studied every picture and every statue of Joan of Arc, and yours is the only one that represents the ideals of our Joan of Arc Circle.”

Huntington and her husband, an arts philanthropist, wrote back almost immediately with unexpected news: They would gift the statue to the small rural college. “My wife is happy in the thought that the Joan is to stand in your great state and among those whose devotion to ideals will make its dwelling with you a distinction to the sculptor and a tribute of honor to a great woman.”

In April 1927, the statue now known at Longwood as Joanie on the Pony arrived. Huntington spoke at the dedication, and the Joan legacy was cemented for the next hundred years.

The 13 years between Joanie on the Stony’s arrival in 1914 and Joanie on the Pony’s installation in 1927 hold the key to the phenomenon on our campus. It was during those years that the women of Longwood made Joan of Arc the object of ardent devotion, writing and dedicating themselves to her with a fervor unseen on other campuses housing her image.

It may have been her rural upbringing that linked her to Longwood women. Or her piety and devotion. Or her legacy as a strong, unbending woman.

“The 1920s saw swift changes in American life—growing cities, increasing diversity and expanding roles for young women in culture,



Sculptor Alexander Stoddart gave a campus lecture on the history of Joan of Arc in sculpture, including a discussion of one of the most famous depictions—Emmanuel Frémiet’s gilded 1874 *Joan of Arc* that sits in the Place des Pyramides in Paris. He also spoke about his own process for creating the Joan of Arc monument that stands at the southern end of Brock Commons.

in the workplace and in our democracy,” said Dr. Larissa Ferguson, provost and professor of history. “To students at the time, Joan of Arc inspired ideals of leadership, cooperation and service to their college and to their nation. I think you can read their enthusiasm about Joan as not only a reaffirmation of more traditional feminine values of devotion and service, but also a recognition of—and pride in—young women being active, engaged leaders.”

A JOAN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

For 50 years there they were: Joan under the Rotunda and Joan in the Colonnades (later moved to her current location outside Blackwell Ballroom).

They watched over countless CHI walks and commencement photos. They imparted luck to nervous test-takers. They provided the basis for the name of Longwood athletics’ teams: the Lancers.



“To raise [the money for the statue] means that we will have to make the greatest sacrifices we have ever made.

However, each of us is fired with such a keen desire to have this statue that nothing can stop us... .’

—Lucey Hale Overbey, Class of 1927



“She taught me what’s possible. It’s a concrete lesson that tasks that seem insurmountable aren’t necessarily so. **People saying “you cannot” is no reason to turn back.**”

—Marianne Moffat Radcliff '92

But perhaps most importantly, they became the continuity between generations, despite radical changes to the college: a shift to liberal arts education in the 1940s, explosive growth in student enrollment in the 1960s, the full admittance of male students in the 1970s and transition to Division I sports in the 2000s. Through it all, there was Joan.

In 2014, as architects and campus planners considered projects to shape Longwood for future generations, they decided to commission a large, dramatic piece of public art to be installed at the southern end of Brock Commons, tying that part of campus to the historic northern core. The subject of the monument was never in question. How could it be anyone other than Joan of Arc?

Renowned neoclassical sculptor Alexander Stoddart, who was chosen to create the newest Joan of Arc monument at Longwood—the third and largest sculpture, installed in November 2018 at the southern end of Brock Commons—was inspired by the commission.

“I got a complete vision of the monument instantly,” he said. “Very little has changed since that moment. It’s similar to a melody that a composer hears in his head: It comes out intact, and the composer tries to catch up to what already exists.”

Unlike the two Joans that have taken on iconic status in the last century, Stoddart’s Joan, while neoclassical in form, is intentionally of the 21st century. Her deliberate androgyny, unflinching power and forward-moving posture reflect a time when, globally, women are again staking new ground.

“She’s not meant to be cute or sweet,” said Stoddart. “She’s meant to be a daunting figure. I wanted to make her what we Scots would call

a bit *gallus*. There’s no real English equivalent, but it’s sort of self-confident, daring, even cheeky. Think Steve McQueen or James Cagney from those old movies. But if you think about it, she was a teenage girl in charge of 5,000 men. She’d have to be more than a bit *gallus* to pull that off. Look at what’s happening in the world today with *gallus* women taking charge of their own lives. I wanted Joan to reflect that.”

During the dedication in November 2018, when the Longwood community first saw the 15-foot-tall monument in full form atop its pedestal, it was Marianne Moffat Radcliff '92, Board of Visitors rector, who put her finger on the great lesson of Joan and why she has endured on campus.

“As tragic as her ending was, her accomplishments are nearly unmatched,” she said. “She taught me what’s possible. It’s a concrete lesson that tasks that seem insurmountable aren’t necessarily so. People saying ‘you cannot’ is no reason to turn back. These are life lessons worth learning.”

Perhaps that’s why 104 years after Joan of Arc first arrived on campus, she is as much a symbol of the university as the Rotunda itself, part of the fabric of the place, an inextricable cultural touchpoint for students and visitors.

Perhaps that’s why 104 years later, Joan of Arc is Longwood. If she is a blank canvas, generations of Longwood students have painted her blue and white, casting onto her their love and devotion to their alma mater. 🍷



Longwood’s newest sculpture of Joan of Arc, standing 15 feet tall, was installed in November 2018 at the southern terminus of Brock Commons. Alexander Stoddart (*Scottish, 1959-*); Joan of Arc, 2018; bronze.



Talent Scout

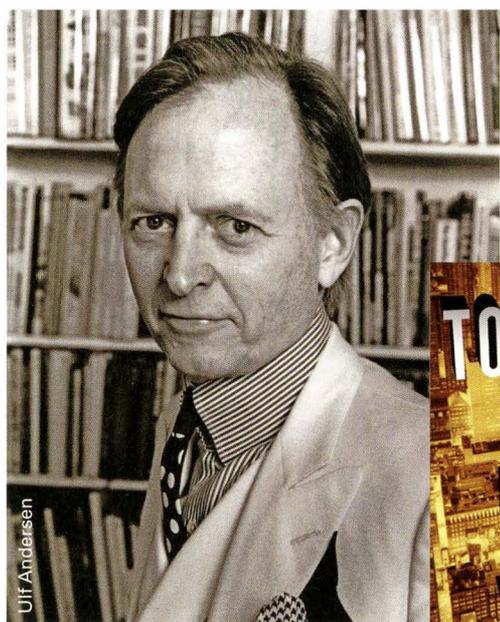
Dos Passos Prize is often first in line to recognize top American writers

BY MATTHEW McWILLIAMS

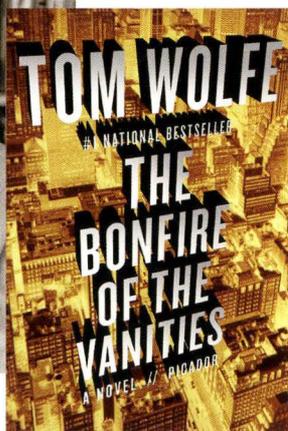
Tom Wolfe, Annie Proulx, Colson Whitehead. They are counted among America's greatest authors, their works achieving critical acclaim and a place in the syllabi of classrooms from sea to shining sea.

But before all that—when most of the world was just beginning to take note of their talent—they all came to Longwood. Why?

Tom Wolfe, shown here in 1988, had already won acclaim for his nonfiction works when he received the Dos Passos Prize in 1984 and was turning his writing talents to fiction. He went on to write *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, a best-seller published in 1987 and often called the quintessential novel of the 1980s.



Ulf Andersen

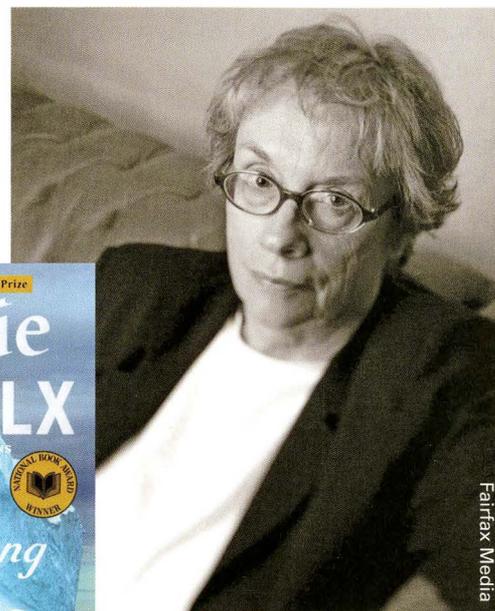


Since 1980, Longwood's Department of English and Modern Languages has been honoring American authors with one of the least well-known but most highly sought-after literary prizes—the John Dos Passos Prize. It's a coveted prize within the literary community because of the department's track record in tapping authors who then go on to win the top literary awards in the world.

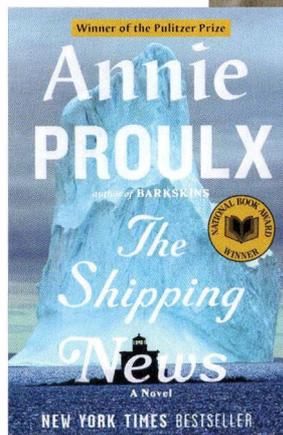
"We like to think of the Dos Passos Prize as almost the Golden Globes to bigger prizes' Oscars," said Dr. John Miller, professor of early American literature, who is on the award committee. "The Dos Passos recognizes qualities in writers that tend to draw the attention of other awards."

The Dos Passos Prize was created to honor one of the greatest and most overlooked authors of the 20th century, John Dos Passos, best-known for his U.S.A. trilogy.

It is given annually to a contemporary American author who has produced a substantial body of published work that displays characteristics of Dos Passos' writing: an intense and original exploration of specifically American themes, an experimental approach to form and an



Fairfax Media



Annie Proulx was named the Dos Passos winner in 1997 after publication of her National Book Award-winning novel *The Shipping News*, but before she received the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

interest in a wide range of human experience.

Dos Passos honorees include authors who have gone on to receive the Pulitzer Prize, Man Booker Prize, National Book Award (four times) and PEN/Faulkner Award. More than 10 Guggenheim Fellows also are among the Dos Passos recipients.

The 2012 Dos Passos winner, Colson Whitehead, spoke at Longwood just after the publication of his fifth book, *Zone One*. He

had been awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, commonly known as a “genius grant” a decade prior, but had yet to find national success. *Zone*

’63 who ensured its legacy by endowing the Carson and Sharon Coulter Gibb Fund, which provides much of the funding for the award.

Paul Beatty, the 2015 winner, took a more circuitous route to literary stardom. A slam poet in his youth, he garnered a great deal of attention for his spoken word renditions of his verse, but turned his back on that scene to explore novels. Almost 20 years after his first novel was released, however, the world took note when he published 2015’s Man Booker-winning novel *The Sellout*. In an interview

just before he spoke to a class of Longwood English students who had studied his work, he compared his novels to Dos Passos’ work.

“For me, the parallels really come in the structure and the freedom [Dos Passos] uses in writing—he just sticks all this intertextuality in his books and that stuff is great,” he said. “I remember reading *The*

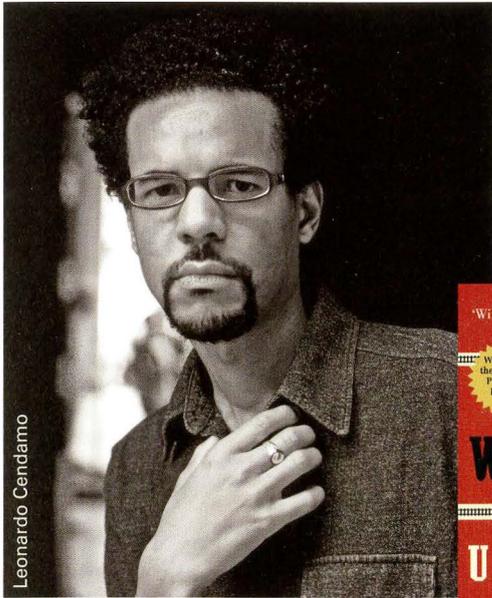
42nd Parallel when I was probably 23 or 24, and I said, ‘woah.’ It was dark and heavy and dense, and it really spoke to me. Part of the politics of it, in the decades before World War II, social justice was a part of everything. I have a German friend who is a historian who hates a lot of the literature that came out of the WPA and had a lot of these communist ties. I always tell her that in the States, it was a weird thing, but if that wasn’t tangential on some level to your life, there was something wrong with you in a lot of social circles. [Dos Passos’] novels and my work are both at least aware of that context.”

The 2018 Dos Passos recipient, Karen Tei Yamashita, will accept her award at Longwood on April 4. Yamashita is a novelist, short story writer and playwright who has been named a finalist for the National Book Award for fiction.

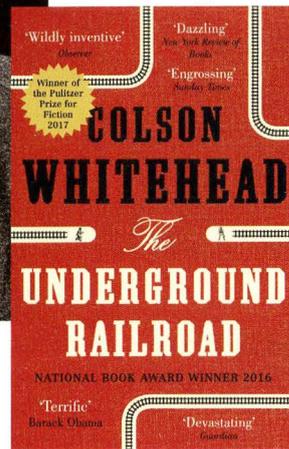
“Karen Tei Yamashita’s work is unique in its exploration of characters who live between cultures, nations and groups,” said Dr. David Magill, associate professor of English and chair of the Dos Passos Prize committee. “She challenges our preconceptions of identity and citizenship with narratives of community that stretch across physical borders and confound social categories.”

John Dos Passos Prize Winners

- Graham Greene, 1980
- Gilbert Sorrentino, 1981
- Robert Stone, 1982
- Dorris Betts, 1983
- Tom Wolfe, 1984
- Russell Banks, 1985
- John Edgar Wideman, 1986
- Lee Smith, 1987
- Shelby Foote, 1988
- Paule Marshall, 1989
- Larry Woidode, 1990
- Elizabeth Spencer, 1991
- William Hoffman, 1992
- Ernest J. Gaines, 1993
- James Welch, 1994
- Helena Maria Viramontes, 1995
- Annie Proulx, 1997
- Maxine Hong Kingston, 1998
- Eric Kraft, 1999
- Jill McCorkle, 2000
- Madison Smartt Bell, 2001
- Randall Kenan, 2002
- Richard Powers, 2003
- Maureen Howard, 2004
- Tim Gautreaux, 2005
- Kent Haruf, 2006
- Allen Wier, 2008
- Robert Bausch, 2009
- Percival Everett, 2010
- Mat Johnson, 2011
- Colson Whitehead, 2012
- Sherman Alexie, 2013
- Ruth Ozeki, 2014
- Paul Beatty, 2015
- Danzy Senna, 2016
- Chang-rae Lee, 2017
- Karen Tei Yamashita, 2018



Colson Whitehead had amassed a body of published work by 2012, the year this photo was taken and he also was tapped for the Dos Passos Prize. He went on to win the Pulitzer Prize (2017) and the National Book Award (2016) for his novel *The Underground Railroad*.



One was a *New York Times* best-seller, but it was his next novel, *The Underground Railroad*, that earned him the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the National Book Award.

The 1984 Dos Passos awardee, Tom Wolfe, had already made his mark on the world of non-fiction with *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* and *The Right Stuff* in the 1960s and ’70s. But when he arrived at Longwood to accept his award, he was in the middle of writing his first novel.

“When you all were kind enough to give me the prize, I happened to be in the midst of writing *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, and I was suffering from a severe case of The Doubts,” Wolfe told English professor Martha Cook. “The prize itself did wonders for my spirits at that moment. . . . The opportunity to read aloud from the early chapters of the book and to get such a wonderful response from the Longwood students and faculty meant a great deal to me.”

Cook, a longtime English professor, chaired the Dos Passos Committee for many years, but it was Longwood alumna Sharon Carson Gibb



2018 winner Karen Tei Yamashita will be on campus April 4 to read from her work.

LONGWOOD CALENDAR

through March 31

Exhibitions: *Morgan Everhart: Flowers for My Failures* and *Eva O'Leary: Spitting Image*. Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: lcva.longwood.edu.

through April 7

Exhibition: *Start with Art, Learn for Life: Annual Area Youth Art Month Exhibition*. Longwood Center for Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2551 or robertsbm@longwood.edu.

through April 15

Call for Entries: *Longwood Alumni Art Exhibition 2019*. Information: 434-395-4940 or grabiec@longwood.edu.

MARCH

25

Blackwell Talks: "A Narrative Inquiry Study on the Impact of Women's Relational Aggression on Creativity," featuring Dr. Dorothy C. Suskind. Noon, Maugans Alumni Center Virginia Room. Information: 434-395-2223.

27

Women's Tennis: vs. Charleston Southern University. 3 p.m., Lancer Courts. Information: longwoodlancers.com.



**CALL FOR ENTRIES:
LONGWOOD ALUMNI
ART EXHIBITION
THROUGH APRIL 15**

27

Fourth Annual Day of Giving/Love Your Longwood Day. Make a gift online at give.longwood.edu. Information: 434-395-2032.

30-31

Softball: vs. Campbell. 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Lancer Field. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

30

Men's Tennis: vs. Presbyterian College. Noon, Lancer Courts. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

APRIL

1

Blackwell Talks: "The More Fascinating Question: Can a Horse Laugh? OR What Is It Like To Be a Dog?" featuring Dr. Brett Martz. Noon, Maugans Alumni Center Virginia Room. Information: 434-395-2223.

4

Dos Passos Prize Ceremony and Reading: Karen Tei Yamashita, a novelist, short story writer, playwright and professor known for her works of Asian-American literature and magic realism. 7 p.m., Blackwell Ballroom. Information: 434-395-4910.

6

Powerlifting Competition: #Livelikeshiv. 1 p.m., Health and Fitness Center. Information: 434-395-2186.

6

Women's Lacrosse: vs. Radford University. 2 p.m., Burger Jackson Field. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

6-7

Baseball: vs. Charleston Southern University. 3 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday; Buddy Bolding Stadium. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

8

Blackwell Talks: "Increasing Registered Nurse Retention Using a Mentorship Program," featuring Dr. Krystal Forlines. Noon, Maugans Alumni Center Virginia Room. Information: 434-395-2223.

9

Softball: vs. Virginia. 6 p.m., Lancer Field. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

10

Greek Sync: Dance competition between fraternity and sorority organizations. 7 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: byrnesma@longwood.edu.

10-14

Theatre: *Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill*. 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; Communication Studies and Theatre Arts Center. Information and tickets: 434-395-2761 or longwoodtickets.com.

11

Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium: "The Role of Mathematical Models in Modern Investment Management," featuring Dr. Advait Apte, Virginia Retirement System. 4 p.m., Ruffner 356. Information: 434-395-2189.

12-15

Spring Weekend. Information: 434-395-2103.



**BLACKWELL TALKS
APRIL 1**

13

Softball: vs. Charleston Southern. 1 p.m., Lancer Field. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

13 – May 15

Exhibition: *Point of Departure: Department of Theatre, Art, and Graphic and Animation Design 2019 Senior Exhibition.* Opening reception: 5 p.m. April 13, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2551 or robertsbm@longwood.edu.

16

Concert: Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble. 7:30 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: 432-395-2504.

17

Women's Lacrosse: vs. Campbell University. 4 p.m., Burger Jackson Field. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

19

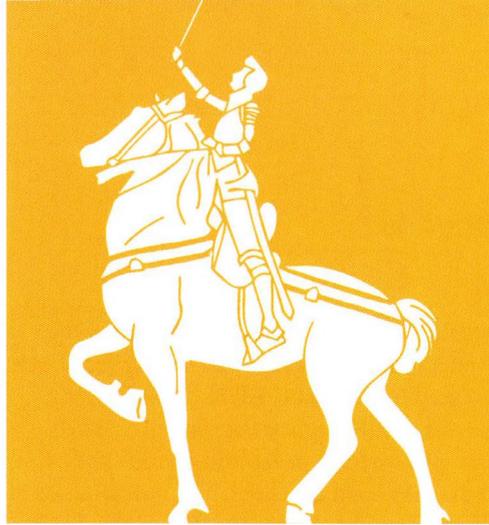
Seasonal Wine and Brew. 5 -7 p.m., Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: lcva.longwood.edu.

23

Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium: "Modeling and Optimizing a Production Process," featuring Dr. Sudharshana Apte, Altria Group. 4 p.m., Ruffner 356. Information: 434-395-2189.

25 & 28

Concert: Camerata and Chamber Singers with Commonwealth Chorale. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jarman Auditorium; 3 p.m. Sunday, Farmville United Methodist Church. Information: 434-395-2504.



LOVE YOUR LONGWOOD ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING MARCH 27

26

Community Achievement in the Arts Awards. 5 p.m., Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2551 or robertsbm@longwood.edu.

29

Concert: University Choirs. 7:30 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: 434-395-2504.

MAY

8

Baseball: vs. North Carolina Central University. 5 p.m., Buddy Bolding Stadium. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

10

Seasonal Wine and Brew. 5 -7 p.m., LCVA. Information: lcva.longwood.edu.

10 – 12

Baseball: vs. Presbyterian College. 5 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday; Buddy Bolding Stadium. Information: longwoodlancers.com.

17

Nursing Pinning Ceremony. 2 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: 434-395-2657.

17

Graduate Commencement Ceremony. 5:30 p.m., Jarman Auditorium. Information: 434-395-4086.

18

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. 9:30 a.m., Wheeler Mall. Information: 434-395-4086.

31 – June 2

Alumni Weekend. Various locations throughout campus. Registration, cost and information: go.longwood.edu/alumniweekend.

JUNE

1 – Aug. 4

Exhibition: *Longwood Alumni Art Exhibition 2019.* Opening reception: 5 p.m. June 1, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: 434-395-2551 or robertsbm@longwood.edu.

28

Seasonal Wine and Brew. 5 -7 p.m., Longwood Center for the Visual Arts. Information: lcva.longwood.edu.

JULY

22 – 26

Global Village: Summer day camp for children grades two through seven. Registration and costs: 434-395-2372 or longwood.edu/globalengagement/.

25 – 26

16th Annual Summer Literacy Institute. Blackwell Ballroom and Ruffner Hall. Registration, cost and information: 434-395-2682 or churchap@longwood.edu.

AUGUST

30

The G.A.M.E.: Greatest Athletics March Ever. 3:30 p.m., Wheeler Lawn. Information: 434-395-2107.

All events are free and open to the public unless costs, tickets, etc., are noted. All events are subject to cancellation and change. Please 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).

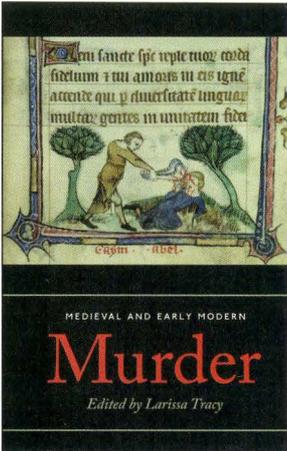


ALUMNI WEEKEND
MAY 31–JUNE 2

books by alumni, faculty, staff and friends

Medieval and Early Modern Murder

edited by Dr. Larissa “Kat” Tracy, professor of medieval literature



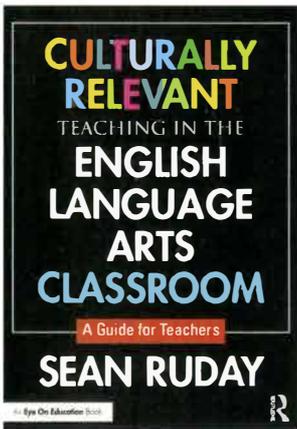
In this, her seventh book, Tracy collected and edited the work of 19 other scholars from across various disciplines, as well as writing the introduction and an article. The book examines murder in the Middle Ages in its legal, literary and his-

torical contexts in several textual traditions, including Icelandic sagas, Old French fabliaux, Arthuriana and assassination accounts. Tracy is editor for Brill’s Explorations in Medieval Culture series and general editor of *Eolas: The Journal of the American Society for Irish Medieval Studies*. Published by Woodbridge: Boydell Press, hardcover, 486 pages.

Culturally Relevant Teaching in the English Language Arts Classroom

by Dr. Sean Ruday, associate professor of English education

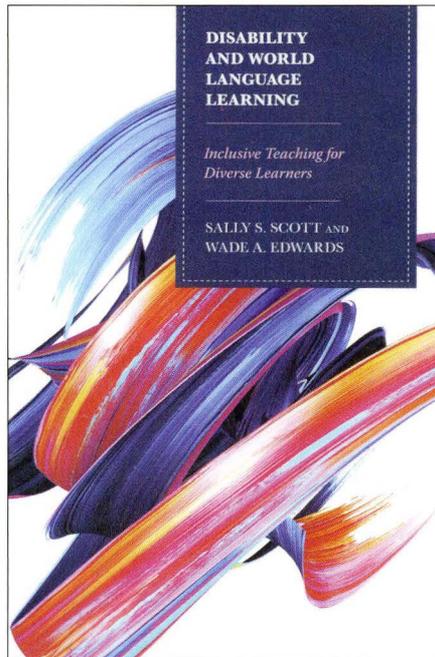
Ruday’s ninth book, based on educational strategies he uses with his students in the classroom, reflects what he called “the push in education to include a wider range of perspectives. I want the concepts that students learn in school to be relevant outside of school. For example, students can find



relevant examples of strong verbs when they watch or read about sports—strong verbs such as ‘sprinted’ or ‘chucked’ or ‘hurled’ are frequently used in sports descriptions, and they can give students real-world examples of concepts they learn in school. The backgrounds of all students should be valued and included in the curriculum.” Published by Routledge Eye on Education, hardcover, 156 pages.

Disability and World Language Learning: Inclusive Teaching for Diverse Learners

by Dr. Wade Edwards, professor of French and associate dean of Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Sally Scott

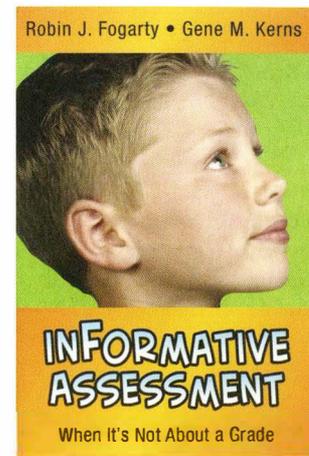


The book supports national efforts to both enhance foreign language instruction at the college level and support diverse learning needs. To address these twin concerns, Longwood’s modern language faculty and the Office of Disability Resources (then directed by Sally Scott) began collaborating about 10 years ago, supported by a grant from Longwood’s Cook-Cole College. This partnership eventually resulted in a \$420,000 demonstration grant from the U.S.

Department of Education—the second-largest research award ever received at Longwood at the time. “The book, based on techniques first piloted in the classrooms in Grainger Hall, focuses on lower-level language classes that satisfy general education requirements,” said Edwards. Published by Teachers College Press, softcover, 168 pages.

Informative Assessment: When It’s Not About a Grade

by Dr. Gene Kerns ’90, M.S. ’96, and Robin Fogarty



This practical, research-based book—which has been translated into Arabic—provides help for teachers with formative assessments,

which monitor student learning through ongoing feedback conducted by teachers. “There’s not a lot of training with formative assessments, but it’s easy to train teachers and quickly produces significant improvements in student performance,” said Kerns, vice president and chief academic officer for Renaissance Learning. Kerns was introduced to formative assessments in an independent study course in his master’s program at Longwood when his professor, Dr. Betty Jo Simmons, required him to read work by Rick Stiggins, the leading U.S. expert on the subject. “I later served on an advisory board with Dr. Stiggins, and he is now a professional colleague,” said Kerns. Published by Corwin Press, softcover, 136 pages.

#OnTheRise

Men's basketball pulls off a season bound for the record books



When Longwood hired Griff Aldrich as head men's basketball coach in March 2018, the head coach of the team Aldrich had worked with the previous two years had strong words to share.

"Longwood University hit it out of the park with the hiring of Griff Aldrich," said Ryan Odom, head coach at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, who had employed Aldrich as director of recruiting and program

had amassed 15 wins, reached their highest national ranking in D-I history and won five Big South games in a conference that is at its strongest historically from top to bottom. The program has embraced the hashtag #OnTheRise for a campaign highlighted by signature victories, recruiting wins and even an impressive fall semester GPA.

These successes have reinvigorated Longwood's fan base, whose fervor is especially

eting up 25 spots from its all-time next-best mark and a stunning 65 places higher than the team's finish in 2017-18.

Even more impressive is that Aldrich has achieved these results with a team comprised primarily of veteran players who have bought into the new vision. Only a handful of newcomers—notably point guards Seán Flood '20, a business major, and Shaboody Phillips '20, a sociology major, and shooting guard Jaylon Wilson '20, a sociology major—have contributed to this year's success.

There's no magic bullet in Aldrich's method. Yes, he and his staff have implemented an up-tempo, 3-point-focused offense that has capitalized on a crop of long, athletic shooters. Yes, Phillips has emerged as one of the Big South's top guards. Yes, the Lancers broke the school record for 3-pointers and are among the Big South's top-ranked defensive teams.

But the ingredients in Longwood's breakthrough this year are not tied to any one player or any unbeatable scheme. The recipe rises above any one individual or play call—or even end-game result—and instead rests on a five-pillar foundation that Aldrich outlined before he even accepted the job: excellence, grit, humility, gratitude and service.

"There are a lot of things you can't control, but your effort, your grit and your toughness—that should never be second," Aldrich said.

—Chris Cook



The performance of players including JaShaun Smith '20, a sociology major, has packed fans into Willett Hall.

development. The America East champion UMBC Retrievers punctuated Aldrich's time there with a stunning upset of No. 1 seed Virginia in the first round of the 2018 NCAA Tournament.

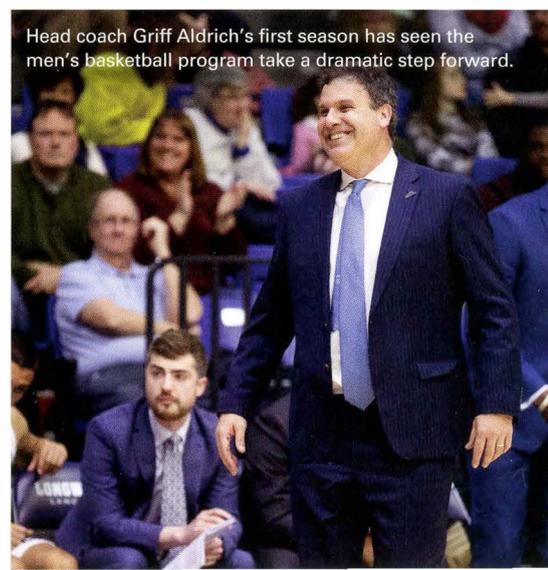
A year later, Odom's words have proven to be more than just support for a longtime friend.

In just one season, Aldrich and his coaching staff have engineered one of the most dramatic turnarounds in all of NCAA basketball, leading Longwood to a historic season that is among the program's best since the Lancers made the jump to Division I 15 years ago.

At the end of the regular season, the Lancers

evident in Willett Hall, where the Lancers have routinely drawn near-sellout crowds and compiled a 9-5 home record. And excitement surrounding the program has extended off campus, earning coverage by newspapers and local TV networks, and drawing numerous sportswriters to campus, including nationally renowned author and *Washington Post* columnist John Feinstein.

Hand in hand with that newfound enthusiasm are the numbers that prove this year is one for the record books. Consider KenPom.com, a prominent basketball rankings service, which has Longwood at its highest ranking ever, rock-



Head coach Griff Aldrich's first season has seen the men's basketball program take a dramatic step forward.

Lifting Spirit

Third annual Special Olympics powerlifting meet draws widespread campus support



The soundtrack of Iler Hall is unmistakable. A symphony of crashing barbells, primal grunts and all manner of hype music played at ear-splitting volumes has long emanated from the building, the byproduct of Longwood student-athletes' daily training regimen in their well-equipped weight facility located in the middle of Longwood's campus.

But on a Saturday in February, a different group of athletes settled into Iler's squat racks, Olympic platforms and benches to take part in a competition that humbled even the strongest Lancer.

That crop of athletes came from all over Virginia to compete in the annual Special Olympics Powerlifting Meet that Longwood has proudly hosted for three years running. This year, the event drew more than 20 participants, who competed in powerlifting's traditional "Big Three"—the deadlift, bench press and back squat.

C.J. Roth '16, a former Longwood baseball player and Longwood's current assistant director of sports performance, organized the event once again, employing the assistance of dozens of Lancers who volunteered their time to monitor lifts, set up and break down equipment, and cheer on the competitors with the help of the Longwood cheerleaders.

"Every year this event is a blast for everyone involved," said Roth, who is president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. "To watch these athletes showcase their abilities is infectious and fun to watch. Beyond that, to see the whole campus come together and provide an energetic and supportive environment for these athletes to compete is a true testament to what a special place Longwood is."

The competition began early in the morning with Longwood students and staff overseeing, judging and spotting the lifts.

In years past, Longwood athletics has been the primary driver of the event, but this year's meet expanded even further into Longwood's campus community. Students from Longwood's Health, Athletic Training, Recreation and Kinesiology (HARK) program, as well as members of the Longwood LIFE program joined Longwood's student-athletes as volunteers at the event.

"Seeing the combination of happiness and laser focus on the faces of the lifters was a special thing to witness," said Longwood men's soccer player Willy Miezán '19, an exercise science major who got an up-close look at every lift as a spotter during the meet. "Just watching them lift made me want to join them." —Chris Cook



❶ Willy Miezán '19 (right, wearing cap), who volunteered to be a spotter during the event, encourages a lifter to do his best. ❷ Longwood athletic trainer Morgan Langton shows her support to a meet participant. ❸ The Longwood cheerleaders added their energy to the event—and welcomed a few 'honorary members' to the squad.

The Voice

Longwood's new lead broadcaster brings Lancer action to fans near and far

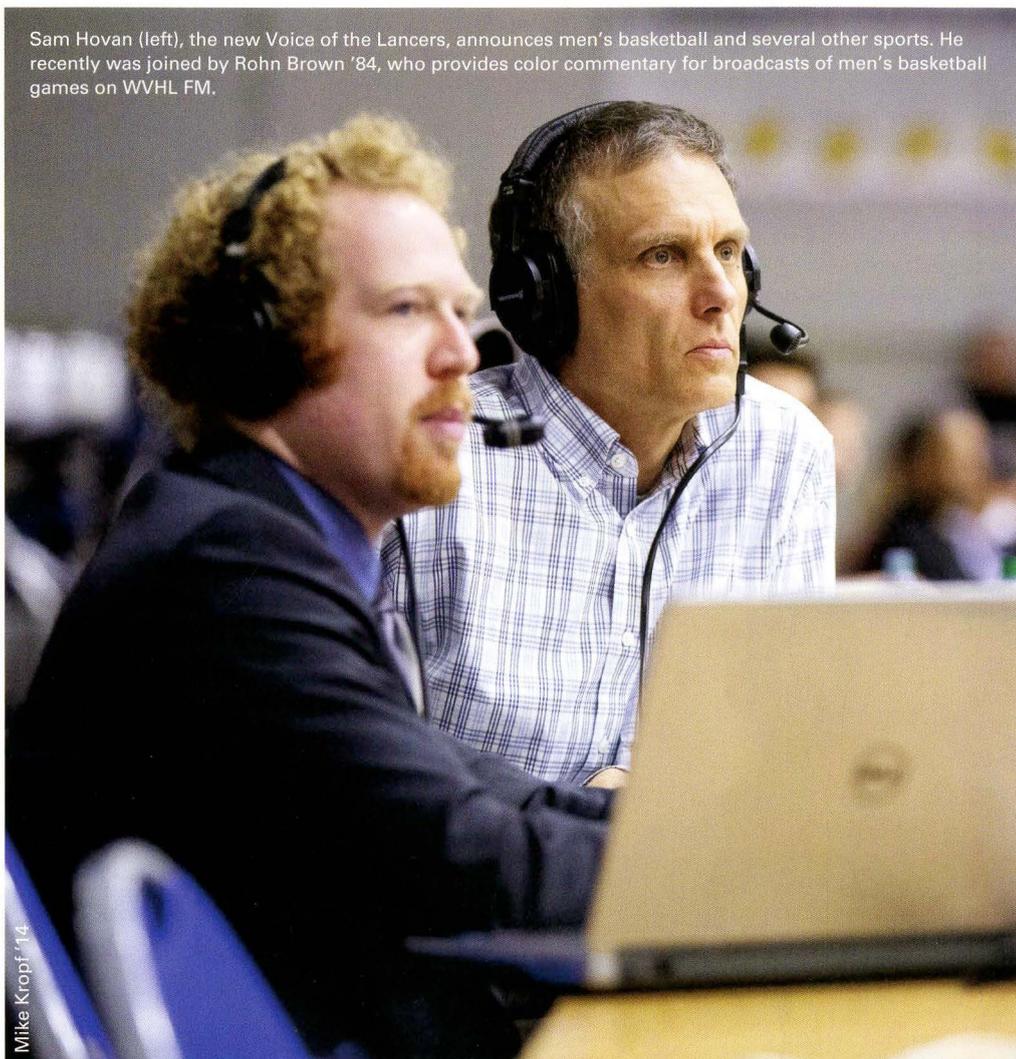
Sam Hovan's timing is impeccable—not only in his play-by-play commentary but also in his arrival at Longwood just in time to take over as the Voice of the Lancers for a historic men's basketball season.

Hired in November to take the place of Darius Thigpen, Hovan dived in with announcing the record-setting efforts of the men's basketball team, bringing the action of every game to fans who can't be there in person. His performances air live online through Farmville station WVHL 92.9 FM, a proud university sponsor and official home of Longwood athletics.

As Longwood's lead broadcaster, Hovan also calls baseball and softball, as well as fall and spring sports that air on ESPN+. Away from the microphone, he serves as the athletics communications contact for Longwood baseball.

A native of Elkhart, Indiana, Hovan polished his broadcasting skills during his time at the prestigious Syracuse University Newhouse School of Public Communications, where he graduated in 2013 with a master's degree in broadcast and digital journalism. He went on to serve as the do-it-all sports information director and lead broadcaster at Arizona Western College for four years before coming to Longwood.

"We're thrilled to add a person of Sam's talents and character to the Longwood athletics staff," said Chris Cook, assistant vice president for athletics communications. "I met Sam years ago at Duke when he was completing his master's capstone project, and I was impressed then with his professionalism and demeanor. That



Sam Hovan (left), the new Voice of the Lancers, announces men's basketball and several other sports. He recently was joined by Rohn Brown '84, who provides color commentary for broadcasts of men's basketball games on WVHL FM.

program. During his time there, he added livestreaming of the baseball, men's and wom-

Baseball as a broadcast and media assistant for the 2014 season.

Prior to jumping into the realm of athletics communications, Hovan put his bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from LeTourneau University to use as a high-school teacher in Texas. After two years in the classroom, he began work on his master's degree at Syracuse. As part of his master's capstone project, he landed his first job in sports with The Devils Den, a recruiting website and digital media outlet devoted to coverage of Duke University athletics.

Lancer fans can catch him on the air this spring calling the men's and women's basketball postseason, as well as all of Longwood's spring sports on ESPN+ and the baseball and softball "Game of the Week" airing on WVHL.

'We're thrilled to add a person of Sam's talents and character to the Longwood athletics staff.'

—CHRIS COOK, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

still holds true today and is overshadowed only by his talents as a broadcaster and communications professional."

At Arizona Western, Hovan carried televised broadcasts for the school's football program as well as the men's and women's basketball

en's soccer, softball and volleyball programs, while also producing all publicity and coverage for the department.

He also spent time in professional baseball, working with the St. Paul Saints of the American Association of Independent Professional

Lancer Roundup

Wallace repeats as Big South Defensive Player of the Year

The fall produced yet another winning season for Longwood women's soccer, and at the heart of the Lancers' run to a third-place Big South finish was again senior defender **Sydney Wallace '19**, a kinesiology major. Wallace became only the second Big South player to earn Big South Defensive Player of the Year honors in back-to-back years, doing so in both 2017 and 2018. She ends her career as one of the most decorated players in school history, setting a school Division I record for minutes played and spearheading one of the Big South's stingiest defenses during her four-year tenure.

Sydney Wallace '19



The softball team is expected to fill the stands again this season as it goes for a fifth Big South title.

Softball game set to air on ESPN

Longwood's Big South dynasty softball program, off to an 8-3 start, will earn Longwood national recognition again this season, as the program will host an ESPN broadcast from campus for a second-straight year. The Lancers, who last year defeated rival Liberty on ESPN at Lancer Field, will welcome the nationally televised college sports network to campus for the March 24 showdown against Big South newcomer USC Upstate at 4 p.m. That game will mark the third consecutive season that the powerhouse Lancers have appeared on ESPN's flagship college sports network, which airs live on cable networks and streaming platforms around the world.

Baseball, softball set alumni days

The Longwood baseball and softball programs will both host alumni days this spring, inviting Lancers of years past to return to campus for a day's worth of celebration and support for this year's teams. The Lancer softball program, now in its 22nd season under two-time Big South Coach of the Year Kathy Riley, will host its alumni day on March 30, while the baseball program, in its fifth year under Ryan Mau, will hold its gathering on April 27. For more information, contact Longwood assistant director of athletics engagement Kylie Dyer at 434-395-2352 or dyerka@longwood.edu.



Led by 2 outstanding seniors, softball picked to win again

The expectations are high once again for Longwood softball, as the Lancers were picked by the league's coaches to finish first in the conference in the annual Big South Preseason Poll. Senior pitcher **Sydney Gay '19**, a sociology major, was picked as the Big South Preseason Pitcher of the Year, and fellow senior catcher **Kalynn "Bug" Batten '19**, a biology major, was named the Big South Preseason Co-Player of the Year. The two anchor a Longwood team led by head coach Kathy Riley in search of the program's fifth Big South title in 2019.

Sophomore soccer player earns Academic All-District honors

Women's soccer standout **Carrie Reaver '21** has been a fixture on Longwood's backline in each of her first two seasons, earning Big South Freshman of the Year recognition in 2017 and All-Big South honorable mention recognition as a sophomore. But along with her on-field honors, Reaver has been perfect as a student, logging a 4.0 grade-point average that earned her CoSIDA Academic All-District III accolades this past fall. A biology major, Reaver achieved those high academic marks while also leading Longwood in minutes played in 2018.



Carrie Reaver '21 (right)

Me and My Shadow

Students learn about careers, connect with alumni in new program



It's just another day at the office for Longwood students who participate in the new work shadow program run by Alumni and Career Services.

The program, which happened for the second time in January 2019, pairs juniors and seniors with an alum who works near their hometown and whose career area matches their interests. The student then spends a day with the alum at work.

"The goal is to connect our alumni with our students to give our students a taste of what the professional environment is like as well as to provide networking opportunities for our future alumni," said Teresa Dodson, assistant

director of employer engagement and internship services.

Work shadow locations included the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, the office of the State Inspector General, MassMutual Com-

monwealth, the Myers & Stauffer CPA firm and Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA. Shadowing takes place during the first week in January, when students are on winter break. Seventeen students participated this year.

“The goal is to connect our alumni with our students to give our students a taste of what the professional environment is like as well as to provide networking opportunities for our future alumni.”

—TERESA DODSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT AND INTERNSHIP SERVICES

Caroline Carter '19 (center) spent a day immersed in the Washington, D.C., political scene while shadowing Kaitlin Owens '16 (right), a criminal justice reform and policy analyst with the American Conservative Union Foundation. They met James Scribner '17, regulatory affairs specialist at the National Mining Association, for lunch following a tour of the Capitol. Carter is a biology major and political science minor.



"We have gotten a lot of positive feedback," Dodson said. "Students enjoyed the experience, and alumni felt they were making a difference, with the added benefit of learning from the students about how the university has grown and changed. The important thing is that our students are connecting with someone in the professional world who can help them.

"Some of the alumni have gone above and beyond the program and have set up biweekly meetings with their students where they can talk and the alum can provide guidance. We're trying to create an ongoing connection that grows over time."

Dodson's office sent out an interest email to alumni last September asking about their career areas and their willingness to spend a workday with a student. In October, they emailed juniors and seniors with at least a 3.2 GPA asking them to sign up for the program. Finally, in November, the matches were made and the students met one-on-one with a career counselor to learn networking skills and get them "connection-ready." Hoping that the program grows in popularity, Dodson would like to make 35-50 matches next year.

"The program gives alumni a sense of pride and is a way for them to give back—not with a monetary gift but with a gift of their time and talent," she said.

If you'd like to volunteer for next year's program, contact Dodson at dodsonts@longwood.edu.—Kent Booty

ClassNotes

1970s

Louise Scolamiero Liddle '75 was named chair of the board of trustees of Destination Imagination Inc. (DI) in October 2018. DI is a global volunteer, nonprofit educational program dedicated to inspiring the next generation of innovators, leaders and creative problem solvers. Liddle previously taught at Montevideo Middle School in Rockingham County for 28 years and for the past three years has been a librarian at Spotswood High School, also in Rockingham. She became involved with DI when she was hired as the gifted education resource teacher at the two schools. She has a master's degree from James Madison University.

1980s

John Hudson '80, who lives in Berryville, is male vocalist for Yesterday Swing Orchestra, vocalist and keyboardist for Dixie Rhythm, vocalist for the Clarke County Community Band and, since age 16, a member of the Senior Choir of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Berryville. He has released several CDs, both as a solo artist and with various ensembles, featuring his vocals. He is the author of two nonfiction books (histories of the town of Boyce and of the Bank of Clarke County, where he

is senior vice president and marketing director) and a self-published novel, *Dust to Dust*.

Johnel Brown Reid '85 was appointed vice president of public affairs for Centerstone, a Nashville-based not-for-profit health care organization, in July 2018. She oversees Centerstone's marketing and communications efforts and strategic brand management. Reid has 15 years of experience in health care communications and strategic planning, having worked previously for Community Health Systems, based in Franklin, Tennessee, and Nashville-based HCA.

John Schlesinger '87 ran for the Portsmouth School Committee (the equivalent of a school board) in Rhode Island in November 2018. Schlesinger is an IT project manager for NTT DATA Services and an IT consultant. He has a master's degree from Virginia Tech.

Tuan Truong '89 retired as a U.S. Army colonel after 30 years of service in November 2018. Truong, who began his military career as an ROTC cadet at Longwood, has deployed on numerous assignments to South Korea, Germany and Iraq. He has served in roles ranging from platoon leader to brigade commander. He has an MPA from Michigan State University.

Alum finds fulfillment in working with victims of human trafficking

Melissa Sorensen Milam '96 recently received one of the U.S. Department of Justice's highest honors for her work with severely traumatized victims of sex trafficking, forced labor and other civil rights crimes.

Milam, victim services coordinator for the criminal section of DOJ's civil rights division, received the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Legal Support, presented by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions in October 2018.

Milam provides support to victims of human trafficking, hate crimes, law enforcement misconduct and violations of freedom of access to clinic entrances, with sex trafficking and forced labor making up the majority of her caseload. Her support extends from the point when victims are interviewed before trial through post-sentencing; the average case takes about a year.

"I try to put all of my resources at their reach and hope that they are able to take advantage," said Milam, who has a master's in social work from Catholic University and is a licensed clinical social worker.

"These are people who have experienced severe trauma and prolonged exposure to violence and need support. I have the absolute best job. It's super meaningful work. The joy of my work is in being a part of the journey these people are on, going from victimization to being survivors."

Milam has been in the job, which involves frequent travel anywhere in the United States, for four years. She worked in the sex offense and domestic violence section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for 11 years and before that worked with at-risk youth for the Fairfax County juvenile and domestic relations court.

Friends don't let friends stop running marathons

The friendship between **Danny Baty '02** (right) and **Garret Green '04** has not only lasted 20 years—it's also endured 26 miles.

After becoming best friends at Longwood, where they roomed together and were tennis teammates, the two inspired each other to run the most recent Chicago Marathon.

"The day after running the Marine Corps Marathon [in 2017], I posted on Facebook that I was going to retire from marathons," said Green. "But Danny texted me and said, 'You inspired me; we're going to run the Chicago Marathon together.'"

In October 2018 the two ran—and finished—the 26-mile event side by side.

When Baty's left knee locked up at mile 12 ("I didn't think I could finish"), he told his friend to go on ahead without him, but Green said he would stay with him. A month earlier, when Green didn't think he could finish a joint practice run, Baty had agreed to stay with him.

They also have run two half-marathons together.

The duo's participation in the Chicago Marathon was a fundraiser for the Semper Fi Fund, which helps post-9/11 wounded/injured Marines and their families. Green has raised more than \$25,000 for the fund since 2017, and he plans to continue raising at least \$5,000 a year. He became involved through his work (he owns and manages a fitness center) with a friend, a Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, who was injured in Afghanistan.

It was the first marathon for Baty, who lives in Chesapeake, and the second for Green, a Fredericksburg resident, who's apparently forgotten he decided to retire from marathons. He plans to run the Big Sur Marathon along the California coastline on April 28.



Jewell Grinnell Tunstall '89, a special education instructional assistant at Rural Point Elementary School in Hanover County, was recognized as her school's Support Employee of the Year in November 2018. Before joining the Rural Point faculty in 2014, she was a first-grade and special education teacher in Hanover from 1989-2000 and taught at church-affiliated preschools in North Carolina from 2004-14. She is the author of *Forever Family*, a children's book about the process of adopting her two children. Her husband, **Chris Tunstall '88**, is assistant vice president for human resources at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. The couple lives in Mechanicsville.

1990s

Chris Mitchell '91, head coach of the Randolph College equestrian team, served as a coach and clinician at the 2019 College Preparatory Invitational Florida Horse Show in January in West Palm Beach. Before joining Randolph College in 2012, Mitchell

was the riding coach for 13 years at Cornell University, where his teams claimed 27 horse show team crowns and four Ivy League titles. He serves on the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association board of directors and was a member of the NCAA steering committee for equestrian sport.

Dr. Wendy Lyle-Jones '92, principal of the Buckingham and Dillwyn correctional centers and Rustburg Field Unit, was guest speaker at a South Boston observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day sponsored by the Halifax County Business and Professional Council. Before going into correctional education nine years ago, she was principal of Cumberland High School, assistant principal of Dinwiddie Middle School and taught Spanish for 12 years in Cumberland, Prince Edward and Dinwiddie counties. She is an ordained elder with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World and author of *The Father Factor: The Missing Link Between God and Our Sons*. She has a master's degree

Continued on Page 41

The Magic of the Traveling Sweatshirt

A special part of one Longwood family's history gets a new life with current freshman

by Heather Waldo '22

My mom and my uncle both attended Longwood (back when it was a college and not a university). This means that two of my grandmother's three children were attending the same school, and she consequently felt compelled to get some form of Longwood merchandise to show her support. She chose a sweatshirt.

My mom, Tamara Smith Waldo '90, also purchased a Longwood sweatshirt that she wore for a long time—even years after she graduated. Sadly, my mom's sweatshirt didn't survive to the present day. But my grandmother, Donna Carr, decided to hang onto hers through all of the changes and phases of her life after my mom and uncle, Brad Smith '91, graduated. And this is where my story begins.

Recently my grandmother was looking through some things in her cedar chest, and she came across the sweatshirt she had purchased so many years earlier. Once she found it, she texted a picture of it to my mom and me, saying, "Look what I found!" My mom couldn't believe she had kept the sweatshirt for so long and how good it still looked.

I loved how retro [the sweatshirt] looked and how it is completely different from any Longwood apparel you can buy now.

The sweatshirt is still white with vibrant colors of yellow and blue. You would never think that it is nearly 30 years old.

As soon as I saw the photo, I immediately asked if I could have the sweatshirt. I loved how retro it looked and how it is completely different from any Longwood apparel you can buy now. So my grandmother washed it and gave it to me the next time she came to visit. Since then, I have worn the sweatshirt multiple times, and people often comment on it. One of my friends even asked me if I had gotten it at Pairet's, a store on Main Street that sells Longwood apparel. When I told her it was actually my grand-



Current freshman Heather Waldo; her grandmother, Donna Carr (right), who purchased the sweatshirt nearly 30 years ago; and Heather's mom, Tamara Smith Waldo '90

mother's from 30 years ago, she thought that was pretty cool.

That same day, a lady in the dining hall also commented on it. She said, "Does that say Longwood College?" I looked down at it, laughed a little, then replied, "Yes, it does. It was my grandmother's." She went on to say how much she loved my sweatshirt and how it reminded her of her Longwood experience. (She had also attended Longwood when it was still a college.)

To me, the sweatshirt was something I thought looked unique, and I liked the retro style. Of course, it's also special to me because it belonged to my grandmother. But to the lady in the dining hall, the sweatshirt was a reminder of a time when all of life's possibilities lay before her. She began to smile and reminisce about her college days.

It's fascinating how the same object can evoke such different feelings and memories for different people. The sweatshirt took on a new meaning for me that day. I resolved to take care of it and keep up with it, just as my grandmother had. One day I'll pass the sweatshirt—and its history—on to someone in the next generation of our family. I hope that someone will also be a freshman at Longwood.

ClassNotes

Continued from Page 40

and a doctorate from Virginia State University.

Dr. Tara Temple Roane '94 was appointed an interim member of the King William County School Board, representing the Fifth/Mangohick District, in October 2018. Her term expires Dec. 31, 2019. Roane has been director of special education and student services for the Essex County schools for four years. She previously worked in the King William County and Essex school systems. She has been youth minister at Total Praise Worship Center in Ashland for 22 years. Roane has a master's degree from Regent University, a post-master's from George Washington University and a doctorate from Walden University.

Charlaine Coetzee Hirst '95 became a U.S. citizen in November 2018 after living in this country for 27 years. The Cape Town, South Africa, native took the oath of allegiance in Durham, North Carolina, and described the ceremony as "very moving and emotional." A four-time All-American who led the Longwood women's golf team to national championships in 1993 and 1995, Hirst is a Class A LPGA teaching professional who is a self-employed, full-time golf instructor at the Country Club of Whispering Pines, North Carolina. She played golf professionally for nine years on the LPGA Futures Tour until 2004, when she began her teaching career. She is a member of the Women's Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Longwood Athletics Hall of Fame. The magna cum laude graduate received the Dan Daniel Senior Award for Scholarship and Citizenship at her commencement. Active in alumni affairs, she is a member of the boards for the Alumni Association and the Lancer Club.

Rohsaan Settle '95, director for student conduct at Virginia Tech, is serving as interim director for Fraternity and Sorority Life for the 2018-19 academic year. He has worked since 2000 at Virginia Tech, where he received a master's degree, and has been the chief conduct officer since 2014. He received the Advisor of the Year Award for 2002-03 from the South Atlantic affiliate of College and University Residence Halls. He was assistant director for student organizations and leadership development

Continued on Page 42

ClassNotes

Continued from Page 41

at Gannon University from 1998-2000. He is a member of Longwood's alumni board.

Kim Cowles Turner '96, director of New Kent County Parks and Recreation, was elected president of the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) in November 2018 and began her one-year term in January. Turner, who served as VRPS vice president in 2018, has been involved with the organization since she was a Longwood student. She received the VRPS's 2016 Distinguished Service Award. Before switching to a career in parks and recreation, she practiced therapeutic recreation in mental health and long-term care facilities. Her husband is **Jason Turner '95**. She visited Longwood last year with her mother, **Farron Davis Cowles '68**, who attended her 50th reunion.

Dr. Arkena Dailey '98 was elected president of the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy in August 2018. She is serving a one-year term after two terms as vice president. She was appointed to the board by then-Gov. Terry McAuliffe in 2015. She was appointed in January 2017 to a three-year term on the Education Committee for the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. Dailey, who lives in Hampton, is a physical therapy clinical specialist for Sentara Health System and an adjunct instructor in Old Dominion University's physical therapy and athletic training department. She has a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree

from the University of St. Augustine for Life Sciences.

2000s

Corrine Richardson Louden '02 was hired in August 2018 as deputy inspector general of the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General. She is the No. 2 person at the 40-person agency, created in 2012 to investigate waste and identify inefficiencies in the executive branch of state government. Two coworkers are fellow alums: **Taylor Woody '16**, who works part time in communications, and special agent **Katrina Moulton Goodman '97, M.S. '01**. Louden was previously hotline investigations supervisor for the Virginia Department of Corrections and a senior internal auditor with the Virginia State Police. She is treasurer of Longwood's College of Business and Economics Alumni Advisory Board and is active in the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). She was vice president of the AGA South Atlantic Region from 2017-18 and is a member of the AGA journal's editorial board and secretary of the Richmond chapter's executive committee. Louden and her husband, **James "Jay" Louden '01**, a sergeant with the Richmond Police Department, live in Chesterfield County.

John Masi '02, a singer-songwriter based in the Washington, D.C., area, released his first solo album and third overall album, *Capture the Heart*, in September 2018. Before going solo in 2010, he was the front man for the Richmond-based Jubeus, which released the albums *Two Tone Circles*

BFFs since 9th grade now teach at same school



Christyna Mencarini '17 (right) and **Hope Mounie '17, M.S. '18**, have been apart for only one year since becoming best friends in the ninth grade.

After being classmates in high school and at Longwood—where they lived together all four years—they are now fourth-grade teachers at Hillpoint Elementary School in Suffolk, where both did their student teaching. Their classrooms are across the hall from each other.

"They didn't do that deliberately, but it was probably a good idea—they knew we would be in each other's rooms all the time," said Mounie with a laugh.

They met at John Yeates Middle School after Mencarini moved to Suffolk in the eighth grade, but they didn't become close until the next year at Nansemond River High School. Their only separation occurred when Mounie stayed at Longwood to earn her master's degree in the reading, literacy and learning program. She joined the Hillpoint faculty in fall 2018, a year after Mencarini.

"People call us partners in crime; they say you can't find one without the other," Mounie said. "We're like an old married couple."

and *Natural Mood*. Masi lives in Alexandria.

Jeffrey Mitchell '02 of Bluegreen Vacations won the 2018 Best Resort Assistant Manager award from the American Resort Development Association. The award recognizes Mitchell's work as assistant manager at Laurel Crest resort in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, and at Shenandoah Crossing in Gordonsville, where he was guest services manager from 2015-17. He has managed two oceanfront resorts in Bradenton Beach and Homes Beach in Florida since July 2018.

Brandie O'Neill '06 joined Kinsale Insurance Co., based in Richmond, as a claims examiner in September 2018.

Josh Holder '07 joined South State Bank of Richmond as a member of its commercial banking team in December 2018. Holder, who had been with Sonabank of Richmond, also in commercial banking, provides consultative banking solutions to

Community college leader makes Top 40 Under 40 in Hampton Roads

Amanda Renwick Lloyd '04 was named a 2018 Top 40 Under 40 honoree in Hampton Roads by *Inside Business* in October 2018. The award recognizes professionals whose work and volunteer efforts make Hampton Roads a better place to live.

Lloyd, who lives in Norfolk, is director of the Academy for Nonprofit Excellence at Tidewater Community College (TCC), where she has been an adjunct history instructor for 10 years. Previously she held multiple administrative positions for the city of Norfolk for nine years, mostly in training/organizational development and programming, and before that she worked in marketing at Old Dominion University for three years.



In November, she was appointed by the governor to the Historical Records Advisory Board. She is president-elect of the Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach (she becomes president in June) and a member of Longwood's Alumni Board and the Norfolk Public Library board of trustees. She created the Norfolk Public Library volunteer program, a model effort duplicated by libraries across the nation.

Lloyd, who says becoming president of Longwood University is her ultimate career goal, has a master's degree from ODU and is pursuing a Ph.D. at Hampton University.

Continued on Page 44

Super Natural Experiences

Science comes alive for students whose teacher has explored Peruvian rainforest, Galápagos Islands under National Geographic fellowship

For many teachers, “professional development” takes the form of attending a class, workshop or conference. But for Becky Schnekser '05, M.S. '06, it means trekking to a literally boiling river deep in the Amazonian jungle or swimming with 3-foot-long marine iguanas in the Galápagos Islands.

Person of Interest

An elementary school science teacher at Cape Henry Collegiate independent school in Virginia Beach, Schnekser is one of 40 teachers in the United States and Canada who were awarded a highly competitive two-year Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship from Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic in 2018. The annually awarded fellowship provides field-based professional development opportunities on National Geographic scientific expeditions for pre-K-12 educators.

Last July and August, Schnekser spent two weeks in the Amazonian rainforest of Peru with scientists studying the recently discovered largest documented thermal river in the world, Shanay-Timpishka, which means “boiled by the heat of the sun.” Flowing hot for roughly four miles, the river actually boils at some points and can reach temperatures as high as 210 degrees Fahrenheit—more than hot enough to cook alive hapless frogs and other animals that occasionally fall into the steaming water.

Schnekser, who helped collect water samples and document fish species in the cooler portions of the river, explains that thermal rivers are typically the result of nearby volcanoes, but this river is unusual in that it's more than 430 miles from the nearest active volcano. She will return to Shanay-Timpishka this summer to help with a biodiversity survey and to aid scientists searching for life in the river.

In November and December last year, Schnekser spent 10 days working in the Galápagos Islands, where she completed behavioral studies of endemic species such as marine iguanas in an effort to study the impact of climate change on animal life there. “The temperature of the water is rising faster than these creatures can evolve to survive,” she said, which is decreasing food sources like algae and fish.

As part of her fellowship, she also took 360-degree photos and videos that she is using



(top) Becky Schnekser stages a 360-degree camera to collect images and videos of Shanay-Timpishka, a boiling hot thermal river in the Peruvian rainforest. (bottom) Schnekser observes a sea lion nursery in the Galápagos Islands, where mother sea lions leave their young while they hunt for food. ‘They actually came up to the camera to investigate and then lay on their backs like a puppy would, begging to be petted,’ she said of the pups. She resisted the urge to give them a belly rub, observing the islands’ prohibition against touching wildlife.

to aid in documentation and conservation efforts, as well as to create virtual reality tours and augmented reality experiences that teachers and students worldwide will be able to access.

Schnekser’s own students “absolutely love” hearing about her field studies, she said, noting that her second-grade class created a faux documentary with the students pretending to be marine iguanas because, they told her, “we’re experts on their behavior now.”

As a teacher, Schnekser eschews textbooks in favor of real-life experiences “that will inform [students] as adults going into the world later.”

For instance, she takes a group of 15 fifth-graders each year on a trip to assist with endangered coral reef studies in the Florida Keys. She also contacts scientists as far away as Africa for videoconferencing lectures so her students can learn from professionals working in the field.

She hopes her experiences will inspire other teachers to view professional development from a new perspective. “Find a way to get into the field and bring it back to the classroom to give [students] the experience of how what you’re teaching translates to the real world.” —Richard Foster

ClassNotes

Continued from Page 42

operating companies in central Virginia. He is a graduate of the Virginia Bankers Association School of Bank Management.

Adam Russo '07 has been director of the Office of School Food and Nutrition Services for the Prince William County schools since June 2017. He oversees a \$50 million budget and 1,000 employees at 101 schools and centers. Russo was previously director of food services for the Hanover County schools and a district supervisor with the Norfolk schools. He is a former restaurant owner.

Ashley Greene Webb '07, curator of collections and exhibitions at the History Museum of Western Virginia, is scheduled to give an Art After Dark presentation at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts in March. Webb's topic, "Yesteryear's Pantaloons: The Preservation of Historic Costumes," is related to her business, Bustle, a museum-quality preservation company that focuses on wedding dresses, historic textiles and other family-related textiles. She was the LCVA's collections manager from 2009-13 and also has worked at the Harrison Museum of African American Culture and the William King Museum of Art. She has a master's degree from Bournemouth University in England and is married to **Michael Webb '07**.

Dr. Melissa Ridley Elmes, M.A. '09, assistant professor of English at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, was one of 109 St. Louis-area educators who received Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards in November 2018. Recipients are selected by their schools' administrations for their accomplishments and steadfast dedication to the teaching profession. Elmes is vice president of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship and a member of the Modern Language Association executive forum for Celtic Studies. Her husband is **Nick Elmes '04**.

Diondra Mercer '09, M.S. '11, married DeSean Finney on Nov. 10, 2018. **Tiffany Mayo House '09, M.S. '12**, served as matron of honor; **Janene Hudson '09** was maid of honor; and **Tiffani Vasquez '09** was a bridesmaid. Mercer lives in Essex County and is a school counselor at Essex High School.

2010s

Dr. Cristina Valdivieso Bain '10 graduated with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology in August 2018. That month, she and her husband, **Jacob Bain '09**, welcomed twin boys. She is a staff psychologist with Primary Mental Health Care at the Hampton Veteran Affairs Medical Center.

Heather Sutherland '11 was one of five glass artists whose work was featured in the *Fresh Masters* exhibition Jan. 23-March 9 at UrbanGlass, a Brooklyn, New York, art studio for glass artists and students. The biennial, jury-selected exhibition highlighted outstanding work by recent MFA recipients across the country. Sutherland's work "examines presentations of intersectional femininity in popular culture by showcasing their trappings and what often goes unseen," said an UrbanGlass news release. Sutherland, who received an MFA from the University of Wisconsin in 2017, recently completed a residency with the Creative Glass Center of America with WheatonArts.

Rebecca Weinberg Van Huss '12 joined Kinsale Insurance Co. as a claims services assistant in October 2018. She had been a claims assistant with Alfa Alliance Insurance Company. Van Huss volunteers with a rescue organization in Ashland that is finding homes for greyhounds affected by Florida Constitutional Amendment 13, which will effectively end greyhound racing by 2021. Her husband, **Nathaniel "Nate" Van Huss '14**, is a bodily injury claims adjuster with James River Insurance Company.

Continued on Page 47



Business is sweet for couple cooking up barrels of 'wildcrafted' hickory syrup

"If we can just sell these 48 bottles, we'll be happy."

That's what **Joyce Miller Miller '75** and her husband, Travis, were thinking on the way to their local farmers' market in 2011, their car loaded down with hickory syrup they made themselves. They sold out, launching what has become perhaps the largest operation of its kind in the country.

Falling Bark Hickory Syrup is still run by just the two of them, though they now have four distributors and sell more than 2,500 gallons a year. They make and bottle every drop in their Berryville home and refer to the syrup as "wildcrafted," a term they coined to describe foraging for food and/or medicinal plants.

The syrup, which comes in seven flavors, is sold in stores and under private labels at several historic sites, including Mount Vernon—where the couple does a demonstration on George Washington's birthday every year—and Monticello. The business has been profiled by CNN, National Public Radio and *The Washington Post*.

"The production team is just Travis and me, and we're still married," she said with a laugh. "We make it work."

It takes four to five days to make each batch of syrup, yielding about 34 gallons. They first char the bark (most of their hickory comes from shagbark hickory trees), cook it in water under pressure, let it rest a couple of days, filter it to remove sediment and finally use a hydrometer to get the correct balance.

"We never take a day off. We say every day's a holiday," said Miller.

Alumni board president reflects on successes as her term ends

As **Tammy Bird Jones '81** finishes her term as president of the Alumni Board, she views with pride the increased visibility the board has achieved through campus and regional events, participation in volunteer projects and engagement with students.

She is especially pleased with the Welcome to the City events around the state for new alumni and the Ring Ceremony for juniors and seniors.

The board has become more involved in outreach through volunteer projects with several Farmville-area charities and social programs. "We try to do a volunteer project in conjunction with each of our meetings," she said.

In an effort to engage with students, the board has invited the SGA president to its meetings for the last

two years to provide an update on student government-sponsored activities. Last year the board used social media to express its enthusiasm for Longwood's annual Day of Giving.

Jones' two-year term as president, and seven-year stint on the board, ends in June. "I've worked with great people on the board and in the Office of Alumni and Career Services. I'll miss it. It's been a great experience."



Living the Brand

Alumna's job promoting alumni engagement via social media fulfills longtime goal

Ashley Jones '12 is one of many Longwood alums inspired by the late Dr. Bill Stuart, professor of communication studies, who was known to respond to almost any greeting with the same phrase: "Living the brand."

Jones remembers one conversation in particular with Stuart, who was her senior thesis advisor and died unexpectedly in fall 2012. They talked about her future, and afterwards she promised herself that someday she, too, would be "living the brand" as a Longwood employee. She made good on that promise last fall, when she was named assistant director of engagement communication, with an emphasis on social media, for Alumni and Career Services.

Jones' transition from her previous job as marketing coordinator for Aramark's Longwood division was seamless. More importantly, the connections she made and skills she acquired prepared her for the responsibilities of being a lead communicator with thousands of Longwood alumni who span nearly nine decades.

"It's been a long road, mixed with opportunities and struggles, but always with steps in this direction," said Jones.

What excites you the most about your job?

Being able to connect with Longwood alumni on many different platforms! It's like juggling. There's a lot that goes into it—but I love it. I feature a lot of throwback photos on Facebook, and I mainly use recent photos on Instagram because our audience there includes more recent alumni. Twitter is the bridge between Facebook and Instagram. In addition to handling social media, I oversee the Flag Raiser program. It's always exciting to see where the Longwood flag will go.

How has social media impacted engagement with alumni across the decades?

There's a platform for everyone, which is great. Alumni can connect with us in whichever way is most comfortable and natural for them. Before Facebook, I don't think Alumni and Career Services would have been able to keep alumni as informed as we do now. Can you imagine all the emails, postcards and pamphlets we would have to send to match our Facebook feed?



Ashley Jones '12 strategizes content for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

What is your favorite Longwood tradition? Why?

Bandfest brings back one of the proudest memories of my time working as general manager of WMLU, the campus radio station, which sponsored the event. During my junior year, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus and State Radio were forced to move inside Lankford during the middle of the performance due to a thunderstorm. Within 20 minutes, the WMLU staff set up a small portable stage in Lankford Ballroom, cleared out the couches and chairs, and set up a few speakers and mics. The next thing I knew, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus was playing in the Lankford Ballroom!

What do you see on the horizon for social media and how most people use it in their daily lives?

Well, it's not going anywhere, and it's definitely adapting to what users want. Snapchat stories are a good example of how social media is continuing to evolve. Instagram launched its own version, and now Facebook has them. Live videos are also popular right now, and I think that's due in part to viewers not wanting something that's rehearsed. They want something that feels real and authentic. In the future, I think augmented reality will continue to grow in popularity. Personally, I'd love to see an Elwood or Joanie facial filter!

Going Viral

Overwhelming response from alumni teachers to social media campaign sparks weeklong digital, on-campus event

When a social media campaign focused on Longwood alums who are teachers went viral last August, staff in Alumni and Career Services knew they were onto something.

Partnering with Admissions, they had planned to give out “cheer kits” filled with Longwood swag to the first 100 teachers who agreed to use it to decorate their classrooms. In less than 24 hours, 500 teachers had signed up, and 600 boxes of swag eventually were shipped.

After the cheer kit tsunami, Alumni and Career Services staff started thinking about creating alumni communities anchored in shared careers. Educators were the obvious choice for a pilot program.

In November, Longwood alumni and education faculty celebrated Alumni Educators Appreciation Week, which started with five days of sharing memories on social media and concluded with a daylong We Teach to Enlighten summit on campus exploring trends in education. Plans are already in the works to do it again next year.

The social media activities were organized by Ashley Jones '12, assistant director of engagement communication, and Amber Litchford '17, program specialist for alumni engagement. Alumni teachers shared memories of their mentors (#MentorMonday), were given a virtual campus tour (#TuneinTuesday), provided updates on their careers and how Longwood prepared them (#WhereWednesday), submitted their favorite stories and photographs from their Longwood days (#ThrowbackThursday) and showed off their Longwood spirit by wearing Longwood gear (#FabuLoUsFriday). The activities generated an overwhelming response on social media.

About 75 educators participated in the on-campus summit, which included a panel discussion on combating the teacher shortage in rural Virginia that was moderated by Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson '02, M.A. '07, assistant professor and program director of educational leadership.

“Some of the activities were celebratory while others were more informational,” said Tanner-Anderson. She also led one of the seven roundtable discussions, which involved Longwood faculty members and provided what

ALUMNI EDUCATORS APPRECIATION WEEK

Social Media Engagement



she called “smaller-scale opportunities, more intimate opportunities to engage.”

“It was an incredible inaugural event—one that has needed to happen,” she said, adding that alumni K-12 teachers who attended earned reaccreditation points.

Members of the panel on the teacher shortage included Dr. Jan Medley '97, M.S. '03, principal of Amelia County Middle School; Dr. Martha Eagle, M.S. '01, superintendent of Nelson County schools and an adjunct in Longwood's educational leadership program; and Dr. Christopher Jones '93, M.S. '94, associate professor and director of special education at Longwood, who led one of the roundtable discussions.

Campus tours, including tours of the new Upchurch University Center, also were on the summit's agenda. “Some alumni hadn't been back to campus in some time, and they said it looked more unified—and beautiful—than before,” said Tanner-Anderson.

“This was a great beginning that we hope to build on by piloting a digital community for alumni educators and Longwood education students that will give them the opportunity and the mechanism to connect with each other,” said Katie Trammell, associate director for professional communities and operations in Alumni and Career Services.

ClassNotes

Continued from Page 44

Megan Crowe '14, M.Ed. '15, was first runner-up in the 2019 Teacher of the Year competition for the Richmond Public Schools, announced in November 2018. Crowe is a Title I reading teacher at Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School, where she has taught since 2015. She is the schoolwide literacy lead and previously was the lead teacher on the first-grade team.

Sharonda Claiborne '16 appeared in Halifax Community Theatre's production of the comedy *Christmas Belles* in November 2018. Claiborne portrayed the society matron Patsy Price in the play, performed at The Prizery in South Boston. Claiborne, who appeared in several Longwood Theatre productions, is an elementary substitute teacher.

Katerina "Kati" Hall '16 joined Seneca Resources, LLC, in Richmond as an account manager in November 2018. She had previously been a professional recruiter with Apex Systems.

Terron Watkins '17 joined the Richmond-based development office of Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services in July 2018. His primary responsibilities are online giving, special events, Christmas programs, the Young Professionals Society and assisting the vice president of devel-

opment with fundraising and communications projects. Jackson-Feild provides psychiatric residential treatment for adolescents who have experienced severe emotional trauma in their lives. Watkins previously worked in development at Grace Place, an adult daycare services facility in Richmond.

For **Kaydan Ferguson '18** and **Aaron Burstein '19**, the show must go on—especially when honoring the memory of their friend and fellow theatre major **Denise Martin '18**.

They were organizing a playwriting festival last year when Martin, who had planned to write a play for the festival, died shortly after graduating. For that and other reasons, they initially cancelled the festival before reviving it as a fundraiser for a scholarship fund in Martin's memory.

The two-day, six-play festival in Lynchburg was put on in January by Unified Theatre Company—Ferguson is the company's founder and artistic director—and another Lynchburg company, InTuition Theatre Group, started by Burstein. The event raised about \$1,000, of which \$200 went to the scholarship for theatre majors.

Ferguson plans to hold the festival every year as a scholarship fundraiser and to donate 5 percent of the proceeds from each of her company's shows to the scholarship. In addition, 10-15 percent of the proceeds from each of the company's shows goes to a selected nonprofit.

Melvin Johnson '18 was named supportive services director of STEP (Solutions That Empower People) Inc. in December 2018. Johnson oversees and manages the agency's homeless-prevention, re-entry and volunteer tax-assistance programs. He joined STEP in 2017 as re-entry coordinator. Previously he served as a member of the Re-entry Council for Martinsville and Henry County, and he has worked with clients at Grace Network. Before that he was a student and community outreach specialist at Patrick Henry Community College, where he earned an associate's degree.

Haley Mitchell '18 joined Capital Interior Contractors in Richmond as its marketing and workforce development chair in January. She had been a courtroom clerk with Henrico County circuit court.

Send us your class notes

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.

InMemoriam

LISTED IN ORDER OF CLASS YEAR

- Virginia Jones Canada '40** Oct. 11, 2018
Mallory Davis Foster '43 Dec. 14, 2018
Harriet Ball Howell '43 Jan. 10, 2019
Betty Smithdeal Miller '44 Oct. 10, 2018
Ruth Kauffman Tacy '45 Dec. 14, 2018
Jean Anderson Clayton '46 Dec. 16, 2018
Carlotta Norfleet Wick '46 Oct. 24, 2018
Mary Dickerson Ellis '47 Sept. 27, 2018
Mary Emma Ragsdale '47 Jan. 18, 2019
Frances Treakle Rountree '48 Dec. 15, 2018
Jean Edgerton Winch '48 Dec. 5, 2018
Margaret Watts Bauknight '49 Oct. 23, 2018
Cathryne Mosteller Garrett '49 Oct. 26, 2018
Betty Atkinson Ballard '49 Oct. 13, 2018
Mary Ellen Moore Allen Walter '49 Dec. 18, 2018
Sarah Droste Brown '50 Oct. 17, 2018
Margaret Forrester Ransone '50 Nov. 16, 2018
Mary Jo Ward '52 Jan. 17, 2019
Sarah Graham Wells '52 Nov. 18, 2018
Nancy Jeffreys Woodall '53 Jan. 13, 2019
Mary Louise Burnette '54 Dec. 7, 2018
Helen Short Schumann '54 Dec. 5, 2018
Charles Albert Skinner '56 Jan. 2, 2019
Carolee Silcox Bush '57 Sept. 26, 2018
Patricia Mae Jones '57 Sept. 29, 2018
Virginia Ann Sniegon '58 Jan. 16, 2019
William James Allen '59 Nov. 28, 2018
Betty Rawls Unwin '59 Oct. 14, 2018
Carla McNair Claymore '64 Oct. 8, 2018
Nancy Walnes Brake '68 Sept. 26, 2018
Janet Elizabeth Justice '69 Oct. 17, 2018
Bemadette Swartz Cover '70 Jan. 15, 2019
Peggy Blankenship Gary '70 Dec. 25, 2018
Carol Johnson Hobson '70 Nov. 2, 2018
Sallie Smith Carmichael '71 Nov. 19, 2018
Cynthia Clarke Jarvis '71 Jan. 11, 2019
Fred Atkins Palmore '71 Dec. 13, 2018
Carolyn Brown Kirtland '72 Jan. 6, 2019
Shelley Haag Bailey '73 Nov. 8, 2018
Claudia Nuckols MacSwain '77 Nov. 9, 2018
Donna Brooks Ourand '77 Oct. 13, 2018
Deborah Davis Hunt '79 Nov. 25, 2018
Keith Wylie Davis '81 Dec. 13, 2018
Juliet Rose Tinsley '84 Jan. 7, 2019
Sonya Robinson Christmas '88 Jan. 8, 2019
John Wayne Noel '94 Dec. 2, 2018
Heather Brae Bakos '97 Sept. 29, 2018
Tonya Shanette Bland-Ward '98 Oct. 31, 2018
Jill Gusewelle '00 Nov. 17, 2018
Kevin Lloyd Kuhn '07 Nov. 17, 2018
- FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS**
Christine Hadel Burrell Oct. 21, 2018
Nellie Campbell Nov. 6, 2018
Roy Linwood Clark Nov. 15, 2018
Roy Tucker Garrett Dec. 16, 2018
Vincent Albert Iverson Dec. 10, 2018
Anne B. Jarvis Nov. 18, 2018
William T. Miller Nov. 9, 2018
Phyllis Stancill Pruden Dec. 6, 2018
Robert M. Sexton Nov. 8, 2018
Jeffrey R. Whitney Oct. 23, 2018

Sunflowers are the secret in tasty dips, spreads created by new company



Steven Valdez '14 co-founded and is chief of finance and strategy for a new company that makes sunflower-based dips and spreads that are non-dairy, all-natural, gluten-free and vegan.

Products made and marketed by SSUPP Foods (SSUPP stands for Sustainable Sunflower Urban Plant Powered) are made from the first budding stage of a sunflower plant, which is called a microgreen. Microgreens are the most nutrient-rich forms of a plant and, in the opinion of the folks at SSUPP, the most delicious.

Founded in May 2018 by Valdez and two others, the company began selling its products in February in boutique markets in Richmond and Charlottesville. One, which features the base ingredient SunPower, is frozen and for wholesalers. The other three, in chickpea and jalapeno flavors, are refrigerated and packaged for retail sale. Valdez expects the product line to be available in large chain grocery stores by late this year.

The micro-sunflowers are grown urban vertically indoors, which "drastically increases sustainability and transparency in the supply chain," said Valdez. The growing and manufacturing are year-round at Hatch Kitchen RVA, a commercial kitchen incubator in Richmond. The facility is just two miles from SSUPP's corporate office in Capital One's 1717 Innovation Center as part of the selective Startup Virginia high-growth incubator.

Valdez and fellow co-founders David Peyton and Kyle Rosen-Long are making a name for their company, sharing their business philosophy and progress in presentations at Longwood's College of Business and Economics and the University of Virginia Darden School Business iLab.



Missing Persons

Longwood is working to help turn the tide of Virginia's critical teacher shortage

by Dr. David Locascio

In January of 2016, the Virginia Department of Education (VaDOE) released a legislative study focusing on the shortage of qualified teachers in Virginia's classrooms. In the three years since the report, additional studies have been commissioned and meetings convened to further consider the economic, demographic and geographic characteristics of teacher recruitment and retention challenges within the commonwealth.

A report by the Virginia Advisory Committee on Teacher Shortages in October 2017 prompted former Gov. Terry McAuliffe's executive order recognizing the shortage as a "growing crisis" threatening Virginia's economic footing. McAuliffe's emergency measures increased funding for recruitment efforts and expanded some forms of tuition assistance for prospective teachers.

Gov. Ralph Northam has maintained a similar emphasis on the shortage, signing bills in his first year in office that streamlined aspects of the teacher licensure process and outlining plans to boost the previously proposed pay raise for teachers from 3 to 5 percent, acknowledging the widely held view that one of the primary factors contributing to the shortage is low teacher pay.

Virginia is, in fact, in the lowest third of states in average teacher pay but it's not alone in dealing with a teacher shortage.

Nationally, the retirement of baby boomers combined with modest but steady increases in K-12 student enrollment have contributed to shortages in many states. The shortage is exacerbated by a constriction of the pipeline into the field and high rates of attrition for beginning teachers. According to a 2018 study by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), the number of people completing teacher preparation requirements from 2008 to 2016 fell by 23 percent. Of those who do complete the requirements, an increasing number never enter their own classrooms. And many who do enter the classroom leave the profession within five years.

Salary, working conditions and inadequate support are the most frequently cited reasons for truncated teaching careers in both urban



and rural settings, with geographic isolation a factor identified by rural teachers, especially those without a prior connection to the rural community in which they taught.

In Virginia, the legislative attention to the issue has somewhat obscured the challenges related to adequate regional distribution of qualified teachers. Virginia's overall population growth is projected to place it among the 10 most populous states by 2040, but the growth patterns are decidedly regional. According to projections by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the 19 Northern Virginia counties and cities that make up the VaDOE's Region 4 will grow in population by 48 percent between 2010 and 2040. In contrast, the 12 local school divisions that make up Southside's Region 8 are expected to experience a 1.2 percent decline in population in that 30-year span.

Longwood and its College of Education and Human Services are working to help our school division partners address these challenges:

- We are actively working with high schools to expand "grow-your-own" programs like Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow.
- Faculty are working closely with the admissions office on targeted recruiting of potential teachers.
- We are in the process of developing a middle grades exploratory curriculum aimed at

feeding into high-school dual-enrollment offerings like Teachers for Tomorrow.

- Our longstanding partnerships with community colleges are being leveraged in new ways to expand teacher-preparation pipelines, and we are offering transfer students with associate's degrees a viable path to licensure through some of the streamlined aspects of the new Civitae core curriculum.
- At the request of some regional school partners, we will be expanding professional development programming that will focus on facets of new-teacher induction that have been empirically shown to reduce attrition and increase the likelihood of long, productive teaching careers.

Research has consistently shown that the quality of a child's education is highly dependent on the capabilities of her or his teachers. The shortage of qualified teachers, in all its regional forms, represents a challenge that all Virginians should consider as critical. 🇺🇸



Dr. David Locascio is an associate professor of education and associate dean of the College of Education and Human Services. He joined the Longwood faculty in 2004.



Register

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[go.longwood.edu/
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LONGWOOD'S

Alumni Weekend

May 31-June 2, 2019

DECADE DINNERS

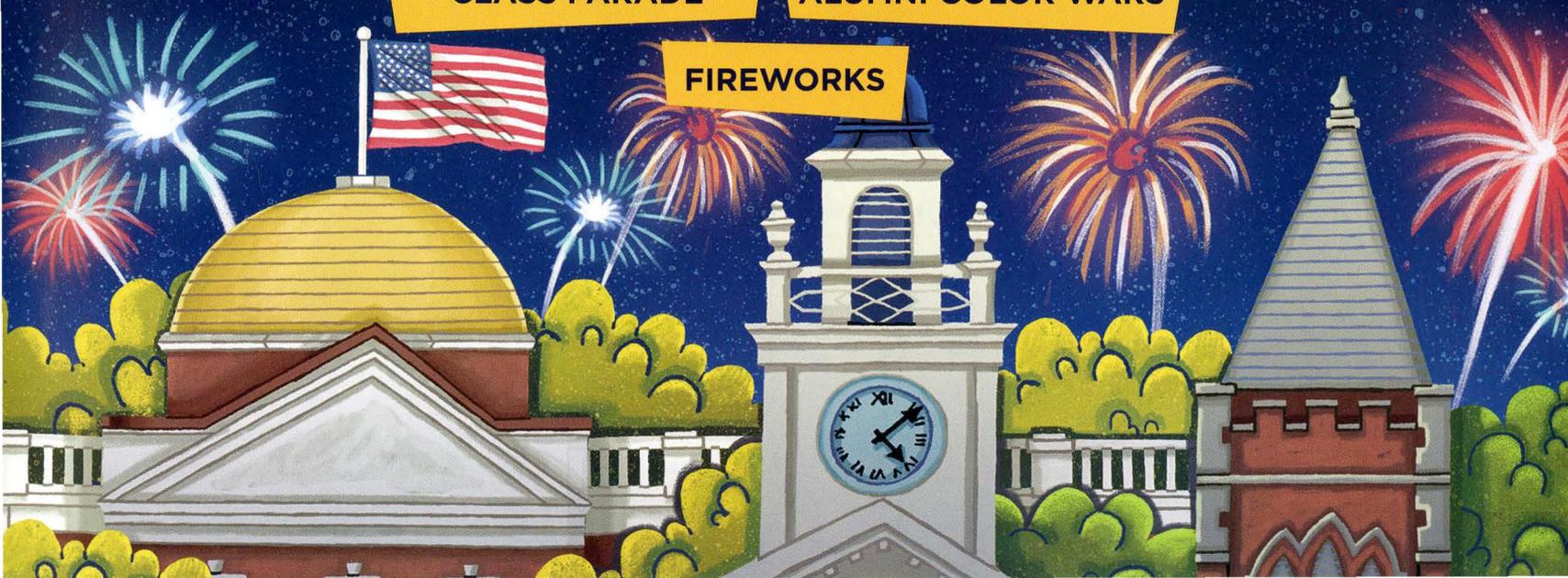
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CLASS PARADE

ALUMNI COLOR WARS

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A Different World

Travis Lyles '15 (left), Anna Knapp '97 and Anthony J. Rivera '03 are thriving in their jobs at the *Washington Post* in the midst of a revolution in the news industry. Photo by Jason Wong. Story on Page 10.

